

# NOBLE FELLOWS NEWS



March 2025

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**QUEENS**  
UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

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## Annual Meeting Set for April 25

We look forward to welcoming our newest Fellows at the Noble Fellowship Annual Meeting on April 25. Make plans to join us for dinner in the Kathryn Greenhoot Recital Hall as we hear from this year's Fellows (Dr. John Bennett, Luke Haefner '25, Dr. Jennifer Piazza-Pick, and Kellie Williams '25).

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
THE ANNUAL MEETING OF

*The Noble Fellowship*

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

5:30 PM COCKTAIL RECEPTION  
6:00 PM DINNER AND PROGRAM

KATHRYN GREENHOOT RECITAL HALL  
GAMBRELL CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
2319 WELLESLEY AVENUE, CHARLOTTE, NC

RSVP BY APRIL 18: [MARRG@QUEENS.EDU](mailto:MARRG@QUEENS.EDU) BUSINESS ATTIRE

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## Dr. Jennifer Piazza-Pick Receives Grants

Faculty Fellow Dr. Jennifer Piazza-Pick

recently presented "The Future is Female: Arias by Women Composers for All Voice Types" at the National Opera Association's Annual Conference in conjunction with the Winter Workshop for the National Association of

Teachers of Singing. Together with Dr. Teri Bickham of the University of Maryland, College Park and NYC composer Lisa DeSpain, the presentation detailed arias from operas by women composers for undergraduate and graduate level students. In addition, Jennifer recently received an Artist Support Grant from Arts and Science Council Mecklenburg County and an Individual Artist Career Opportunity Grant from South Arts. Congratulations!



## Dr. John Bennett Named Interim President of Fielding Graduate University

On February 1, Faculty Fellow Dr. John Bennett began his tenure as Interim President at Fielding University. Founded in 1974 in Santa Barbara, CA, Fielding offers courses and degrees in psychology, leadership, and education and enrolls nearly 1,000 graduate students.

In accepting the role, Bennett remarked, "The invitation from the Fielding's Board of Trustees to serve in this role is an honor and is humbling. As an alum and former trustee, I feel a strong urge to lead Fielding as it begins its 51st year of graduate education for adults in a distributed learning model. This opportunity offers a capstone to my professional career."

It's been quite a month for Bennett, as he officially retired from Queens after teaching and serving in various leadership roles for nearly 20 years. For his significant contributions, Bennett was recently named Professor Emeritus by Queens' Board of Trustees. Congratulations to Dr. Bennett!



**Announcing!**  
**2024 Annual**  
**Goody Business**  
**Book Awards**  
**193 Winners / Finalists**



Bennett's latest book, *The Manager's Guide to Coaching for Change* has been named a Goody Business Book Awards winner in the Leadership: Mentoring/Coaching category.

## Luke Haefner's Composition Premieres with Bechtler Ensemble

Along with the Bechtler Ensemble, Student Fellow Luke Haefner '25 recently premiered his latest composition, "There Is More to Me," at the Freedom Fighting Missionaries' 4th Annual Gala dedicated to "Women in the Movement." The result of his work as a Noble Fellow, "There Is More to Me" is written for string quartet and electronic tape. Congratulations, Luke!



## Talented Pool of 2025 Applicants

Applications from fifteen talented Queens students and faculty were received during this year's recruitment period. Four faculty finalists and three student finalists interviewed with our selection committee on February 28. Selection was extremely competitive, and this year's Fellows will be publicly announced following approval by the Fellowship. These individuals will be recognized at the annual dinner on April 25.

## Executive Committee to Meet 3/28

The Executive Committee of the Noble Fellowship will have its quarterly meeting on March 28 at 11:00 a.m. ET.