

RIT | Honors Program

Happy first week of classes!

We hope your first week of classes is going well! It is a busy and exciting time as you embark on this new semester - establishing new routines, connecting with friends (new and old alike), and challenging yourselves through rigorous intellectual endeavors and meaningful co-curricular experiences. We hope you are entering this new academic year with a sense of purpose, grateful for the opportunity to deepen your knowledge in your given discipline while remaining open to new ideas and experiences that can broaden your perspectives on the world and the people in it.

Our incoming class of Honors students and Orientation mentors kicked off the new year with a fun-filled three days that included a mix of activities and information meant to inspire, educate, and inform. From the scavenger hunt (nice job group 12!), to Dr. Lutzer's opening remarks, to the giant rock, paper, scissors game, the egg drop, bounce pillow, climbing tower, euchre games, and an expertly run Q & A session with our lead mentors, our new students met every challenge with grace and aplomb! To the newest members of the Honors community - welcome once again and best of luck in your first semester!

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"Back to school" Game Day with Honors Council

Join Honors Council on the **North Quad - Outside of Gibson and Sol Heumann** for an afternoon of yard games and activities to welcome everyone back to campus. We'll have Kan Jam, frisbees, football and soccer balls, and please feel free to bring your own games to share! We will provide popsicles! Register ahead [here](#) or at the bottom of this message, or just show up and scan in when you arrive!



Honors Council + 1st Year Delegate Nominations

Honors Council held its first meeting of the semester on Monday 8/26 with great turn out and an informative and engaging agenda! President Ellie Fairchild led the meeting with delegates from each College, committee chairs, and students interested in getting more involved in council. We discussed the way Honors Council operates and the events and activities that are supported each year through this leadership group of the Honors office. A brainstorm generated ideas for activities and collaborations that will keep our students connected and give us all a sense of community and belonging.

The **first year delegate** acts as a resource for new students in the program and shares needs and information to and from the Council to help our newest members succeed. So we can fill the position relatively quickly, the **nomination form is only open until this Friday Aug. 30** at midnight. **Voting will be open until Friday Sept. 6** and the Delegate will be announced in the following Wednesday email.

If you are interested in nominating yourself (or a peer) for the **First-Year Delegate** position, please follow this link: [First Year Delegate Nomination](#) or the one at the bottom of this email.

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IT'S TIME TO
**PROPOSE
HONORS
OPTIONS!**

**THE SUBMISSION
PORTAL IS OPEN!**

Submit your proposal for an Honors Option to enrich and extend your standard courses

Have questions?
Email honors@rit.edu

Honors Options: Proposals due Sept 9th

Honors Options are a great way to complete Honors Points in the current semester. Are you taking a standard course you would be excited to build upon with a project that goes beyond the set curriculum? Do you have a professor that would support you in this endeavor? Options provide you with the freedom to design your own challenging coursework, culminating in a public presentation. Visit the [Honors Option page of our website](#) to learn more about and submit your proposal.

The deadline for proposals is Sunday, Sept 9. Now is the time to connect with your professors to see if they'll support you in your Honors Option! If your professor has questions about what is entailed in supporting your Option they can check out our [Faculty Resources](#) page or email honors@rit.edu.

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Meet with Leaders on the Global Stage - World Affairs Council - Tues Sept 10th

Cobalt is important to modern battery technology, which is part of moving from a carbon-heavy energy footprint to a sustainable infrastructure, and the most productive cobalt mines are found in the Global South. So are most people on the planet. **Sarang Shidore, Director of the Global South Program at the Quincy Institute** is the featured speaker at this month's **World Affairs Council in Rochester**. Honors students have the opportunity to meet privately with Dir. Shidore to learn about and discuss the rising influence and impact of countries across the Global South, and get a nice meal to round out the experience!

Through our partnership with the World Affairs Council Rochester, **Honors students will sit down with Dir. Shidore before his lecture to discuss the geo-political dynamics of the rising Global South** which includes countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. These countries have historically been characterized by their developing economies and histories of colonialism or marginalization in global affairs, but more recently have been asserting themselves as vital to the global economy and as relevant actors on the political stage.

The Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft is a think tank and communications project based in Washington D.C. established to promote ideas that move U.S. foreign policy toward military restraint and **vigorous diplomacy in the pursuit of the national interest and international peace**. Sarang Shidore is also a senior non-resident fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks and a member of the adjunct faculty at George Washington University, where he teaches a class on the geo-politics of climate change.

Timeline and cost:

- Monday, September 2: Preparatory reading distributed.
- Saturday, September 7: Meet to discuss the reading over brunch at a near-campus site.

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- Tuesday, September 10: Arrive at Irondequoit Country Club at 5:30 pm. Meet with Director Shidore, network, have an amazing dinner, and hear the public talk. Leave by 9:00 pm.
- Cost: \$0.00 (Honors picks up the cost for you!)
- Students are responsible for their own travel.

If you are interested in meeting Director Shidore and engaging in discussion about the role of the United States in the world **register for the event [HERE!](#) Seats are limited!**



Honors Hour (formerly Pop-Up-Pizza)

The first Honors Hour (formerly Pop-up-Pizza) of the semester takes place this Friday, 8/30 at 11:30 am in the SUA 1829 room. Meetings will take place every other Friday (room changes) with a different theme or activity. If you have thoughts about a theme for an Honors Hour please let us know! We'd love to incorporate your ideas.

The 8/30 event will be a back to school networking event with a brief welcome and presentation from the office, a welcome from Honors Council, some fun puzzles and games, and yes, there will be pizza! [RSVP here](#) or at the bottom of this message.

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Honors Hockey Night

Let's go TIGERS! Join us on the Gene Polisseni Center's South Mezzanine to cheer on RIT and share school spirit with fellow Honors Students! Food will be provided, as well as free tickets for Honors Students! Register through the link below to save your spot.

October 25th at 7:05pm
Gene Polisseni Center South Mezzanine
[Register for Hockey Night here! \(REQUIRED\)](#)

Complementary Learning Opportunities

Students are required to take part in at least 20 hours of Complementary Learning activities each year. These can include engaging in service on campus, in the community, or online, taking on a leadership role like being an RA or holding a named position on the board of a student org, or attending cultural events on campus like the MLK Legacy presentation or Fram Lecture.

When engaging in complementary learning, submit your hours contemporaneously, within 30 days of the event. The maximum number of hours you can submit for one activity (like being an RA, or volunteering for one nonprofit) is 15. The submission cycle runs from Sept. 1 - Aug. 31 each year - so we are heading into the 2024-25 cycle.

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:

As shared in last week's message, the **Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement** (CLCE) is an amazing resource for Complementary Learning. Their links to volunteer opportunities on and off campus are just one thing they provide as a way to get engaged and earn hours towards your annual requirement.

Their [Into the Roc](#) series provides students with the tools and information, (and transportation!) needed to get into the city of Rochester to actively engage with the community. Here are the upcoming Into the ROC events - these all count towards your complementary learning hours:



[Into the ROC: Pawsitive Cat Cafe](#)

[Into the ROC: Taste of Home with the Rochester Jamaican Organization](#)

[Into the ROC: Seneca Falls](#)

[Into the ROC: Daffodil Project at Mount Hope Cemetery](#)

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ROAR THE VOTE 

Are you interested in getting involved in non-partisan voter engagement initiatives? **Roar the Vote** is a partnership between the CLCE and the Office of Government and Community Relations that provides training and resources for students to help their peers understand the electoral process, register to vote, request absentee ballots, and make voting plans.

Students must take part in a training prior to their involvement - the next training session is tomorrow, Thursday Aug. 29 from 11-11:45am in the Campus Center room 1015.

If you cannot make the scheduled training, please contact Grace Carlic at gacarli@rit.edu to check on other options.

PLEASE NOTE: If you get involved with Roar the Vote, you **cannot count your training hours for complementary learning**, but you can count any hours you volunteer after your training is complete. This is true for all complementary learning - training cannot be counted, just the time spent utilizing that training in the community.

And as always, you can find a place to volunteer or a cause to support in the local community by visiting the CLCE website - they have a great list of groups in the Rochester area seeking engagement. [Check it out here!](#)

*"A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships and new challenges.
The slate is clean and anything can happen." - Denise Witmer*

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