



NOBLE FELLOWS NEWS



Summer 2025

Leadership Changes at Queens

With the departure of Dan Lugo, who became president at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, in July, Queens now has a new leader at the helm. Becoming the first alumnus to serve in the role, Jesse Cureton '02 was recently named Interim President. A retired banking and healthcare executive, Cureton earned his EMBA from Queens in 2002 and had served as chair of the Board of Trustees. The University will conduct a national search for its permanent leader in the coming months.

In September, VP for Strategic Enrollment and Communications Adrienne Amador-Oddi will also be leaving Queens. Oddi, who saw her team enroll Queens' largest ever freshman class in 2023, will serve in a similar role at the University of Denver. A search for Oddi's replacement will commence later this fall.

Effective July 1, Ginger Marr left her role as Executive Director of Presidential Relations, and Secretary of the University to accept a position closer to home with the Clover School District. Marr will continue working with the Noble Fellowship until a replacement is named.

QUEENS
UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

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FELLOWSHIP

Consider Serving on the Noble Fellowship Executive Committee

The Noble Fellowship will soon be asked to elect Executive Committee members. If you are interested in serving or you would like to nominate another Fellow for this role, please let Ginger Marr know as soon as possible. The Executive Committee meets virtually, once per quarter, typically for one hour or less.

Noble Fellows Exploring the World

Noble Fellows have been busy this summer traveling the world--both in scholarly pursuits and for pleasure. Here are a few highlights, as documented on Facebook by these Fellows:



Omari Emmanuel interned at Ernst & Young (EY) in New York



Scott Weir attended the @fireinthemountains festival.



Kel Williams spent a month in Buenos Aires, Argentina, participating in a Spanish language-immersion program.



Jennifer Piazza-Pick attended the CMS-IAWM conference that was held in Medellín, Colombia.



Taylor Robinson explored the Jurassic Coast.



Gaile and Jerry Greenhoot visited Scotland.

Meet New Fellow Dr. Greg Berka



Dr. Greg Berka is in his 11th year in the McColl School of Business as an Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior and serves as the Program Director of the MS in Talent & Organization Development program. He has taught 15 different courses at Queens across undergraduate and graduate programs. His research focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning, business case studies, and HR-related topics (like organizational inclusion and attraction). He has two sons and a spouse, Heather, whom he met in a PhD program. Greg and several students are developing a three-part Inclusion in Organizations (In@Work) assessment which supports individuals understanding their: (1) Experience and importance of inclusion across 12 dimensions, (2) Influences and motivators of the inclusion experience, and (3) Inclusion mindset and behaviors (to guide a path forward).

Meet New Fellow Daphne Mendoza

Tristan



Daphne Mendoza Tristan '26 is a senior undergraduate student from Charlotte majoring in finance and double minoring in mathematics and computing & data analytics. She is the treasurer of the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) and a collaborator in the Inclusion at Work (In@Work) research project. The project, which began in the Summer of 2023 by Dr. Berka and Queens students, has evolved into the Inclusion at Work (In@Work) Assessment. It will be composed of three separate surveys; Part I will have the individual consider their inclusion experience across twelve dimensions and Part II will have them consider their potential influences and motivators, tied to their experience at their organization. Part III will have the individual consider their approach to inclusion and desired path forward with those they interact with at work.

Meet New Fellow Dr. Justin Smith



Dr. Justin Smith is an Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Queens, where he conducts two choirs, directs the opera program, and teaches courses in music history, conducting, and film music. In 2020, he founded the Royal Voices of Charlotte. In its short existence, he has led them to national and international acclaim. He holds a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Houston with additional degrees from Wesleyan University and the University of Oregon. He and his wife have three sons. Dr. Smith's project involves reconstructing, orchestrating, and publishing American composer Margaret Bonds' unfinished musical *Bitter Laurel*, based on the life of Elizabeth Keckly. Once published, the work will be given its first performances on the Queens campus and professionally recorded.

Meet New Fellow Omari Emmanuel



Omari Emmanuel '26 is a senior majoring in data analytics and math. Active on campus, Omari serves as a Presidential Fellow, an international representative on the Student Government Association, the Co-Lead of iBelong Mentorship Program, a member of the Student Alumni Council, and a Royal Ambassador. This summer, Omari interned at Ernst & Young (EY) LLP as an FSO Technology Consulting Intern in the AI & Data Practice in New York. His work included helping the workstream on his team to evaluate data risk types to effectively create a model and a framework that will accurately measure the metrics of data risks. Omari's proposed project will be his Data Analytics Capstone Seminar, which will focus on analyzing the demographic distribution of public health resources in his native country of Ghana.