

# History of the Bill Anderson Fund

The nonprofit was founded to honor the legacy of William Averette Anderson, or “Bill”, who passed away in 2013. He was a gifted researcher, scholar and educator whose tenure included esteemed positions at the National Science Foundation, the World Bank, the National Academies and Arizona State University. He also worked tirelessly to ensure that funding be dedicated to studying vulnerable populations and ensuring that women and people of color be recruited into all hazards mitigation roles. His wife, Norma Anderson and a committed group of peers, mentees and Fellows took up the mantle of continuing his work.



The Bill Anderson Fund (BAF) Flagship was first established at the University of Delaware's Disaster Research Center in January 2018.

It is housed in the College of Arts and Sciences, and is focused on support to the University of Delaware community in addition to being dedicated to maintaining a national platform.

Consistent with the vision of its founding, **the vision of the BAF Flagship** is that the diversity of the hazards and disaster field be reflective of American society.

# CURRENT STATE OF THE BAF

## **New Conference Model**

We designed a model of satellite and partner school relationships to create opportunities for diverse student experiences and create consistent engagement for the universities.

Going forward the conferences will take place in April and October, rotating amongst a group of satellite institutions.

Each conference will have a theme which reflects the expertise and contributions to the field of that particular institution and reflects current topics in the practice and study of natural and other hazards.

# The List of Satellites and Upcoming Workshops are:

**Texas A&M,  
October 2020**

*Personal branding and  
professional development*

**University of Delaware  
(Flagship),  
October 2021**

*Technology and innovation in  
disaster science and hazards  
research*

**Arizona State University,  
April 2021**

*Dealing with bias and  
community engagement*

**Tulane University,  
April 2022**

*Disaster trauma, human rights  
and long-term recovery*



# New Partners

We have new partnerships and long-term engagements that will help the Bill Anderson Fund further its mission and the fellows receive opportunities in new areas of the field. The engagements range from joint recruitment efforts, paid research opportunities, board development, community engagement to bespoke fellowships.

With respect to the engagement with Dillard University, I would like to specifically thank fellows Joy Semien and Jennifer Blanks for their support. In my role as a fellow with the Rockefeller Foundation, I am exploring a partnership with Data.org which pairs data scientists with other researchers to create an impact in specific areas.

**Those Organizations  
are:**

**Institute for Diversity in Emergency  
Management**

**Southern University Baton Rouge's Disaster  
Law Clinic**

**Dillard University**

**Council on Legal Education Opportunity**

**Climate Resilience Consulting**

**\*Rockefeller Foundation and Data.org**

**The Bill Anderson  
Fund (BAF) Flagship  
at the University of  
Delaware is pleased to  
announce the  
appointment of its  
inaugural Advisory  
Board.**

**The Advisory Board objectives include:**

1. Help guide the long-term strategic plan of the BAF Flagship.
2. Assist in the recruitment of future BAF fellows and mentors, and spread awareness of the BAF in members' respective fields.
3. Help promote the work of the BAF Flagship as a resource for disaster science and hazards terminal degree students nationwide.
4. Provide overall project direction and expertise for the BAF professional development initiatives, including but not limited to workshops, webinars, and mentor programs.
5. Support and promote relationships with BAF satellite institutions to strengthen partnerships.
6. Provide assistance and/or advice as appropriate to support BAF fundraising and development activities.

# Advisory Board Members



**Bacilia Angel** - A Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) leader. She is a Team lead at MITRE Corporation and serves on the board of the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers. She is also an organizational development expert, entrepreneur, and diversity and inclusion ambassador.



**Ryan Burke, Ph.D.** - Former U.S. Marine Corps officer, graduate of the University of Delaware's Biden School of Public Policy and Administration, and currently an Associate Professor and Curriculum Director in the Department of Military & Strategic Studies at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Dr. Burke is a specialist in civ-mil coordination as well as hazards and security.



**Melanie Gall, Ph.D.** - A hazards geographer studying the interaction between natural hazards and society. She co-directs the Center for Emergency Management and Homeland Security at Arizona State University.



**Jonathan Moore** - A print and mixed media award winning advertising copywriter, and entrepreneur and founder of four companies including a multicultural ad agency and a tech training & workforce development firm. Mr. Moore is a Johns Hopkins Community Engagement Fellow.



**Joe Trainor, Ph.D.** - Associate professor in the School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware and a core faculty member of the Disaster Research Center. He is an expert in researcher-practitioner collaboration.



**Chauncia Willis, MPA** - An emergency manager for local, state, federal and private sector organizations and the co-founder and CEO of the Institute for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Management (I-DIEM). She is a trailblazer in the field, one of the first women of color to lead a major city emergency management agency.