

RIT | Honors Program



October is Sustainability Month

The Honors Council Service & Leadership committee organized their first service project of the year, volunteering with [Walking for Rochester](#), a local nonprofit that organizes community cleanups across the city and suburbs. The group of 14 honors students and other community volunteers walked the roads and neighborhoods around E. Henrietta & Calkins Rds. this weekend collecting more than 85 pounds of trash, adding to the over 2,147 pounds collected by the organization this year!

The community cleanup was a perfect way for Honors to kick off Sustainability month on campus. Honors students continued to engage in the issues of sustainability and climate activism yesterday, taking part in a small group dialogue with with *The Nature of Change* keynote speaker climate justice activist Jerome Foster II. The discussion focused on Foster's leadership in the climate justice movement, becoming the youngest-ever White House advisor in United States history as a member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council in the Biden administration in 2021 at age 19. Foster shared his experiences working towards practical solutions achieved through persistence and optimism.

We encourage you to celebrate Sustainability month through action and advocacy - check out these events and opportunities to find ways to get involved and work towards climate solutions that align with your academic pursuits and / or personal convictions. Here's a link to the calendar of events: [RIT Sustainability Month](#).

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UPCOMING EVENTS



10/4 Cider and Chat

Coffee and Chat revamped for the season! Swing by for good company, apple cider and donuts. This is also a great time to get the answers to any Honors questions you might have or check in on your program status.

October 4th from 10:00am-11:00am
GV 2000-400 (The Honors Office)

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[RSVP for this event here!](#)



10/4 AEC Honors Study Session

The Academic Excellence Committee is hosting their first study session of the semester next Friday! Come hang out, get some work done, check in and collaborate with other Honors students, and enjoy provided snacks.

October 4th starting at 4:00pm
GV 2000-400 (The Honors Office)

[RSVP for this event here!](#)

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Trip to the MAG Memorial Art Gallery



CAD Honors is sponsoring a FREE trip to the Memorial Art Gallery (The MAG) on Sunday, October 6th, 2024 and is opening up the trip to all Honors students! A bus will pick up participants from the North Bus Shelter at the top of F Parking lot near Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science at 11:30am, and transport students to the Memorial Art Gallery.

There are two events happening at The MAG on 10/6/24 - [Hispanic Heritage Celebration Day](#) and [Going for Baroque](#), and view selections from the entire collection which includes more than 13,000 works of art representing cultures from around the world and across millennia.

A bus will pick up students at 3pm from The MAG and drop you back off at the North Bus Shelter no later than 3:30pm. **Please bring your RIT ID**

October 6th - 11:30am - 3:30pm
Meet at the North Bus Shelter
[RSVP for this event here!](#)

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10/7 Honors Council: Roar the Vote

Have questions about voting and are an Honors Student? ROAR the Vote is joining Honors Council to help students get registered and ready to vote!

Stick around for the meeting to learn how you can get involved with Council - we are looking for students to take on

Have you been to a council meeting this semester? We are offering one hour of complementary learning, once a semester to students who join a council meeting. We are looking for students to get involved with Council and attending a meeting is the first step in learning what the group does and how you can get more engaged. Be sure to register below and sign in at the event to get your hour of complementary learning!

October 7th from 5:00-6:00pm
CPC-2610/2650 Bamboo Room
[RSVP for this event here!](#)

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The Meaning of Service Reading and Discussion Group

The first meeting will be during the 10/11/24 Honors Hour, from 11:30am - 12:30pm in SLC - Room 1325



10/11 Honors Hour: The Meaning of Service

Through a grant from [Humanities NY](#) Honors program assistant director Garth Freeman will be facilitating a discussion drawing on the Langston Hughes poem, "[Theme for English B](#)" to generate a dialogue focused on what it means to serve.

This event will take place during the 10/11 Honors Hour, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in HAC 1325. We welcome students from all majors and backgrounds to take part in the discussion - this is a low-stakes open dialogue - no prior knowledge of the author or piece are required. Copies of the poem will be available at the event. And there will be pizza!

This is the first in a series of sessions that will use poems, excerpts of longer texts, and other media to discuss civic engagement, involvement in one's community, and how to develop an ethic of service. Keep an eye out for future events.

October 11th - 11:30am - 12:30pm
Hale Andrews Student Life Center - 1325 Classroom
[RSVP for this event here!](#)

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10/25 Honors Hockey Night: A few spots still available!

Come join us for a wild game of RIT Men's Hockey and root for our Tigers with your fellow Honors Students! There are just a few spots left at Honors Hockey Night -- reserve your spot today! Food and tickets will be provided for Honors Students. Students MUST register for the event by 10/6/2023.

October 25th 7:00pm-10:30pm
Gene Polisenni South Mezzanine
[RSVP for this event here!](#)



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10/27 Save the Date! CWC Halloween Event

Dying to have fun? Honors Council's Community & Wellness committee is hosting *Honors Haunted Halloween!* Join your fellow Horror students for a spooky afternoon of crafts, festive treats, and a costume contest to celebrate the season! So trick or treat yourself and sign up for this eerie-sistible event!

October 27th 4:00pm-6:00pm
Bower Makerspace - SHED Room 1300
[RSVP for this event here!](#)

OFFICE UPDATES



Join our team: We're hiring!

We're looking for new student workers! Both roles require 6-10 hours of availability between M-F, 8:00am-5pm.

Role A: Student Office Assistant

This role helps track and monitor student progress through the program, organize events, and works the front desk. We're looking for a friendly face with organization and communication skills. Experience with Microsoft suite is a plus!

Role B: Media and Marketing Coordinator

This role helps facilitate communications with students, working on tasks like putting together this email, making event posters, managing social medias and more. You'll be onboarded by current student-staff working this role. We are looking for someone with strong communication and time

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management skills, exposure to basic graphic design, and most importantly, willingness to learn. Note: you do not need to be a graphic designer! We will be walking you through templates and guides to start.

How do I apply?

Send an email to honors@rit.edu with the subject line "Your Name - MMC Job Application". Please include your resume, your available hours M-F between 8am-5pm, and a short paragraph of why you are interested in this role.

Interested but hesitant to apply?

Come by Cider and Chat this Friday Oct 4th or stop into the office during open hours to ask any questions you may have. We really do encourage you to apply!



**Spring Honors
Courses to
look out for!**

Spring 2025 Honors Courses

Please see below some spring '25 Honors courses that you may be of interest as you build your schedule for the next semester and think about your plan for earning points. We will collect these and all the Honors courses in a single document as more courses are made public and will post that on our website and will share it here as well.

CLA-HIST-330H: Deafness and Technology

Discover how technology has shaped—and been shaped by—the Deaf community throughout history. From the golden age of silent films, where deaf actors thrived, to the communication barriers brought by the telephone, this course dives into the intersection of technology and deafness. We will delve into how technological advancements have revolutionized access, while also unpacking the ways technologies are being harnessed to treat and “cure” deafness.

M,W 3:00 – 4:15 pm in Spring semester. For more information, contact Dr. Corinna Hill at cshccs@rit.edu

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GCCIS-CSCI-420H: Principles of Data Mining

Data mining discovers patterns in datasets that describe interesting phenomena and useful information, be it items that are typically purchased together, music features that classify songs in genres, genetic variations correlated with illness. Students in this course will learn techniques of data mining including the adaptations needed to work with large datasets stored in SQL and NoSQL databases. Ethical and legal aspects of datamining will play a large role in the course.

MWF 10-10:50 am, Spring semester. For more information, contact Dr. Carlos Rivero at crr@cs.rit.edu

HNRS295: Civic Engagement & Resistance in Brazil

This bi-annual study abroad course is led by Joel Gallegos Greenwich, Professor of Practice and Neha Sood, Director of Sustainability and is focused on the history of Activism and Social Movements in Brazil as seen through the many lenses of contemporary life and culture in the city of Rio de Janeiro.

Please note: The Honors office is making available \$1,500 for students who participate in this course. Please reach out to the office if you have questions about this benefit or other questions about signing up for this experience.

- Dialogue with local experts on environmental sustainability, wealth inequality, and the favela wars.
- Witness the awe-inspiring Christ the Redeemer statue, a cultural icon in Rio and one of the new Seven Wonders of the World, and experience an incredible view of the city.
- Attend a capoeira class at Fundação Progresso, listen to samba and bossa nova music at the historic Beco das Garrafas, and enjoy bike rides and strolls along Ipanema Beach and Copacabana Beach.
- Explore the intersection of sustainability and innovation at the Museu do Amanhã (Museum of Tomorrow).

VIP Opportunity

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RIT's **Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP)** are another way to earn honors points. Dr. Marcia Hartwell invites you to participate in the creation of a unique social-impact video game project, *Peaceland: Choose Your Memory* (links below). Participation can be treated as mentored undergraduate research, or can be connected to a standard course as an honors option (with the professor's approval).

For more information, read below and contact Peaceland VIP faculty leader Dr. Marcia Byrom Hartwell at mbhksv@rit.edu

Project Description:

Peaceland: Choose Your Memory is a role playing video game set in a fictionalized country recovering from a conflict that took place 20 to 30 years earlier. The game begins when a player, assuming the role of a journalist assigned to write a story about the country's peacebuilding status, chooses a memory linked to a character whose ethnic/religious/racial identity is not easy to identify. The player makes seemingly small decisions as they face a series of challenges drawn from real memories and factual events. The intended and unintended consequences of their choices are revealed along with their character's identity at the game's end. The player's goal is to reach "Peaceland" where they reap rewards from a harmonious and prosperous country. Failure sends them to a country where the perpetual destabilizing threat of conflict is the norm.

Spring 2025 continues our pre-prototyping phase from Fall 2024 to evaluate, observe, reset our Summer 2024 Co-op game build by playing/evaluating relevant video games, inviting external input, making small changes to our game, continuing to playtest in preparation for building our prototype in Summer 2025.

This project actively engages students from the Balkans (esp RIT Kosovo, Croatia) and elsewhere who are familiar with or living in post conflict environments.

Primary goals of the project:

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- To increase player empathy and connection between former enemies
- Support deeper understanding of the intended/unintended consequences of small decisions
- Depict the role that memories play in a country's trajectory toward long term peace or a return to conflict

History of the project:

The concept for this video game project began during faculty leader Marcia Byrom Hartwell DPhil (PhD)'s Fulbright Scholar 2022-23 grant in Kosovo where she taught and led RIT Kosovo students on a two phased PeaceTech survey project. She co-led a 2022 RIT Honors course/study tour to the Balkans and teaches an Honors Course for Global Engagements. This game will be open source and sent to interested peacebuilding organizations. This is a multi-year project, with the goal of early release in December 2026.

Useful links:

Vertically Integrated Projects (Peaceland) <https://www.rit.edu/verticallyintegratedprojects/#faqs-for-students>

Peaceland VIP description <https://www.rit.edu/verticallyintegratedprojects/peaceland-choose-your-memory>

Peaceland: Choose Your Memory Demo Trailer: <https://youtu.be/ja5AO10CJQc>

Peaceland: Choose Your Memory website: <https://www.peaceland-game.com/>

This type of social impact ("PeaceTech") game belongs to the digital ecosystem of Games for Change: <https://www.gamesforchange.org/>

Honors Research and Creativity Symposium

Submit your Intent to Present

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Honors Research and Creativity Symposium: Intent to Present

Please follow the link below to indicate your intent to present at the 2024 Research & Creativity Symposium which takes place on Saturday, December 7 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm in the SHED rooms 3300 and 3350.

Please review the information below before submitting:

- Presentation abstracts will be due on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 11:59 PM
- All research presentations will be in the form of a poster presentation / presentation of artwork - there are no lecture style presentations this year
- The Honors office will support students in the printing of posters up until Sun. Nov 17
- You can use your Honors grant to pay for the cost of printing
- Creative presentations can be in the form of a poster, or depending on the project and logistics can present the artwork itself (a painting, sculpture, media presentation, etc.)
- Each presenter will have approximately 25-30 minutes to present
- Students can present independently or with a student or faculty co-presenter
- Presentations at the R&CS fulfill the presentation requirement for an Honors Option
- The R&CS will be open to the RIT community

[Submit your intent here!](#)

Program Reminders, Updates, and Tips

We want to use this space weekly to share important reminders about program policies and tips to help your Honors experience be as smooth as possible and to guide you through the practical steps of staying in good standing. This week's topic: **Faculty Mentored Research**

If you are engaged in or interested in participating in faculty mentored research as a method of earning points please review the information below to ensure that you complete the experience and fulfill all the requirements as stated by the Program.

- Research is understood broadly to include investigative, exploratory, creative, and innovative works.
- Your research does not have to be in your discipline, but it *can* be counted as fulfilling the *in the discipline* requirement if it is in your discipline.
- Your work can be part of an ongoing research effort - it does not have to start and stop with your involvement.
- You can take part in research at another institution (e.g. NSF REU programs) as long as there is clear communication from your research mentor regarding your involvement throughout your time working on the project.
- You cannot earn points for research that is required for your home program (e.g. research that is part of a required course)
- When submitting for points once your experience is complete you must:

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- Give a public presentation or exhibition of your work - participating in the Research and Creativity Symposium is a great way to fulfill this requirement.
- Produce a written report, approved by your faculty mentor as demonstrating the substance and quality of expected undergraduate, honors-level work.
- Submit the written report to the Honors office
- You can earn points for research if:
 - You are paid a stipend
 - You are earning academic credit
 - If it is a topic outside of your discipline that you are simply intrigued by or interested in
- Points are awarded based on the number of hours you commit to the project:
 - 60 hours = 1 point
 - 120 hours = 2 points
 - 180 hours = 3 points
- The maximum number of points you can receive per semester for research is 3

These and other details can be found in the [Honors Handbook](#). If you have questions please reach out to the office for guidance.

**Do you have questions about
Honors Points?
Complementary Learning?
How to submit them?**

Fill out this survey from AEC!

The Academic Excellence Committee is organizing an Honors Workshop open to all students who have questions or just want to check in about their requirements and plan for completing the program. Please fill out the survey to help them plan for this event: [AE Committee Honors Workshop](#)

Complementary Learning

Keep track of new events and opportunities on our Complementary Learning Webpage: [Complementary Learning | Honors Program | RIT](#).

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New Complementary Learning Opportunities:

Sustainability Month Activity - Rooftop Restoration



Come join RIT Sustainability as we destress on the top of GIS rooftop. We will be weeding the gardens as we prepare it for the winter months. We will not be providing gloves so if you need any, please bring your own. You can stay for as little or as long as you would like. Please wear closed toe shoes.

October 25th - 3-5PM
GIS building 4th Floor
[RSVP for this event here!](#)

Open Houses with KGCOE - Engineering Exploration

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KGCOE Honors Advocates, Amy Neufeglise and Dr. Matthew Marshall are seeking help from KGCOE students who started in ***engineering exploration*** to participate in fall open house events on the following dates. They are looking for 2-3 students to help out with each open house event. They will have a formal presentation to give to students/families and will pause throughout the session to gather insight from you. It will be very informal Q&A.

Dates:

Monday, October 14th – no classes

Saturday, October 26

Saturday, November 9

Time commitment would be from 10:15-12:00.

Please contact Amy at alpiao@rit.edu if you are interested in helping out with any of these dates.

Vietnam & War on Terror Memorial Clean Up

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VIETNAM & WAR ON TERROR MEMORIAL CLEAN UP

WHEN: SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26, 2024

FROM: 08:00-12:00



Join the RIT's Office of Veteran Student Success in this event focused on the mindful memorialization of our veteran's in Monroe County who gave their lives during the Vietnam war and the War on Terror after the 9/11 attacks on our country.

October 26 - 8am-12pm

175 Highland Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620

To Register: Contact: Chuckmac66@yahoo.com or amyfolwell@yahoo.com.

Volunteer with Lollypop Farm - Humane Society Society of Greater Rochester

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Lollypop Farm is always looking for volunteers to support their work with all creatures great and small. Spend some time cuddling cats (and changing cat litter), walking dogs, cleaning stables, or helping with office work. This nonprofit is a Rochester staple and helps to re-home thousands of animals every year.

This is an ongoing opportunity

Lollypop Farm

99 Victor Road

Fairport, NY 14450

For more info: Phone: 585-223-1330 / <https://www.lollypop.org/volunteer/>

"The weather just went from 90 to 55 like it saw a state trooper" - *Unknown*