

## Weekly Newsletter Wed. September 3, 2025



Honors students at YMCA Camp Arrowhead during day two of 2025 Honors Orientation | Ethan Flynn

## High Fives and Smiles!

Greetings and a virtual high five from the Honors office! It has been great seeing the campus come to life over the past few weeks! We have enjoyed catching up with many of you and hearing about your summer adventures and your plans for the coming academic year. As we move through week two we hope you are settling into your routines, connecting with old friends and making new ones, and setting goals and establishing habits that will challenge you to go above and beyond in interesting and insightful ways this semester.

There are so many activities and events on campus and in the Honors Program taking place over the next few weeks that will help you find your place and make connections. We encourage you to try new things, take on new roles, and immerse yourself in experiences that broaden your perspective, deepen your understanding, and help you contribute to a vibrant campus community. Please check out the information below and let us know if you have any questions or ideas that will give you clarity of purpose and help you excel in your endeavors.

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## Honors Course & Northern Ireland Trip

### *Building Shared Narratives in Northern Ireland*

#### **Applications Are Open!**

The opportunity is here to apply to the Spring 2026 Honors Course, "HNRS 290 - Conflict to Peace: Building Shared Narratives," (3 credits) which is followed by a faculty-led study abroad in early summer to Northern Ireland and London, England.

Throughout the course, students will utilize critical thinking to explore how a conflict-ridden political climate affects the road to peace. During the trip, students will examine how borders shape conflict, meet with local peacebuilders and other key community stakeholders, and discuss post-conflict justice with students at other universities.

#### **Honors Students receive \$1,500 to help cover the cost of the trip!**

Travel dates are May 10-25, 2026.

A student budget worksheet outlining costs will be available soon. **If you have not yet used your \$500 Honors grant you can also apply any portion of that to the cost of the course and trip.**

Contact Marcia Hartwell, Professor of Practice, Individualized Education, School of Individualized Study with any questions at [mbhkvs@rit.edu](mailto:mbhkvs@rit.edu).

**Applications are open on RIT Compass  
and due 10/19/2025.**

[Learn More & Apply](#)



## Honors Council Upcoming Events

### This Friday! Yard Games Event

Join Honors Council for a back to school party with yard games and popsicles! Council President and delegates will be there to welcome you all back to campus and to have some outdoor fun.

This is a great opportunity to connect with Honors Council in a casual setting, and you'll get a sneak peak on some of the events and activities Council has in store for the semester!

9/05 from 4:30-6:00pm

North Quad

### 9/09 First Honors Council Meeting

The first full Honors Council meeting of the semester is coming up. All Council meetings will take place every-other week on the same day in the same time and location.

9/09 from 5:30-6:30pm

WAL 4600

### Committee Meeting Dates & Times

- Academic Excellence: TBA
- Community & Wellness: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm, LBR 3225
- Service & Leadership: Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm, WAL 4600

**Students attending meetings receive 1/2 an hour of Complementary Learning!**

Join the Honors Council Discord - All Honors students are encouraged to join!



## Office Chats This Friday!

### Coffee & Chat Is Back in a New Way

Coffee & Chat is back at the Honors Office this semester, rebranded as Office Chats. It is the same event your know and love, now with a new name!

Stop by the Honors Office for the first Friday of each month to hang out with other Honors students, talk with the Office staff and ask questions, and enjoy some tasty treats.

The first Office Chats event is this Friday, and we will be providing some breakfast items from Panera!

9/05 from 10:00-11:00am  
Honors Office

Register for Office Chats  
(or just show up!)

## Updates & Announcements



### Honors Option Proposals Are Due!

The deadline to submit Honors Option or Independent Study proposals is Sunday, September 7 at 11:59pm.



Stay on track and make sure you have met with your faculty member for an Honors Option or have had your Independent Study approved by your college before submitting the form.

Read more about applying for an option/independent study, examples, previously "optioned" courses, and the proposal submission form below.

### Information & Submission Form



## 9/14 You Can Still Join the Honors Trip!

You can still sign up, but space is limited for the trip to Buffalo and Niagara Falls on **Sunday, September 14.**

Excursions include, [Maid of The Mist](#) - a boat ride to the bottom of the falls (you will get wet!), lunch at the Rainforest Cafe, the [Buffalo AKG Art Museum](#) or [5 Wits](#) escape room (Sorry! All the 5-Wits spots have been taken) , and touring the Canalside neighborhood with some free-time for dinner and sightseeing.

Registration closes Sunday, 9/07 at 11:55pm.

**9/14 from 8:00am-9:30pm**

**Buses will depart behind the Honors Office in between the office and the Cybersecurity Building**

Arrive by 8:00am - buses will depart promptly at 8:30am.

Register for Trip  
to Niagara/Buffalo



## 9/29 Honors Small Group Discussion with 2025 Fram Lecturer

[The Fram Lecture](#) is an annual event focused on applied critical thinking. This year features Anshu Kak, a highly accomplished C-level executive and distinguished engineer specializing in Data, AI and cloud technologies.

With 25+ years of experience at tech giants like Google IBM, and GE, Kak has consistently delivered impactful results, including leading Google Cloud's global Principal Architect community and driving strategic technical initiatives in financial markets.

Join your Honors peers in a small group setting to ask questions and engage in a dialogue with Kak. This session will focus on your interests and will allow you time to interact directly with a leader in the AI field!

Register for the Group Discussion with  
2025 Fram Lecturer

## Complementary Learning

Please see below our highlight opportunities this week. There are many other's listed on the [complementary learning webpage](#) that can fit almost anyone's busy schedule and diverse set of 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 should be submitted contemporaneously, within 30 days of the event or activity, using the submission form linked below or located within the *User Tools* tab of the Honors website.

Submit Complementary Learning

## Fall 2025 Community Service Fair



### Looking For Community Involvement?

As part of the FallFest programming, RIT is holding the Fall 2025 Community Service Fair. This fair will have tables from 40+ community-based organizations at RIT and the Rochester area. It is a great way to find opportunities for complementary learning and how you can volunteer to make a difference in the community.

While attending the fair will not earn complementary learning hours you will learn about ways to get involved with local organizations to earn hours. Students who attend and complete a passport will receive a free Java's token!

9/19 from 11:00am-1:00pm  
Fireside Lounge & 1829 Room

Learn More About  
The Event

*Self-reflection is a much kinder teacher than regret. Prioritize yourself by making a habit of it.*  
- Andrena Sawyer

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