



Snowflake | Katie Niederhoff, 2nd year Software Engineering major

Winter continues to make its presence known in western NY! We hope you've been staying warm and enjoying the beauty of the season.

Please review the information below for upcoming events and opportunities, updates and announcements, and this week's complementary learning offering. Searching for more? The [Honors website](#) contains resources and links that help you not only fulfill your requirements and meet the standards of the program, but fully engage with your peers and colleagues in the program.

- Winter Wonderland Honors Gala
- February World Affairs Council
- Reminders and Announcements
- Complementary Learning



Winter Wonderland Honors Gala

Join us for the 2025 Honors Gala!

Each year the Honors Program hosts an Honors Gala, where students from all colleges can mingle with small bites and fun music. This year, celebrate the season with our Winter Wonderland theme! **Honors students are able and encouraged to bring non-Honors guests** - just note that the Honors Student themselves must register the tickets for their non-Honors guests.

Register to join the fun by purchasing tickets for \$10 per guest on Campusgroups.

**3/1 from 7:00-10:00pm
University Gallery**

Light refreshments of veggies, fruit, cheese, crackers, cookies, and beverages will be provided.

Tickets will be available for purchase until February 22 at 11:55pm.

[Register and purchase tickets!](#)

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Meet with Ross Pedersen

Recent U.S. Special Forces Commander, Ross Pedersen will be discussing "The Underrated Geopolitical Significance of West Africa"

2/11 - World Affairs Council

The global world has been complicated for a long time, and the news is never without new challenges. But some critical areas of conflict seldom make the front pages, unnoticed amid the Middle East chaos and other prominent conflicts.

Ross Pedersen has recently served as a U.S. Special Forces Commander in a remote outpost on the border between Mali and Niger in western Africa. Pedersen's lecture, "**The Underrated Geopolitical Significance of West Africa**" will explore the history of the region, its significance in world affairs, and why Russia, China and the United States are fiercely competing for influence in the region...and why the US is losing that fight.

Students who register will receive a reading list on Monday, February 3, and will meet with Dr. Lutzer on Saturday,



2/11 from 5:00-9:00pm
Irondequoit Country Club:
4045 East Ave, Rochester,
NY 14618

This event is approved for complementary learning.

February 8 for a breakfast meeting to discuss and plan for the group discussion. Students will then meet with Pedersen the evening of Tues. Feb 11 at the Irondequoit Country Club for a small group discussion followed by dinner and Pedersen's formal remarks.

[Visit the World Affairs Council Rochester website](#) to learn more about this event.

[Register on Campusgroups](#)

Updates & Announcements



Spring Graduate Exit Survey

Are you planning to graduate this spring? Congratulations! We are hosting Honors graduation ceremonies and a reception for all students finishing their degree program this spring on Thursday, May 8.

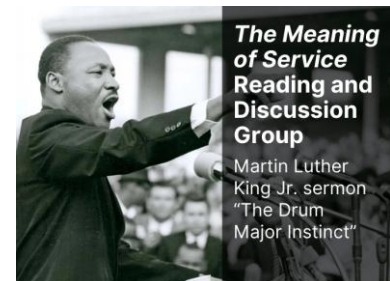
Please follow the link below for details about the events on 5/8 and to complete the 2025 graduate exit survey. Your responses will help us plan and support you through your final semester at RIT and beyond.



Call for Internal Admit Orientation Mentors

We are looking for current Honors students who joined the program through the Internal Admission process to serve as Mentors for the Spring '25 Internal Admit Orientation.

Internal Admit Orientation will take place on Saturday, March 22 from 8:30am-12:30pm. All accepted mentors must attend a training session (via ZOOM) on Thursday, March 6 from 6:00-7:00pm.



1/31 Meaning of Service Honors Hour

During our 2nd Honors Hour of the semester, **this Friday Jan. 31**, we will celebrate the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by listening to and discussing King's *Drum Major Instinct* sermon.

This event is approved for complementary learning.

**1/31 from 11:30am-12:30pm
HAC 1320**

[Honors Graduation Spring 2025 Exit Survey](#)

All mentors will earn 4 hours of [complementary learning](#) for their participation.

[Register for the Meaning of Service](#)

[Internal Admit Mentor Interest Form](#)

Complementary Learning

Please see below our highlight opportunity this week. There are many other opportunities on the [complementary learning webpage](#) that can fit almost anyone's busy schedule and diverse interests.

Students are expected to engage in at least 20 hours of complementary each cycle (Sept.- Aug.) to remain in "good standing" in the program.

All complementary learning hours are submitted contemporaneously, within 30 days of the event or activity, through [form](#) located within the *User Tools* tab of the Honors website.

Into the ROC: Irondequoit's Winterfest



Enjoy some of the FreezeFest Programming at RIT with this Into the ROC event through the CLCE. Embrace the magic of winter at Irondequoit's annual celebration, where the town comes alive with various winter-themed activities for all ages. Winterfest is a festive gathering that promises a day filled with snowboarding demonstrations, huskies, bonfires and more.

Click the button to learn more and register for this event!

2/8 from 11:30am-2:30pm
Town Hall Campus: 1280
Titus Ave, Rochester,
NY 14617

[Irondequoit's Winterfest](#)

"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together."

—Vesta M. Kelly