

NOBLE FELLOWS NEWS

Winter 2026

Queens/Elon Merger Update

Elon University and Queens University of Charlotte have established a joint Integration Team to guide the next



phase of their planned merger, following the signing of a definitive legal agreement approved by both boards of trustees. Co-chaired by Elon Chief Integration Officer and Executive Vice President Jeff Stein and Queens President Emerita Pamela Davies, the team includes academic, administrative, and operational leaders from both institutions and is responsible for meeting near-term regulatory and accreditation milestones in 2026, developing sustainable shared services, and laying the groundwork for long-term collaboration.

Organized across core functional areas and guided by principles focused on student impact, financial sustainability, and institutional excellence, the team will meet regularly to coordinate progress and engage campus communities. In a recent meeting with fellow Noble Fellows, Dr. Davies shared her insights on the rationale for the merger and responded to questions regarding next steps and long-term goals. Stay up to date.

Stay informed about the latest merger news at <https://elonandqueens.org/>

QUEENS
UNIVERSITY CHARLOTTE

NOBLE
FELLOWSHIP

Executive Committee Re-Elected

Thank you to Dr. John Bennett, Dr. Siu Challons-Lipton, Gaile Greenhout, Courtney Keaton, and Dr. Scott Weir for agreeing to continue to serve on the Noble Fellowship Executive Committee. They were re-elected by digital vote late in the fall.

The committee welcomes your feedback and ideas on advancing the program.

Noble Fellowship Program Coordination Shifts to Lindsey Kelly

With Ginger Marr's departure from Queens, she will be transitioning coordination of the Noble Fellows program to Lindsey Kelly, Director of Donor Relations, who has been selected to provide leadership to the program. Lindsey, who has been at Queens since 2023, is an experienced alumni relations and fundraising professional with expertise in donor engagement, stewardship, and volunteer management.



Lindsey previously spent fifteen years at Louisiana State University (LSU), serving in leadership roles including Director of Alumni Relations and Career Development for the College of Agriculture and LSU AgCenter. She holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of General Studies from LSU and is passionate about building meaningful connections within academic communities and leveraging philanthropy to create lasting impact. She looks forward to meeting and working with all of the Noble Fellows.

Whistling Hens Releases 2nd Album

Dr. Jennifer Piazza-Pick and Natalie Groom of Whistling Hens recently released their second album. Check them out on Apple Music, Amazon, Spotify, and other digital platforms. Congratulations, Jennifer!



Dr. Justin Smith Featured in ACDA Choral Journal

Current Faculty Fellow Dr. Justin Smith's work on Margareat Bonds' musical Bitter Laurel was recently featured in the ACDA *Choral Journal*. The musical, based on the life of African American activist and author Elizabeth Keckley (1818-1907), who was born into enslavement and surmounted innumerable obstacles to achieve her freedom, will be performed at Queens on **April 18-19**. Make plans now to attend!



BITTER LAUREL

Based on the Life of Elizabeth Keckley

Music by Margaret Bonds

Lyrics by Janice Lovisos and Edmund Penny

Book by Demetrios Vilan



Mark Your Calendar! Annual Dinner Set for May 1



Connect with other Noble Fellows

Stay in touch with fellow Noble Fellows by joining the private Facebook group, "The Noble Fellowship at Queens University of Charlotte."

Use this platform to share photos and stories to let us know what you're up to--career and academic pursuits, vacation photos, or just puzzling questions that might provoke a response from intellectually curious colleagues.



Your Information Needed for Noble Fellows Directory

In an effort to promote communication among Fellows, we will be creating a directory. Please share your most recent contact information (address, email address, and phone number, as well as your current role, employer, activities, etc.

02/02