



December 2025

Dear Yellowjacket Leaders,

It's December... can you believe it?! The semester is quickly coming to an end, and I am so impressed by each of your efforts and how they have impacted campus life. Students have attended your amazing programs, written for your publications, performed in your events, gained awareness, learned how to better navigate relationships, and so much more. We can finish strong by taking advantage of the resources shared in this Insider!

For organizations conducting elections this semester, don't forget about the officer transition best practices listed on this [web page](#).

For all, don't forget to get enough sleep, attend study breaks, and be kind to one another.

For those of you that are here over Winter Break, be sure to browse this [webpage](#) as it has information on all of the services (building hours, shuttles, dining options, etc.) available. Have a safe and relaxing winter break - Student Activities looks forward to starting anew in January!

As a reminder, I hope to see each of you at the [Late Night Breakfast](#) on December 9th at 9 pm in the Feldman Ballroom! There will be lots of FREE Food!

Stay warm,

Brian Magee, Assistant Dean of Students

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Save-the-Dates

Holiday Shopping Fair Friday,

December 5th, 10 am – 4 pm, Hirst Lounge, Wilson Commons

Late Night Breakfast

Tuesday, December 9th, 9 - 11:55 pm, Feldman Ballroom, Douglas Commons

Activity Reflections for January 2025 through December 2025

Sunday, December 21st @ 11:59 pm

SOAR Self-Reports

Sunday, January 11th @ 11:59 pm

Mid-Year Leadership Training Sunday

January 25th, 1 - 5 pm, Feldman Ballroom, Douglas Commons

Winterfest Weekend

Friday, January 30th - Sunday, February 1st

Winter Activity Fair

Friday, January 30th, 1-3 pm, GAC

Leadership Appreciation Reception

Friday, February 13th, 3 - 5 pm, Feldman Ballroom, Douglas Commons

Springfest Weekend

Friday, April 24th - Sunday, April 26th

2025 Student Organization Annual Review (SOAR)

Each year recognized undergraduate student organizations are required to complete a self-report for the Student Organization Annual Review (SOAR). The goal of the annual review is to ensure student organizations are meeting expectations, assessing the activities they offer to campus, and getting feedback on resources needed to be successful. Please note, organizations approved during the Fall 2025 semester do not need to submit a self-report.

The [2025 Self-Report](#) is now live and is due by Sunday, January 11th @ 11:59 pm.

Areas under review for January 2025 - December 2025 are:

Activities Fair Attendance (January 2025 and August 2025)

[Activity Reflections](#)

Administration @ Review Committee (ARC) Violations

Advisor Feedback

CCC Site Review

Fall Leadership Training Attendance

Medallion Program Co-Sponsorships

Self-Report Submission

Students' Association Appropriations Committee (SAAC) Violations

Please refer to the [Student Organization Annual Review](#) website to preview the self-report questions, the rubric, additional helpful tips and resources, and to review the list of upcoming deadlines.

Reservation Requests for Study Breaks are Now Open!

With limited exceptions, student organizations are not permitted to reserve space during times when classes are not in session. One of these exceptions are Study Breaks! Organizations that are categorized as Academic/Professional or Programming (e.g., Class Councils) can request space to host Study Breaks during the time between the last day of classes and the start of finals (also known as reading period). Study Breaks are not eligible to receive any services. Requests for Study Breaks can be submitted through the [Study Breaks CCC Form](#).

Organizations that are not categorized as Academic/Professional or Programming should talk to their advisor before submitting a request & an exception form to host a Study Break.

Advance Reservations

The Practices & Rehearsals advance reservation timeframe has closed. The next template to open will be General Advance Reservation – Member Meetings, GIMs, and an additional 4 hours of practices and rehearsals. As it is with all of our advance reservation requests, all requests will be processed as BEST FIT. This means that your reservation may be adjusted based on other requests to best fit everyone into a time, or room that works for all. When you submit a request, please be sure to include as much information as possible or relevant for your organization.

Reminder that Spring 2026 major events are still being accepted – they are currently first come first serve. As Spring Major events are no longer using the best fit process during this time, please be sure to include any set-up time you may need as part of your request, and respond to any emails you may receive from our reservation team with questions about your event.

Any questions? Visit [the advance reservations website](#) or email [Wilson Commons Student Activities](#).

Reservation Assistants: See you in the Spring

The Reservation Assistants have concluded their walk-in hours for the Fall Semester, and look forward to assisting you again in the Spring! Questions regarding reservations can be directed to [Wilson Commons Student Activities](#) via Email. The spring schedule for Reservation Assistants will be available in the January Insider or posted in the Campus Information Center at the beginning of the Spring Semester.


SAAC/SOFO End of Semester Updates

The Students' Association Appropriation Committee (SAAC) will finish hearing supplemental requests for the semester on Tuesday, December 2nd, and will resume again on Tuesday, January 20th. You may continue to submit Supplemental Funding Request forms over break, and they will be reviewed at the beginning of next semester. The Financial Transaction Request (FTR) form will be open for continued use over the Winter Break to facilitate payments for outstanding transactions that occurred during the Fall semester. However, there may be additional processing time for FTR's submitted over break. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your student accountant.

Information regarding student organization budgeting for next year will be available in January.

Good Luck on Finals from Alumni Relations!

The end of the semester is here, and we know it's crunch time. Take a deep breath, stay focused, and remember to celebrate your hard work along the way! Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed, and your future alumni community is cheering you on.

 Pro tip: Take short breaks, stay hydrated, and don't forget to reward yourself when it's all done—you've earned it!

From all of us in Alumni Relations, good luck, stay strong, and finish the semester strong! 



Undergraduate Commencement Speaker Nominations are Open

Nominate an undergraduate student to be the student commencement speaker! Self-Nominations are permitted. To learn more about speaker criteria, the nomination process, or the application process visit: <https://www.rochester.edu/college/odos/undergraduate-commencement-speaker-nomination.html>. Nominations are due no later than January 7, 2026.

Winter Activity Fair

Join us at the Winter Activities Fair on Friday, January 30th, 2026 from 1-3 p.m., hosted in Zornow Courts located in the Goergen Athletic Center! **To confirm your attendance and to earn points for SOAR, please complete this [form](#) by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, January 28th, 2026.** We ask that you coordinate with your executive board so that only one form is submitted per organization.

Quick Details:

- Set-up begins at 12:15 p.m. Student orgs are welcome to arrive by 12:30 pm.
- Each organization will be provided one half of an 8-foot table, 2 chairs, and a 8.5" x 11" organization name sign.
- Requests for additional table space will not be granted.
- Organizations with printing needs should expect longer processing times at the Campus Information Center. Please plan ahead.
- Registering for the Activities Fair is an evaluated area of the Student Organization Annual Review (SOAR). Don't miss out on easy points by not participating in this amazing event!

SOFO Update: Walmart Credit Card Sign-Out

Due to a change in Walmart's corporate credit card program, the Student Organization Finance Office (SOFO) is no longer able to offer a physical Walmart card for sign-out to student organizations. Alternatively, student organizations can place a curbside pickup order. We are currently exploring other options to the Walmart credit card. If you have questions, please [reach out to your organization's SAAC Accountant](#).

Find Your Mentor

Ready to Level Up Your University Experience? 🍌

The Meliora Collective is your direct connection to successful University of Rochester alumni who are ready to share their expertise, offer career advice, and guide you through your next steps. Check out this [video](#) and [FAQs](#) to learn more about our program and the impact that it has had on alumni and students. Don't navigate your future alone—a powerful mentor is waiting to connect with you.

How to Sign Up:

- **When:** January 25 – February 8
- **Where:** <https://thecollective.rochester.edu/hub/rochester/home-v3>

Take the first step toward building your professional future. Sign up! 🍌

ARC Analysts are Needed

An ARC Analyst plays a key role in fostering the success of student organizations by offering support and guidance on navigating student organization policies. In this role, you'll have the opportunity to update student organization constitutions, engage in the Student Organization Annual Review, and actively provide outreach and advice to enhance student groups. Candidates need to be available to attend biweekly ARC meetings during the Fall semester and weekly ARC meetings on Wednesdays from 8:00-10:00 PM during the Spring semester.

Link to application: <https://cglink.me/2eC/s60644>

Quick Reminders

Activity Registrations with non-URochester guests speakers needed to be submitted **14 days in advance** and GMM with Services should be selected.

We have received several complaints about flyers being taped to walls or left laying out. Please review the [Flyers/Bulletin Boards](#) information for posting guidelines.

Awards, Recognitions, and Highlights

Table Tennis wins 2025 NCTTA Divisional Championship!

The University of Rochester co-ed **Table Tennis** team is officially the kings of Upstate New York this fall! 🌸 🧡 💙 After winning Upstate NY West and then defeating the winner of Upstate NY Central, the Yellowjackets claimed the **NCTTA 2025 Divisional Championship**. This is an exciting milestone that highlights the team's hard work and growth. This achievement also advances URochester toward the Regional and National competitions in 2026!

For more updates, follow them @urtabletennis :)

Kendo earns 2nd Place!

At the 2025 Steve Johnson Memorial Cup hosted by Ohio State University, our instructor, **Sensei Meghan Demirer**, earned **2nd place** in the Women's Division, and three of our members successfully passed their rank promotion exams: **Karin Mitsuta** (3rd Kyu), **Dominic Glaze** (2nd Kyu), and **James Rim** (2nd Kyu).

Meliora Figure Skaters win!

Christina Zhang won the **gold medal** in Pre-Gold Solo Pattern Dance and **Vivianna Wang** won the **pewter medal** in Aspire 3 Women's Free Skate at the Violet Ice Classic Figure Skating Competition on October 26, 2025.

Leadership Appreciation Awards: Nomination Form is Open!

Don't forget to [submit your nominations for the Leadership Appreciation Awards!](#) Leadership Appreciation is a time to honor and recognize student leaders and student organizations that have enriched the University of Rochester's community through their self-development, programs, publications, activities, and community service.

Student leaders have until 11:59 p.m. Monday, December 8th to submit nominations for the Alice DeSimone Award, Ana Hubbard Award, Outstanding New Student Organization Award, Outstanding Business Manager, Outstanding President, and the Student Organization Photo Contest.

Questions should be emailed to Wilson Commons Student Activities at wcsa@rochester.edu.

Mid-Year Leadership Training

Save-the-date for Mid-Year Leadership Training, which will be held on Sunday, January 25th, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. in Feldman Ballroom. This program is open to all student organizations leaders, with a particular focus on students new to their leadership role or for those who missed the Fall Leadership Training. Students who did attend Fall Leadership Training may choose to still attend the educational workshops and Club Speed Dating networking portion.

Details on how to register will be shared with student leaders in a separate email.

2026 Schedule:

1:00 - 1:45 p.m. - Opening Session, Feldman Ballroom

1:55 - 2:55 p.m. - Advisor Session

3:05 - 4:05 p.m. - Educational Workshops

4:15 - 5:00 p.m. - Club Speed Dating

Medallion Program Workshops

Don't fret! Medallion Leadership Workshops will continue virtually over Winter Break. Break is an excellent time to catch up on workshops or reflections that you may be too busy to complete during the academic year.

The Medallion Program provides workshops, interactive activities, and personal reflection to develop leadership capabilities through a flexible three-tiered journey. Register on CCC for access to attend. You do not need to be enrolled in the Medallion Program to attend.

Student organizations can request any workshop for their organization [here](#). There is still time for your organization to co-host a workshop. Simply have 5 members register, and email medallion@rochester.edu which workshop you would like to co-host. Email the [Medallion Program](#) if your organization is interested in co-sponsoring one of these workshops!

Workshop	Date	Time	Domain
Imposter Syndrome: Know It, Name It, Tame It	12/1/25	4 pm	Cognitive Complexity
Level Up Your Sleep	12/1/25	6:30 pm	Knowledge Acquisition
Identifying Your Values	12/23/25	6 pm	Intrapersonal Development
Understanding Leadership	1/6/26	2 pm	Level 1 Opener
The Practices of Leadership	1/13/26	2 pm	Level 2 Opener

This publication is brought to you by Wilson Commons Student Activities: The Student Organization Insider is WCSA's monthly e-newsletter for student organization executive boards and advisors. The Student Organization Insider (SOI) is intended to keep student leaders informed on opportunities and updates from their areas of advisement: Students' Association, Athletics, the Interfaith Chapel, Fraternity and Sorority Affairs, Residential Life, Center for Community Engagement, the Hajim School, and Wilson Commons Student Activities. The SOI will not focus on information available to students through the Weekend Highlights, and it will not be used to advertise student organization events. Instead, this newsletter is a unique and specialized publication with information and opportunities that are relevant to you as student leaders.

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