

News From the World of ICT

Issue 10

December 2011



Welcome to another issue of the ICT newsletter!

News From the World of ICT is our way of sharing with the Maxwell community who we are, and what we do.

From events in the Global Collaboratory, to computing tips and tricks to make your day a little easier, you'll learn something new in every issue!

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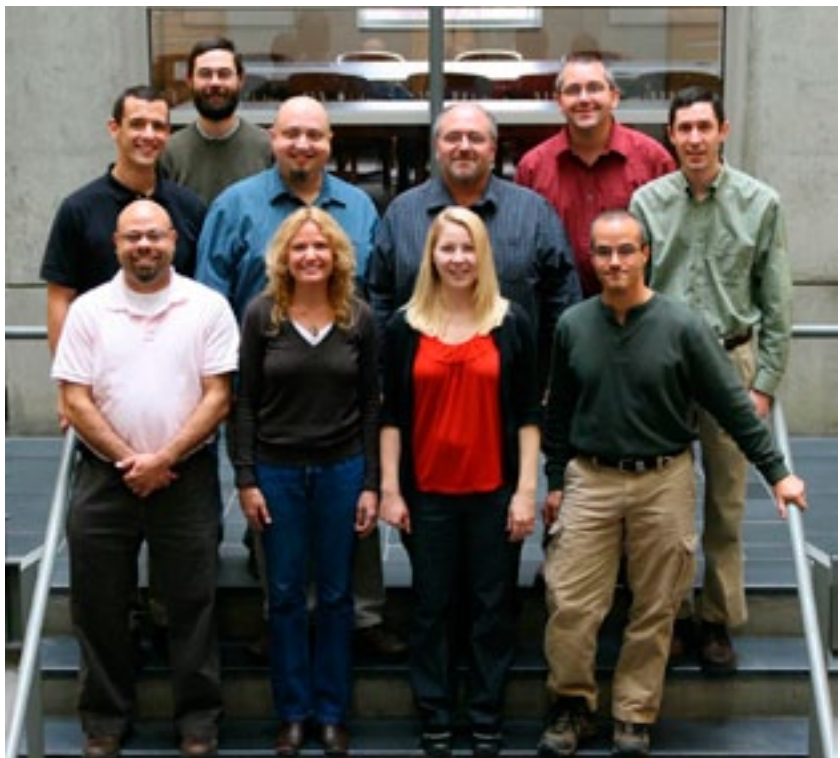
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A Word from the Director...



I mentioned in a previous newsletter that the high performance computing ([HPC](#)) cluster, featuring [Matlab](#), is operational and being used by researchers from Maxwell and other colleges across campus. The Maxwell School has again partnered with the central computing group (ITS) to develop a way to make computing resources available for those who don't quite need the power of the HPC cluster. The new pilot program is called the Academic Virtual Hosting Environment (AVHE). The AVHE program allows a researcher the opportunity to request a powerful [virtual machine](#) to use with their choice of program, such as [R](#) or [Stata](#), to perform statistical research on a more customized or limited basis. When the project is complete, the "virtual computer" can be simply turned off until needed or repurposed for another project. This sustainable and cost effective solution eliminates the need to maintain expensive hardware on a year round basis when only occasional research computing resources are needed. Like the HPC cluster, the AVHE resources are located in the secure [Green Data Center](#), which can be accessed remotely from virtually anywhere. If you are interested in learning more about HPC cluster or the AVHE program, please contact me at: sjziemba@maxwell.syr.edu.

On behalf of myself and the entire ICT staff, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season!



Student Focus

The ICT department is lucky to have very talented students working with us. We would like to introduce you to some of them.



Name: Anthony Mormile

What program are you currently enrolled in? Film

Expected graduation date? 2015

What would you like to do after graduation? After graduation, I would like to work in television and film production.

What do you do for ICT? I am a video production assistant in the Maxwell School.

How do you use technology in your studies? I use technology primarily to make video projects for class. Some of those, and past projects, can be found at either of these links:

<http://www.youtube.com/amormile>

<http://www.vimeo.com/morms>

What new technologies are you interested in? I am really interested in the current changes taking place in camera technology – solid state recording replacing recording to DV tape, the overrated hype for the [RED cameras](#), the viability of [DSLR cameras](#) for filmmaking purposes, etc.



Name: Jeremy Toussaint

What program are you currently enrolled in? [L. C. Smith College of Engineering](#) (Computer Engineering Major/Engineering Management minor)

Expected graduation date? December 2011

What would you like to do after graduation? I am currently pursuing admission towards graduate school

for a master's of science in engineering management from Syracuse University.

What do you do for ICT? Working for ICT, I help out around the department answering calls and leading people in the right direction for assistance. I also make sure things around my area are tidy when I arrive for my shifts, and manage the ICT public printers. Once in a while I am given other projects such as setting up mobile teaching carts, putting together computer components, or updating simple databases.

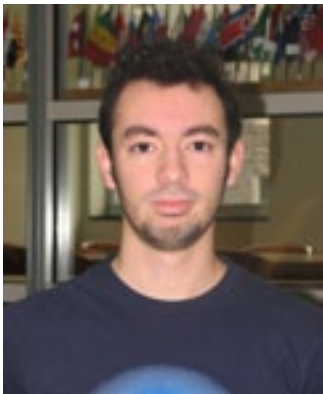
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Student Focus, cont.

Jeremy Toussaint - continued from page 3.

How do you use technology in your studies? Being a computer engineer, technology makes up most of my studies. Most of my classes have consisted of programing and implementing new processes in computers. My engineering management minor is something I am pursuing so that I may manage and implement new advances and innovations in technology in the future.

What new technologies are you interested in? I am deeply interested in all technology, but the advances in the video game industry really interests me. Also, being a professional DJ, I follow up on the advances that are being created to make DJing more portable. I did a whole party with my iPhone once due to these advances.



Name: Jesse Ovalles

What program are you currently enrolled in? Computer Art (Transmedia, [School of Visual and Performing Arts](#)).

Expected graduation date? Fall 2012

What would you like to do after graduation? After graduation, I would love to work on projects involving 3D animation and visual effects.

What do you do for ICT? I am an Interactive Media Lab Consultant. This entails assisting the Maxwell community with tasks such as printing, scanning, photo editing, video editing, and basic web design.

How do you use technology in your studies? Ever since I was in high school I was always involved in using Adobe programs such as Photoshop, Flash, After Effects, and Premiere Pro. To this day, I am still using these tools in order to do photo editing, special effects, video editing, and coding. More recently, I have become familiar with programs such as [Autodesk Maya](#), [Renderman](#), and [Nuke](#) in my pursuit of my degree in Computer Art and 3D Animation.

What new technologies are you interested in? I am interested in new technologies involving video post-production and visual effects. I also follow the video gaming industry very closely, and hope to one day be involved in it. Seeing visual effects getting more and more realistic as time goes on is what catches my curiosity the most.

Emerging Technology

This page will introduce you to emerging technology we've found interesting. For more information regarding technology presented, please click a link provided.



3D TV

Most TV manufacturers now offer 3D TV. 3D TV is a generic term for a display technology that lets home viewers experience TV programs, movies, games, and other video content in a [stereoscopic](#) effect. It adds the illusion of a third dimension (depth) to current TV and HDTV display technology, which is typically limited to only height and width ("2D").

A 3D TV works much like 3D at the theater. A screen showing 3D content displays two separate images of the same scene simultaneously - one intended for the viewer's right eye and one for the left eye. The two full-sized images occupy the entire screen and appear intermixed with one another. Objects in one image are often repeated or skewed slightly to the left (or right) of corresponding objects in the other when viewed without the aid of special 3D glasses. When viewers wear the glasses, they perceive these two images as a single 3D image, a process known as "fusing". The system relies on a phenomenon of visual perception called "[stereopsis](#)". The eyes of an adult human lie about 2.5 inches apart, which lets each eye see objects from slightly different angles. The two images on a 3D TV screen present objects from two slightly different angles as well, and when those images combine in the viewer's mind with the aid of the glasses, the illusion of depth is created.

Many 3D TVs, such as Sony and Samsung, use active [liquid crystal shutter glasses](#), which work by very quickly blocking each eye in sequence (typically 120 times per second) to separate the different right and left images required

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Emerging Technology, cont.

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for 3D. The glasses, in addition to the liquid-crystal lenses, contain electronics and batteries (good for 80 or more hours and often rechargeable) that sync to the TV via an infrared or (in many 2011 models) RF signal. Active 3D glasses are costly, ranging between \$60-\$150 per pair when sold separately.



In 2011 Vizio, LG and Toshiba introduced 3D TVs that use [passive polarized 3D glasses](#), which are much less expensive. They are actually compatible with the passive 3D used in theaters, and will work with [RealD](#)'s circular polarized glasses (for example), which are available for as little as \$5 each online. The 2011 models use a technology called [Film Pattern Retarder](#), developed by LG, where a polarizing film coating the TV screen allows each eye to view every other line.



Most cable and satellite companies, such as Time Warner and DirecTV, broadcast a few 3D channels. For example, DirecTV offers ESPN in 3D; as well as [n3D](#) and [3net](#), which offer a variety of 3D content such as Tennis, Extreme Sports and wildlife programming. Aside from sports, no mainstream TV programming is produced in 3D, and no major networks aside from Discovery and ESPN have announced 3D channels. Many TV manufacturers, such as LG, offer built-in 2D to 3D conversion which works fairly well, but does not have the quality of a true 3D broadcast.

While 3D TV is spectacular to watch, it's not without issues. Not all people can see in 3D. Between 5 percent and 10 percent of Americans suffer from [stereoblindness](#), according to the [College of Optometrists in Vision Development](#). They often have good depth perception--which relies on more than just stereopsis--but cannot perceive the depth dimension of 3D video presentations. Some stereo-blind viewers can watch 3D material with no problem as long as they wear glasses; it simply appears as 2D to them. Others may experience headaches or eye fatigue if watched for a long period of time.

3D TV is fun to watch, but time will tell if 3D technology will grow to become the standard. More information on 3D TV can be found here:

<http://www.3dtvguide.org/>

The Global Collaboratory

Our mobile web conference cart (Skype cart) has become even more popular this semester. If you don't already know, this cart has a large monitor, computer, webcam, and conference microphone. It allows groups to use [Skype](#) in any room in the Maxwell/Eggers complex.

The two most common reasons to reserve the Skype cart have been:

- To bring a guest speaker into a classroom
- To have a faculty member join in during a dissertation defense

This semester we consolidated the separate Polycom video conference cart into the Skype cart. The only visible change is a new camera unit on the top shelf below the monitor. Putting all mobile conferencing technology together eases planning and operational support.

Skype is also now fully integrated into the Global Collaboratory. A technical hurdle had prevented Skype from recognizing the video output from the production switcher. With that resolved, and some further planning, we can now use and record a Skype conference in that feature classroom. This is, of course, in addition to traditional video conference standards via the [Polycom](#) & [Tandberg](#) systems.



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The Global Collaboratory

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We are in the final few steps of the behind-the-scenes renovation of the Global Collaboratory. This project has not interfered with use of the classroom, but is nearly a complete update of the facility production equipment. We'll share photos of the completed work in the next newsletter.

Event Notes

- The Campbell Conversations continues its weekly run on WRVO radio. We record the program and ship the files to the station. Listen to the many interviews at <http://www.wrvo.fm/programs/campbell-conversations-wrvo-1-npr-news>
- We've recorded many employer information sessions hosted by [Career Services](#). Interested students can review those discussions at <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/career.aspx?id=77309414145>
- [The Horizon Award was presented to Joe Strasser](#) in a ceremony in the Strasser Commons. ICT provided audio PA and coordinated with a crew filming a documentary to air on PBS. Learn more about the film at <http://twowhodared.com/>
- The Public Organization & Management joint class sessions are noted by students as a useful and favorite class. ICT records each class to make DVDs that are available from the professor for students who miss important sessions.



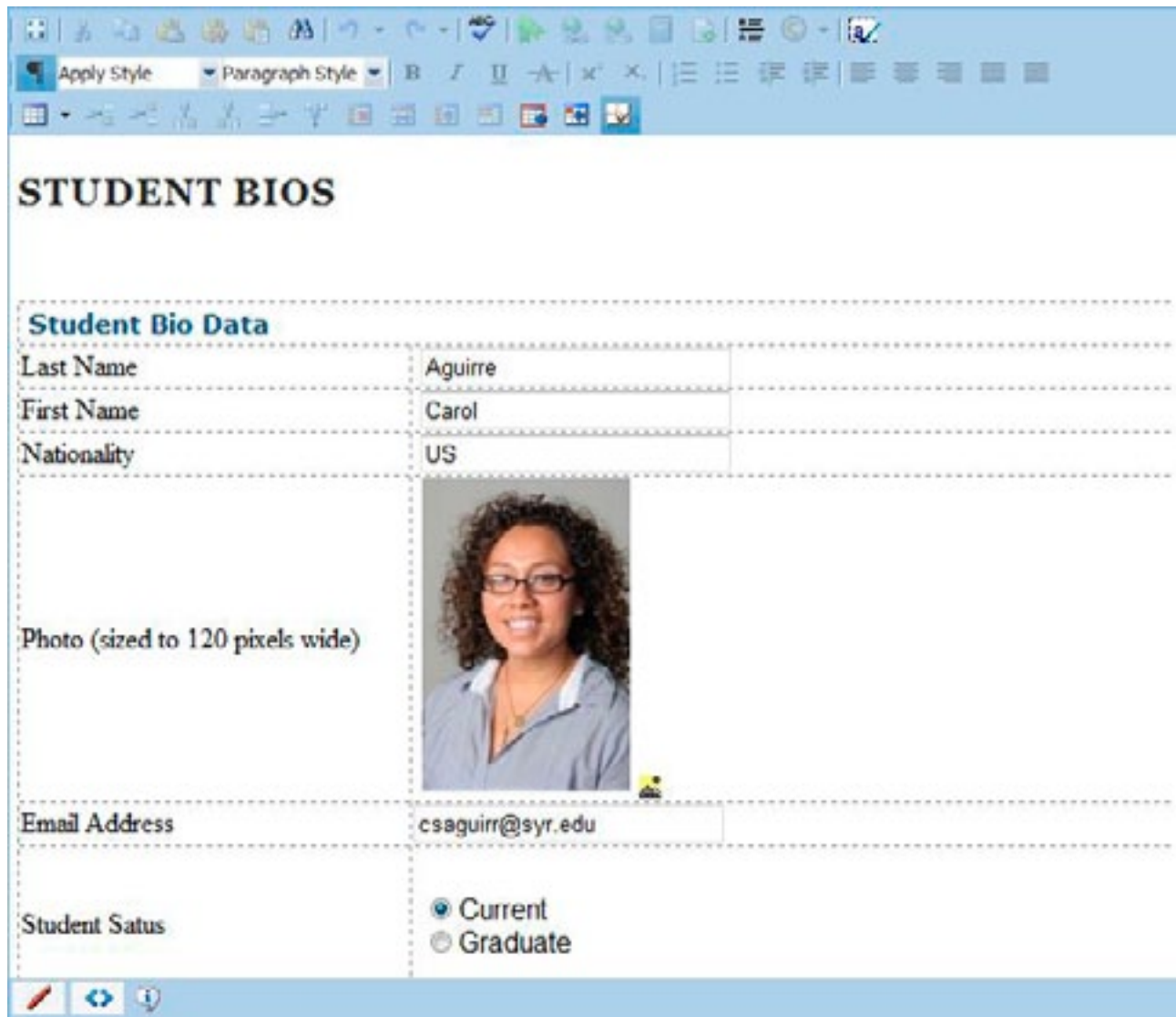
Ektron Update

Ektron Smart Forms


Formatting pages the easy way!

We've all been there: You're frustrated, and getting even angrier, as you try to get some type of formatting "just right" in a document you're working on. This is particularly true when the document is a web page and you're dealing with the limitations of web browsers and HTML code.

Fortunately, in Ektron we have the ability to create an alternate way of creating and publishing your pages that takes the page formatting out of the editing process, and turns it into a "fill-in-the-blank" exercise of entering data into a form.



The screenshot displays the Ektron Smart Forms editor interface. At the top is a toolbar with various icons for editing and formatting. Below the toolbar, the title "STUDENT BIOS" is prominently displayed. The main area contains a form titled "Student Bio Data" with several input fields and a photo placeholder. The form is structured as follows:

Student Bio Data	
Last Name	Aguirre
First Name	Carol
Nationality	US
Photo (sized to 120 pixels wide)	
Email Address	csaguirr@syr.edu
Student Status	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Current <input type="radio"/> Graduate

At the bottom of the form, there are three small icons: a red pencil, a blue double-headed arrow, and a speech bubble.

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Ektron Update, cont.

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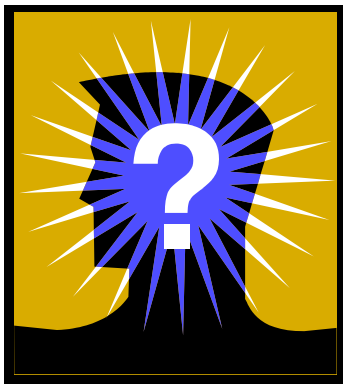
This form, in Ektron-speak, is called a “Smart Form” and is most often used on the Maxwell site for various people listings. Maxwell leveraged Smart Forms when we launched our Ektron-powered site to consolidate the central faculty pages and help bring consistency in their formatting. More recently, [PAIA](#) and [Executive Education](#) have added Smart Form pages listing current students and alumni:

- [PAIA Student Listings](#)
- [Executive Education EMPA Alumni](#)

In these examples, each department worked with ICT to determine what information needed to be collected and how it should be displayed. We then programmed this styling into the Smart Form. After the data is entered, all that needs to be done is to publish the page - all of the elements show up where they are supposed to!

So why isn't everything in the Maxwell web site done with a Smart Form? Simple - most people desire the flexibility and layout control offered by normal “HTML Content” in Ektron over the structured presentation of a Smart Form. But when you see consistency as being more important than flexibility, choosing a Smart Form is a wise decision.

Did you know?



Do you find yourself squinting at a web page trying to read text that's just too small?

Try this...while viewing the web page, hit the keyboard shortcut **Ctrl +** (plus symbol) to zoom into a page. Hitting this more than once continues to zoom in more.

When you're done reading the text, hit **Ctrl -** (minus symbol) to zoom back out again.

If you are using Microsoft Internet Explorer, you will see your current zoom level down in the bottom-right corner of the browser.

Tips and Tricks



Create an Outlook Message Template

Think of a template as the “shell” of a message. You can save a message as a template, and then use a fresh copy of it each time you want to send the same content to someone.

The template can contain all of the “standard” text that will be included each time you send the message (although, you can certainly edit that content on a per message basis); and you can include recipients in the “To”, “Cc” and “Bcc” fields if you know the same group of people will receive the message each time (or leave those fields blank and insert names each time you use the template). ICT Training uses a template every time they send out new training notifications. The message is almost complete - all we do is fill in the name of the training, date and times. Templates can be really great time savers.

Create and save your template:

1. Create a new email message.
2. Add content to the new message.

Your message can include text, graphics, signatures, formatting, etc. - include anything that you do not want to manually insert each time you type out the message.

If the message will go to the same group of people each time it is sent, include those recipients in the “To”, “Cc” and “Bcc” fields.

3. Click the **File** tab on the message Ribbon / choose **Save As**.
4. Change the “**Save as type**” field to “**Outlook Template**”

Changing the “Save as type” field to Outlook Template will automatically change the location to your Templates folder. Do not change this location.

5. Give the message a name, and click **Save**.

This will bring you back to the message you were working on.

6. Close the Outlook message without saving changes.

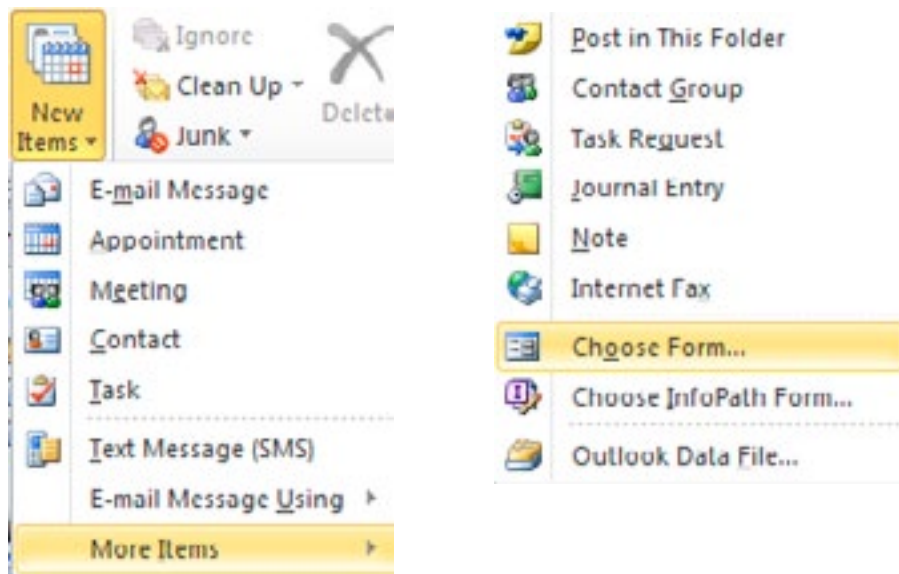
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Tips and Tricks

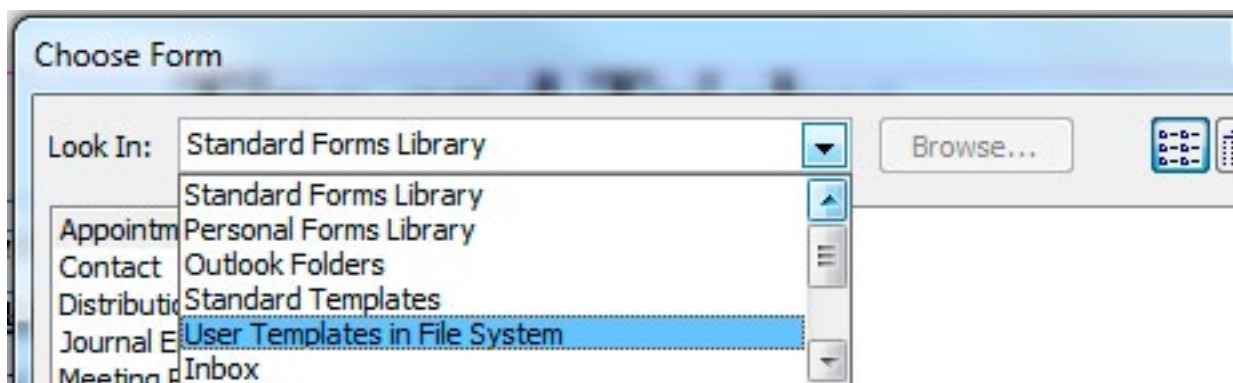
Create an Outlook Message Template - continued from page 11.

To use your message template:

1. Display your Inbox, and click the **Home** tab on the Ribbon / in the **New** group, click the **down arrow** next to “**New Items**” / choose “**More Items**” / click “**Choose Form...**”



2. From the “**Look In:**” drop down at the top of the **Choose Form** dialog box, select “**User Templates in File System**”.



You will see any templates you have created in this folder.

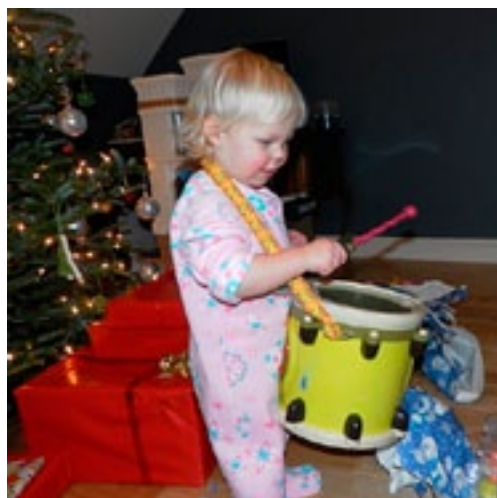
3. Double click the template you want to use - this will open a copy of the template and you will be returned to Outlook.
4. Fill in any additional information and send your message.

Fun Stuff

The ICT Staff share their favorite holiday memories



Holly: Like any good American child growing up, Christmas was my favorite holiday. Sure, I've got lots of great childhood memories surrounding Christmas, but with Delilah being old enough to "get it" (as much as any 1 ½ year old does!), last Christmas was, by far, my favorite. I've learned that present opening is not a learned behavior, but one they come already knowing how to do! I think watching her open her presents was as much fun for me as it was for her!



Mike C.: Growing up my favorite holiday was, and still is, Christmas. It's hard to pick a favorite memory because they all have been good ones thanks to my parents going above and beyond to make sure I had great Christmas memories. I would get so excited the night before I'd literally make myself sick. Then, walking downstairs to see a bunch of nicely wrapped presents under the tree the next morning, that's something I will always remember. One distinct memory I have is when I was little, I wanted a giant Star Wars toy called the [AT-AT walker](#). I was consumed by thoughts of owning this toy. I vividly remember praying to Santa that he bring me just that one thing before I went to bed on Christmas Eve. The next morning I walked downstairs and there it was, all put together under the tree, it was surreal. My daughter, Lilly, has made Christmas memorable again for me. Seeing her excitement and happiness, and watching her take part in traditions that I did when I was kid, that's what is really making Christmas special again for me. Now it's my turn to make hers as memorable as mine were.

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Matt: Sticky Buns!!!

They were the best and the worst part of Christmas morning! My mom would make fresh sticky buns every Christmas and they were sweet, gooey and wonderful. BUT no presents could be opened until AFTER my father picked up my grandmother and we all finished up that breakfast together. (I truly loved grandma, but she was the slowest eater ever...)



Brian: My favorite holiday memory was watching our family dog go nuts playing with the left over wrapping paper before my mother could get to it. My sister, cousins, and I also enjoy playing board games and I have many fond memories of them starting out normal but ending in hysterics as we make up rules along the way!



David: My favorite holiday memory is of certain members of my family (mostly myself and my brother) trying to make receiving the gifts that we gave as difficult as possible. Whether it was scavenger hunts that led outside into the cold and snow to retrieve presents, or whether it was wrapping presents with copious amounts of duct tape, we never made Christmas morning easy for each other.



Tammy: Most of my favorite holiday memories revolve around Christmas Eve, or “[Wigilia](#)”, as we call it. It is my favorite day and night of the year. When I was a child, we spent Wigilia at my grandparents house with my aunts, uncles and cousins. Now, we celebrate at my parents house. In the morning, my husband and I head over to my parent’s house to help stuff pierogi for our delicious Polish dinner. My mother follows the tradition of spreading a thin layer of hay on the table, and always sets a plate for “The Stranger”. In the evening, we gather with more family (and all of our extended family) - we start the night with a toast and exchange good wishes with [Oplatek](#) before diving into the homemade goodness that is Wigilia. It is a tradition I cherish.



Mike F.: My favorite holiday memory revolves around me sleeping in nearly every year on Christmas. I think this was mainly due to two factors: my mom never waking me up, and me already knowing what presents I was going to receive. I would carefully un-tape the wrapping paper, sneak a peek and then re-tape it. Eventually, my mom caught on and started to double wrap and double box stuff. I was an impatient child, and according to my wife, I still am.

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Eddie: My fondest holiday memory involves me staying home, having all kinds of fun, while my family flew over to Paris for Christmas. While they may have been sad for me for missing out, I was playing with my two new found friends, Harry and Marv. I even meet an old geezer, who was dressed up in a Santa suit, who turned out to be pretty cool.

But to tell you the truth, Harry and Marv may have not been my bestest of friends. Did you know they tried to rob my house – I mean who does that just before Christmas? Anyways, I had the best time setting up booby traps and the likes for them. It was pretty funny to see them fail epicly.

When all was said and done, those two buffoons ended up wearing sparkling bracelets and my family returned for me – indeed a memory to cherish for all!



Tom: Christmas certainly brings up many memories from being a kid. With all that time off from school, my brother and I would spend the week sledding down the deck stairs, digging tunnels and forts in the driveway snow banks, and, of course, playing with the various presents.

But holidays with family can be even better as an adult. For a while my whole family took trips to Disney World to celebrate New Year's. One of those trips was a complete rain-out but we wouldn't leave EPCOT before the fireworks. We convinced one of the cast members in Canada to open her beer stand just for us so we could enjoy some Labatt Blue and hide under the umbrella. Another year, Amy and I brought festive hats and accessories for the family. Many countries had elaborate DJ parties set up that night. We all danced like fools in China, under a truss system filled with special lights and fire effects. It's not often I go clubbing with my parents, but they had fun!



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Stan: My favorite holiday memory is the first time my kids visited Santa. Our children came into our lives at very different ages (Emily 12 months; Stanley 6 years), yet, for each, the first interaction with Santa was both an exciting and harrowing experience. Since Emily came in February, and Stanley five years later in May, Jean and I had plenty of time to prepare them for both the spiritual and secular wonders of Christmas. My wife and I shared family photos from Christmas' past, read Christmas books and watched Christmas videos which they each thoroughly enjoyed.

In spite of our efforts, Emily would have no part of it! As a matter of fact, we would have to wait 3 years before she garnered the courage to sit on Santa's lap. Stanley's enthusiasm also waned as the long line inched closer to Santa's throne. Stanley even had the added benefit of seeing Emily enjoy the holiday season in photos and video, but he was too nervous to approach such an imposing character. However, watching the other children started to give him some encouragement. Finally, he looked at his sister and gestured her to join him in this new adventure, and she agreed. He loved it! That was last year. This year, both Stanley and Emily are looking forward to making sure that Santa is properly briefed and that their Christmas lists are carried out to the letter!



Additional Information



► **Reserving the GC**

- Events hosted by groups with a Maxwell School affiliation may request use of the room up to 12 months ahead; others may make requests 2 months ahead. Room availability may be checked by calling 315-443-9003, or by emailing gc@maxwell.syr.edu – an online request form must be submitted before confirmation is made. The reservation process will involve a discussion of technology and staffing needs during the event.

► **Interactive Media Lab (IML) - Access**

- *Student access:*
See Holly Johnson in 034E for form. Please bring your SUID!
- *Faculty & Staff access:*
IML access for faculty and staff should be requested by the individuals' department. Please have your department send an email to Holly Johnson at: hjohns02@maxwell.syr.edu.
No form is necessary!

► **IML Coverage for this semester**

- For coverage, please contact:
webmaster@maxwell.syr.edu
- The IML is closed during ICT training sessions. Please check the [ICT Training site](#) for details on upcoming training sessions.

Help Info



Service

service@maxwell.syr.edu

(315) 443-3847

Global Collaboratory

gc@maxwell.syr.edu

(315) 443-4742

Web

webmaster@maxwell.syr.edu

Training

icctraining@maxwell.syr.edu

ICT Web site

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/ict.aspx>

ICT Training site

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/icctraining/>

ICT Training Sessions:

http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/ict_pages.aspx?id=6442451614

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/news.aspx?id=6442451675>

ICT Newsletter

<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/ictnewsletters/>

ictnews@maxwell.syr.edu

Help Desk Hours

(Room 034A)

Mon-Fri. 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm