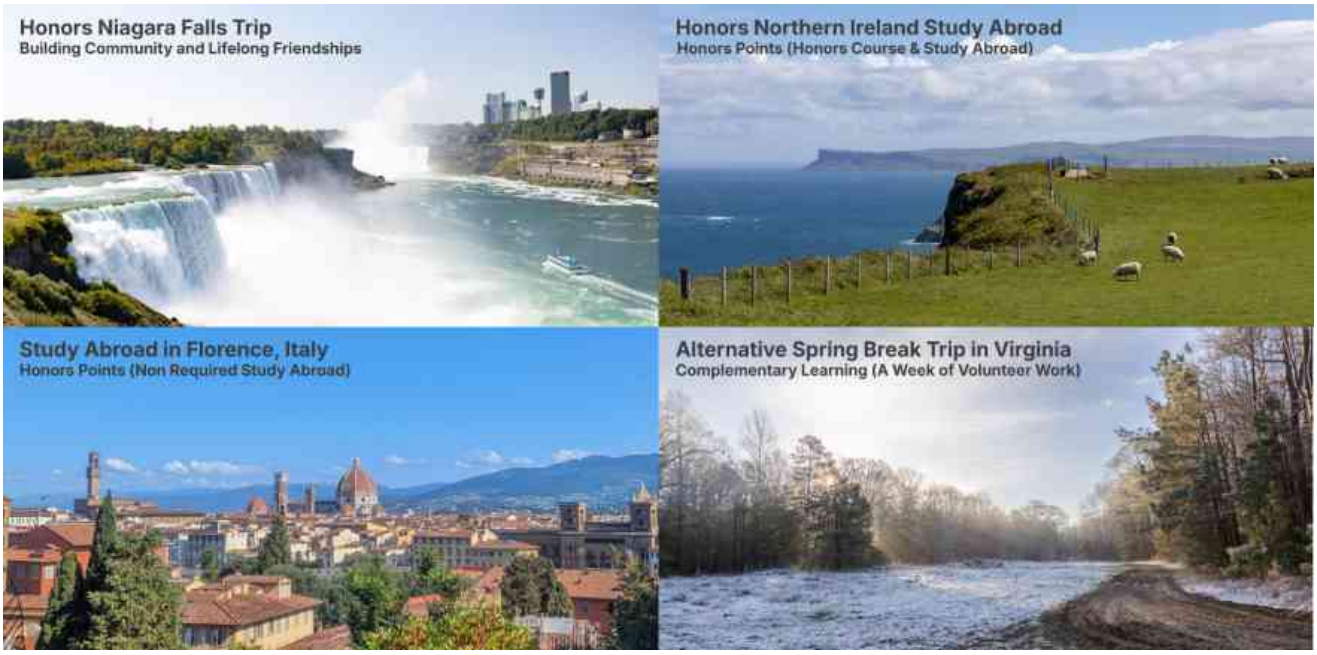
RIT | Honors Program

Weekly Newsletter
September 23, 2026



A collection of travel photos that Honors students have the opportunity to participate in | Photo credit to Ethan Flynn (Niagara Falls, Northern Ireland, and AB Trip to Virginia)

Expanding on the pillar of *citizenship*, this week's message highlights ways you can explore and experience the world beyond campus. Through opportunities such as our local and regional excursions, Alternative Break trips (don't forget about the AB info session during this Friday's Honors Hour!), and Faculty-Led Study Abroad Honors courses, we seek to support our students' development as global citizens.

Learning about people and places beyond your own experience broadens your perspective, expands your context, and deepens your understanding of our complex world. In turn, these experiences inform and enrich your personal, professional, and academic pursuits.

We hope that during your time in the program, you'll take advantage of these opportunities to explore, learn, and connect with communities beyond campus. Check out the information below and as always, reach out with any questions, concerns, or thoughts.

In this message

- World Affairs Council: The Two Climate Migrations
- Apply for *Activism and Social Movements in Brazil* course
- Walking for Rochester Cleanup with SLC | Rochester Museum and Science Center Trip with CHST Honors | Honors Council Updates: Election Results & Council Meeting
- Complementary Learning - Breaking Bread

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World Affairs Council: *The Two Climate Migrations*

The World Affairs Council of Rochester, NY (WACR) is one of over 90 affiliates of the World Affairs Council of America (WACA), headquartered in Washington DC, with several thousand individual members nationwide. WACA represents and supports the largest nonpartisan network of local councils in the US, each dedicated to educating, inspiring, and engaging Americans in international affairs and critical global issues of our times.

Climate migration is usually understood as people fleeing places made unlivable by a warming world. But there is a second migration that is just as consequential: factories and technology shifting across borders in response to climate policy. Join Claire Brunel, PhD, Associate Professor in the School of International Service at American University, for a small group discussion before networking, dinner, and her formal presentation to the group at the Irondequoit Country Club.

Registered students will receive a reading list from Dr. Lutzer prior to the event and will meet over a free breakfast at Panera on Saturday, Oct. 10 to prepare for the dialogue with Brunel. Students will then carpool to the Irondequoit Country Club on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 5:00 pm for the discussion and dinner. The event will finish around 9:00 pm.

This event is approved for four hours of complementary learning.

About Claire Brunel, PhD
Professor Brunel's research focuses on issues at the intersection of environmental economics and international economics. Her research examines whether climate change and environmental regulation create cross-border effects, including the relocation of industries, the transfer of green technologies, and human migration.

Dr. Brunel received her B.S. in Mathematics and Economics from Georgetown University, her M.Phil in Economics from the University of Oxford and her Ph.D. in Economics (with distinction) from Georgetown University.

Preparation meeting at Panera with Dr. Lutzer:
10:00 am
Saturday, Oct. 10

World Affairs Council Event:
Wednesday, Oct. 14
5:00pm - 9:00pm
Irondequoit County Club

Only 6 spots are available, so register now!

World Affairs Council Registration

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Photo from the 2025 *Activism and Social Movements in Brazil* study abroad trip

Brazil's rich history of activism and social change comes to life through a spring semester course at RIT, where you'll explore the country's history, culture, and the social movements that continue to shape Brazilian society. The course provides the historical and cultural context needed to understand complex issues before traveling to Brazil in May, where you'll experience these topics firsthand through immersive learning and meaningful engagement with local communities.

During your time in Brazil, you'll bring what you learned in the classroom to life by meeting local experts, visiting community organizations, and exploring the places where social change is happening. You'll learn how Brazilians are addressing challenges like environmental sustainability, inequality, restorative justice, and community development, while gaining a deeper understanding of the people and ideas shaping modern Brazil.

In Brazil, you'll meet with local leaders and activists at:

- Brasil No Clima - a leading "think-and-do" tank dedicated to environmental sustainability efforts in Brazil.
- Observatório de Favelas - a non-profit organization that offers a critical and grounded perspective on the favela wars.
- Fundição Progresso - a cultural hub that supports grassroots efforts toward social change.

Course Term: Spring course at RIT, travel to Brazil in early Summer
Travel Dates: May 10-19, 2027
Credits: 3

Course Details:
HNRS 299: Civic Engagement & Resistance in Brazil (3 credits)
- Tuesdays, 3:30-4:20 pm

Application Deadline:
Sunday, October 18th, 2026

Students will be enrolled in a spring course at RIT and will travel to Brazil in early summer.

Not only can Honors students use their $500 grant, but students will also be provided an additional $1,500 towards this trip.

More information and the application to apply

Updates & Announcements

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Walking for Rochester Cleanup with SLC

The clean up will take place in downtown Rochester at North Clinton Ave. and Andrews St. Students will receive guidance and equipment from the Walking for Rochester nonprofit that has removed removed over 20,000 pounds of total litter across the city since its founding in 2020, with more than 10,000 pounds collected in 2026 alone! Register at the link below.

Students will meet at the Sentinel statue at 12:30pm for departure. Then head over as a group to the intersection of North Clinton and Andrews St. for the cleanup.

Saturday, September 26
12:30pm - 2:30pm
Downtown Rochester

Register on CampusGroups



Rochester Museum and Science Center Trip with CHST Honors

CHST Honors is hosting a trip to the Rochester Museum and Science Center!

This is a free event open to anyone in the Honors Program. Make sure to sign up soon, because remaining spots are limited!

The bus will leave promptly at 10:45 pm from the North Bus Shelter located at the top of parking lot F (closest to the Chester Carlson Center for Imaging Science).

Saturday, September 26
10:45am - 2:30pm
RMSC

Sign up form



Honors Council Updates

First Year Delegate Election Results

We are pleased to announce that **Maly Tsibriaeva** has been selected as this year's first year delegate on Honors Council. Maly is a Chemical Engineering major in KGCOE and is prepared to "apply all of my intercultural knowledge and communication experience in RIT through its Honors program to address any problems, suggestions or ideas of freshman students and take the initiative to develop our community!"

Congratulations and Welcome to Council Maly!

Full Council Meeting

The next Honors Council meeting is on Monday! Attending a Full Council Meeting counts as 30 minutes of complementary learning.

We will have pizza this week at Honors Council!

Monday, September 28
4:00 - 5:00pm
SAU 1510 (1829 Room)

CampusGroups

Subscribe to our email list.

Complementary Learning

A message to first-year students:

Most of you took part in the blanket making service project during orientation. If you did not submit your time for complementary learning for that activity please do so - each student can submit .75 hours for the activity.

Thanks again for contributing to the project and supporting the community members connected to the nonprofit, Recovery All Ways!

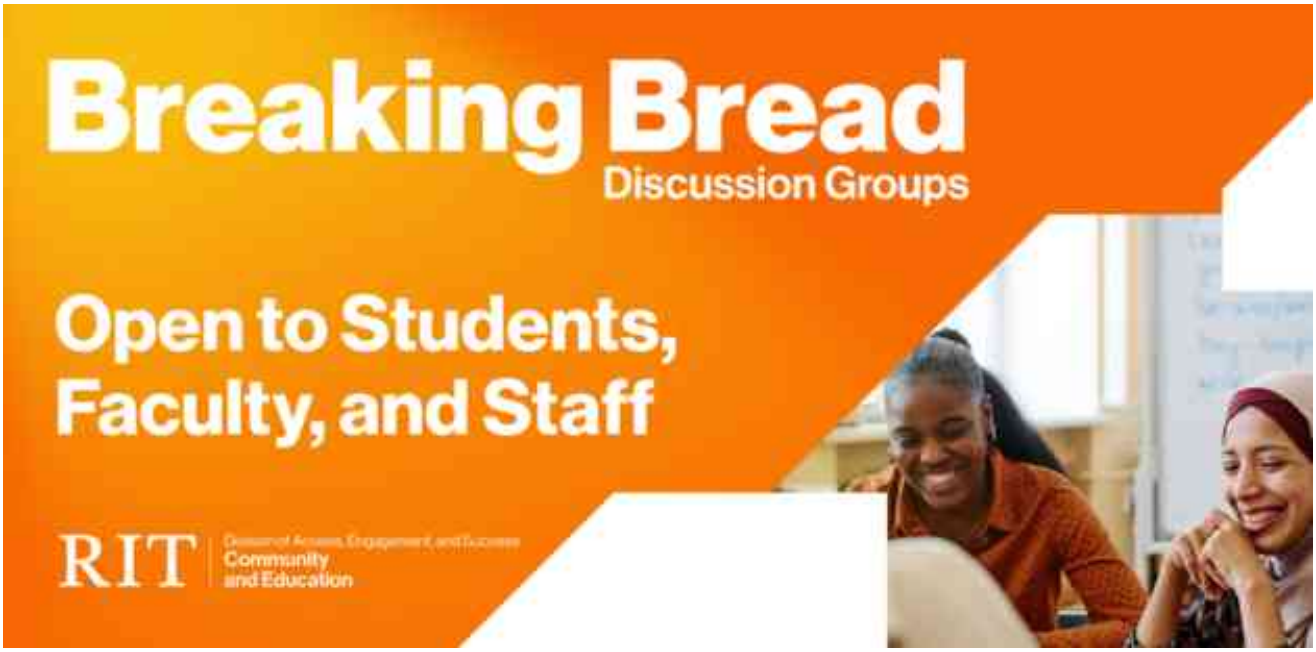
Please see below this week's highlight complementary learning opportunity - Breaking Bread Discussion Groups.

You can find other opportunities 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. 1-Aug. 31) 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 *Student Portal* tab of the Honors website.

Submit Complementary Learning



Breaking Bread is an opportunity for those interested within the RIT community to come together to dialogue not debate social issues. The purpose of the special edition track is to provide a one-time commitment to practice good communication behaviors while exploring ideas and issues that impact our individual and collective lives.

Tuesday, October 27
11:30am - 1:00pm
SAU 1500

Register now!

Subscribe to our email list.

During this session we will explore the kind of world(s) those in attendance would want to live in. We will explore what factors or values go into that decision. Participants are encouraged to stay for at least 30 minutes of the conversation.

Stay up-to-date on all upcoming events, opportunities, and deadlines!

Follow us on Instagram
Join the Honors Discord
Keep an eye on the Honors Calendar

"Traveling—it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller." — Ibn Battuta

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