

News from the World of ICT

Issue #28

December 2017



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

Syracuse University

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Information and Computing Technology

A Word from the Director...

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ICT is proud of its commitment to faculty and student research at the Maxwell School. Over the last several years, we have met with Maxwell faculty and students to determine their needs and learn how we can make their research computing experience more productive. This resulted in offering new virtual hardware resources and providing more powerful software, both optimized for research in the social sciences. We are in the process of updating our research web pages to make it even easier to contact us to see how we can help with a research project or collaborative coursework. For more information, please visit our [Maxwell Research Computing page](#).

This fall, the Maxwell School partnered with the College of Arts and Science to offer Microsoft Excel Certification for Maxwell and A&S students. This free service features lessons and practice tests through Lynda.com and GMetrix.com. The exam center, managed by ICT, is conveniently located in Eggers Hall. For more information, please visit our [Excel Training and Certification Program page](#).

The Maxwell School has made some improvements and changes to assist with student study and collaboration. The Undergrad Study Room, located in Eggers 034, now has three public computers in addition to the public printer, information display and mobile device charging station. The Egger's café, now open 24 hours for study, features a public printer, two mobile charging stations and an information display.



The campus accessibility group continues to finalize a set of accessibility guidelines that will provide information to faculty and staff on how and when to obtain resources, such as sign language interpreters and captioning equipment, for events and classes. ICT, in conjunction with the campus initiative [Accessible Syracuse](#) also provides a course for the Maxwell community that instructs users how to make web pages and office documents accessible. If you are interested in attending or learning more about the training, please email training@maxwell.syr.edu.

Faculty Focus

Scott Landes
Assistant Professor
Sociology and Aging Studies Institute
[Sociology faculty webpage](#)
[Aging Studies Institute faculty webpage](#)



- 1. How long have you been at the Maxwell School?**
3 months.
- 2. Describe how you use technology in your research and/or teaching.**
I am a quantitative researcher and utilize [STATA](#), [SAS](#), and [SPSS](#) in my research; and use SPSS for teaching an *introduction to research* course for undergraduate sociology students. I also utilize PowerPoint for teaching topical classes.

My research focuses on social determinants of morbidity and mortality for those with [cognitive](#) disabilities or limitations, as well as for veterans. I typically use larger, nationally representative samples with complex sample design and multiple imputations. Thus, analysis of my data requires more intense computing power. At my prior institution, we only had access to SPSS and were limited to conducting analysis on our desktop drives. Analysis of my data would often lock down my desktop computer for days at a time. With the resources available through Maxwell, and with the help of Stan and his team, I feel I have entered into data nirvana as they have worked to ensure I have ample computing power to complete analysis.
- 3. What new technologies are you interested in using either in your teaching or for your personal use?**
I have a current project on underlying causes of death for adults with intellectual disability that would benefit from analysis with [ArcGIS](#). I am looking forward to learning to use this software.

Many thanks to Professor Landes for participating in our newsletter!



Ektron Update

Maxwell's Web Presence: What's Next?



Matt Coulter

In ICT'S last newsletter, the [Ektron Update article](#) looked back and highlighted the different generations of web sites Maxwell has published during the past 23 years. In this article, we will look forward and begin to ask the question: **What's next?**

While it's easy to allow ourselves to jump ahead and have visions of a shiny new web site, in reality, there is quite a bit of work necessary to get us there!

Here, we will begin by asking a few questions that are foundational to transitioning to a new web site. To narrow down this discussion even more, these questions are all related to the most important part of any web site – the actual CONTENT in your pages!

Let's begin by asking a couple questions about your site's content:

- **Is it accurate?**
- **Is it relevant?**

On the surface, these questions should be easy to answer, right? Well yes, and no. You may quickly find out that while each of us are familiar with certain corners of our respective web pages, when you begin to inventory your site as a whole, there are likely MANY pages that have not actually been given a critical review in quite some time.

The first, and most obvious, step in beginning this content review is by methodically following the links in your site's horizontal vertical menus and reading (paragraph by paragraph – no skimming allowed!) the information on each page. If there is any question about the accuracy or relevancy of information you find, that page should be noted and sent to its respective owner or subject-matter expert for review.

Easy enough, right? But then, there's Google.

Google not only returns search results on pages we want to be found, but there is always the potential for Google to list in its search results other pages that we've long forgotten about. It's this good housekeeping and removal of pages with old and/or outdated information that is frequently kicked down the road or just plain forgotten about. But don't worry, we can help with this. 😊

Ektron's "Site Update Activity Report" can be run on any WorkArea folder and delivers a full list of page names with the following information for that folder and all of its subfolders:

- Page name
- How many times it has been updated
- When it was last updated
- Who has edited the page

This data can be emailed to specific people and/or exported to an Excel spreadsheet.

In addition to this folder-by-folder content inventory, ICT can also send you a separate bad link report (404 errors) from sections of the Maxwell school site.

While it's tempting to go on to discuss other more detailed facets of this task, starting a web site inventory project can be daunting. As such, let's take it step-by-step! Getting to know (and hopefully improve) your current site is a crucial first step for all of us as we prepare to build the web site that will support the Maxwell School's future needs!

<u>news</u>		
Total Updates	# Pages Updated	Total Pages
1728	29	29

<u>news\articles</u>		
Total Updates	# Pages Updated	Total Pages
566	78	78

<u>news\current</u>		
Total Updates	# Pages Updated	Total Pages
690	97	110

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.



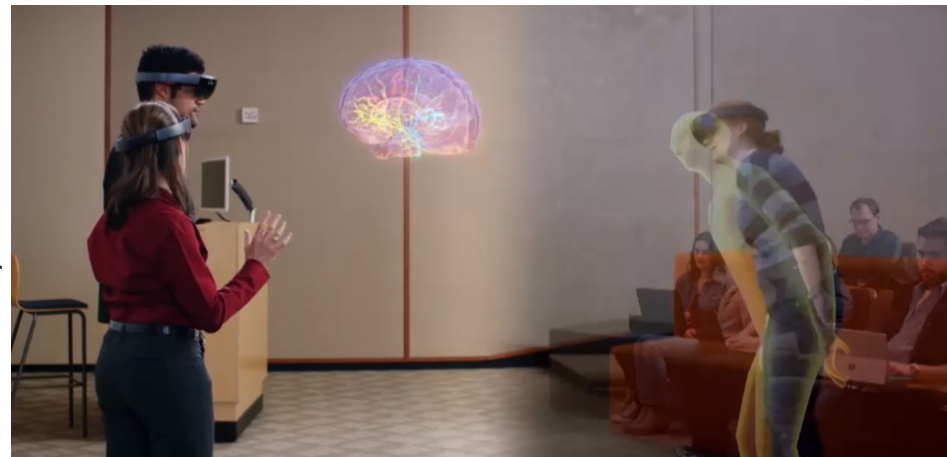
Microsoft HoloLens

Over the last 20 years or so, there have been many unsuccessful attempts at making [Virtual Reality technology](#) useable. In the early days of VR technology, users were limited by bulky equipment, poor resolution video, and a lack of software that worked with it - making it impractical for regular use.

With recent improvements in [miniaturization technology](#), we have seen VR making a comeback with inexpensive headsets that can use smart phones to create a virtual experience. There have also been standalone VR units, like the [Oculus Rift](#), that have been used in video games, particularly first-person shooter style games. While these new applications of VR are fun to play with in video games

and virtual tours, it still hasn't made much of an impact for practical everyday use.

In 2013, Google introduced a prototype of their [Google Glass](#) product and brought the term [Augmented Reality](#) to the public. Google glass is a wearable display that resembles a pair of glasses. The technology would give its users a heads up display containing information from apps created to work with it, such as Google Maps, facial recognition apps, and real-time translation. While it was popular technology when it was released, poor battery life and the high cost of the units caused Google to stop selling the device in 2015 and rethink its design and to whom they would market it.

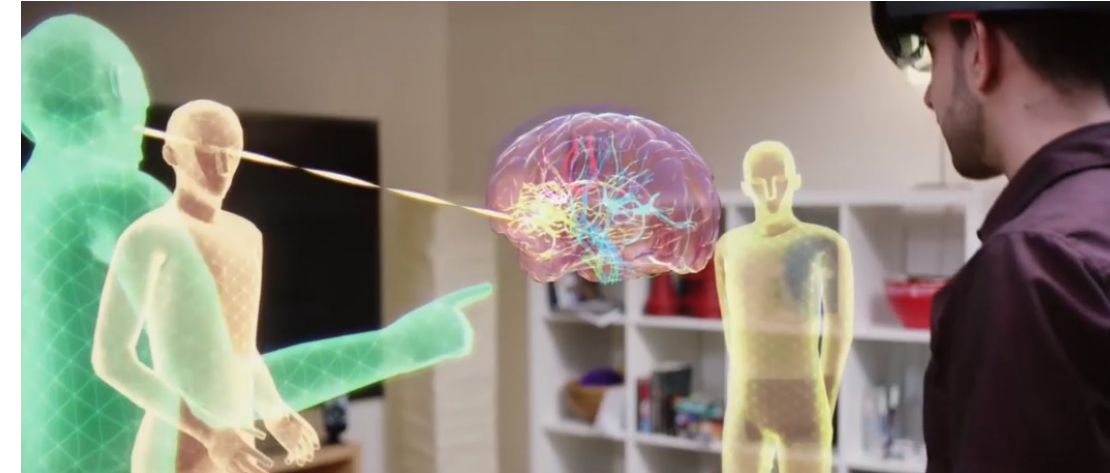


Glass was recently re-released as an enterprise only device intended for business use.

Last year, Microsoft announced their new product, then called Microsoft Goggles. They have since rebranded it as [Microsoft HoloLens](#). The HoloLens combines the technology of virtual reality and augmented reality to create what they call "mixed reality". The HoloLens has a VR headset with a camera mounted to the front to give you an augmented view of your surroundings with a "holographic" overlay. The combination of the two technologies

opens the door for many practical uses in product and graphic design, communication, and interactive learning.

Microsoft has developed a suite of tools called the [HoloStudio](#) that allows the user to create things in an augmented reality environment that can then be printed on a 3D printer. They have also created an app for it called [ActionGram](#) which allows you to create and share your own holograms.



Microsoft has been the primary developer for HoloLens apps, but other developers have begun to create apps to use with it or have ported existing apps, such as Skype, over to it.

[Case Western Reserve University has used the HoloLens](#) to create an interactive human anatomy class that allows students to see 3D holographic representations of the various systems in the human body.

While the HoloLens has a lot of potential for practical use, especially in the realm of 3D design, it is still in its infancy and is currently marketed to design professionals and developers. It also carries a hefty price tag of \$5,000 for the commercial suite and \$3,000 for the development edition. Once the technology becomes better developed and gains in popularity, I would expect to see the price drop in the future with it, eventually, being marketed to consumers for use in things such as video games, navigation, or education.

Links:

- [The new Google Glass is on sale today \(but don't get it\)](#)
- [Microsoft HoloLens](#)
- [CWRU takes the stage at Microsoft's Build conference to show how HoloLens can transform learning](#)
- [HoloStudio](#)
- [Actiongram](#)
- [VIDEO - Microsoft HoloLens: Mixed Reality Blends Holograms with the Real World](#)
- [VIDEO - Mixed Reality Capture Studios from Microsoft](#)
- [VIDEO - Microsoft HoloLens: Actiongram](#)

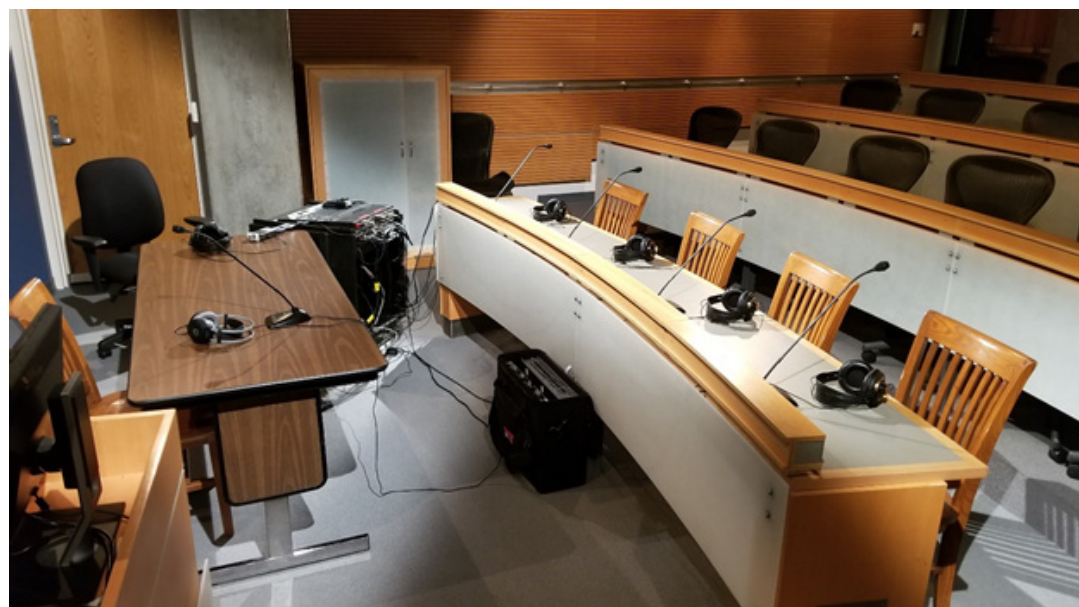


Brian von Knoblauch

The Global Collaboratory

This Fall, we again supported fairly prominent events. The [Campbell Conversations](#) (on WRVO radio, hosted by [Grant Reeher](#)) featured the first media debate in the Syracuse mayoral campaign. As four guests were too many for our versatile recording studio, the Global Collaboratory was used as a temporary radio studio.

[The candidates for Syracuse mayor hold their first debate](#)

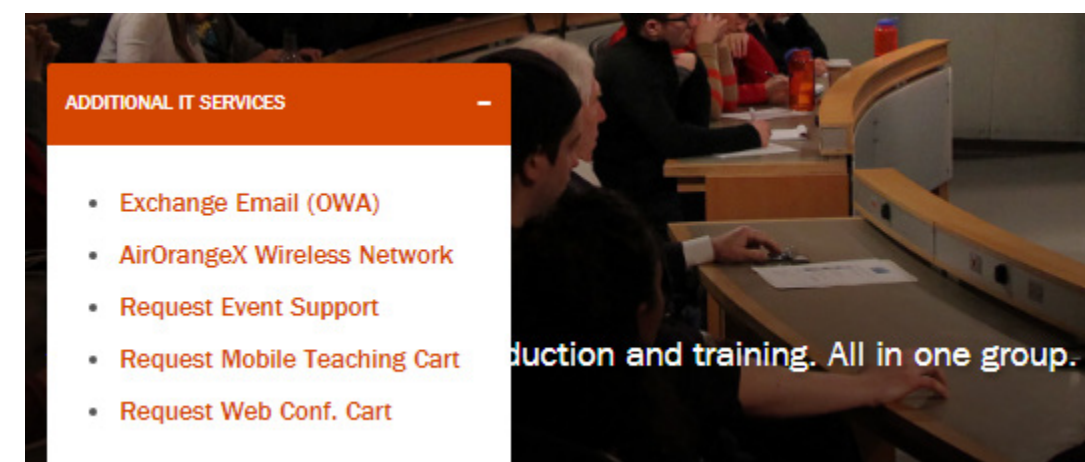


[Alvaro Salas, a Ph.D candidate](#), used our studio to record his presentation for a special meeting at Cornell. The video featured his narration with a deck of PowerPoint slides. The result was a great product to share with the meeting attendees when he was otherwise unavailable.



We can't possibly end this semester without acknowledging one of the busiest weeks we've had: the first week of October. In those few days, we live video streamed the full [Tanner Day](#) in Goldstein Auditorium, the [Herbert Lourie Memorial Lecture](#), and a [State of Democracy](#) lecture. We also supported a dozen other events including an interview with [David Greene](#) from NPR's [Morning Edition](#) and [Up First](#). Many of the ICT staff are involved in event support, especially on weeks such as that one, both in the event room as well as behind the scenes.

Finally, a reminder that our support schedule during the spring semester can fill up very quickly. March and April is a constant blur of activity in our school. So please be sure to get your event dates/times/rooms nailed down as early as possible and submit your support request via the [Request Event Support form](#) as found on the [ICT Home page](#) in the orange *Additional IT Services* menu.



Tom Fazio

Tips and Tricks

Customize Outlook's Navigation Pane

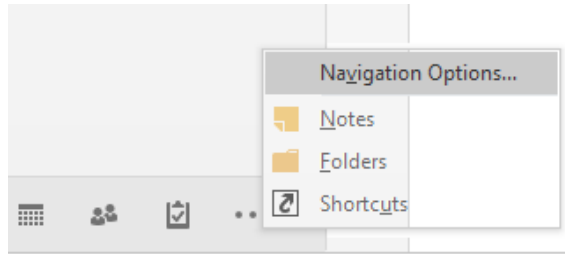


Tammy Hnat

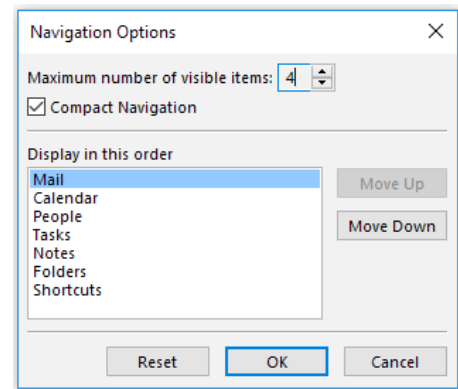
All Microsoft applications start you off with a default look. Many of the features of the default look can be changed, including the navigation pane in Outlook.

The image on the right shows the default display of the navigation pane when you are viewing the Mail folder. You can change the navigation buttons at the bottom of the pane from the default icons to text.

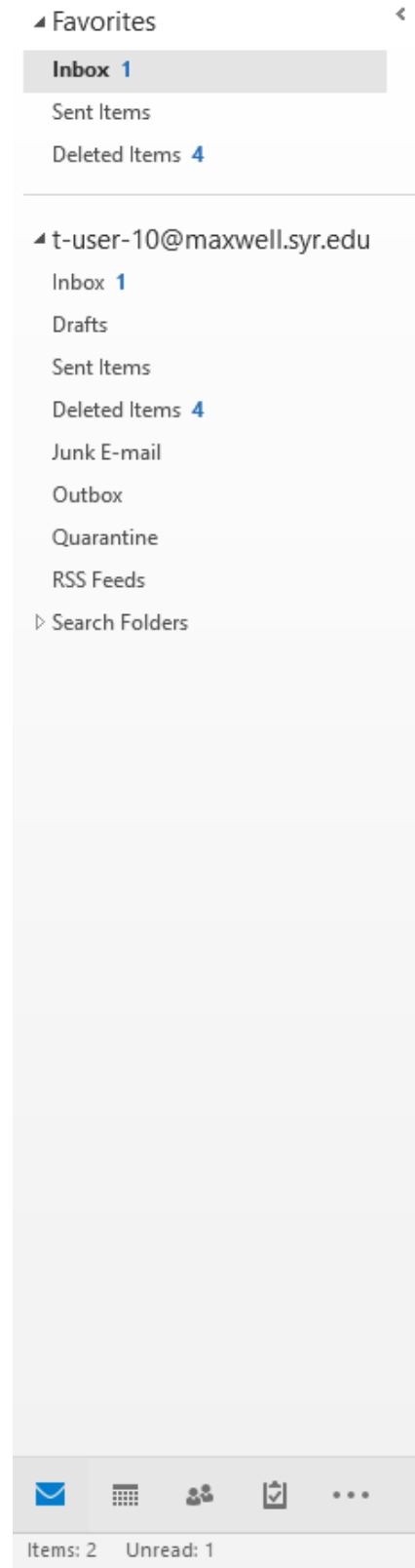
1. Right-click the three dots at the end of the icon list and choose *Navigation Options...*



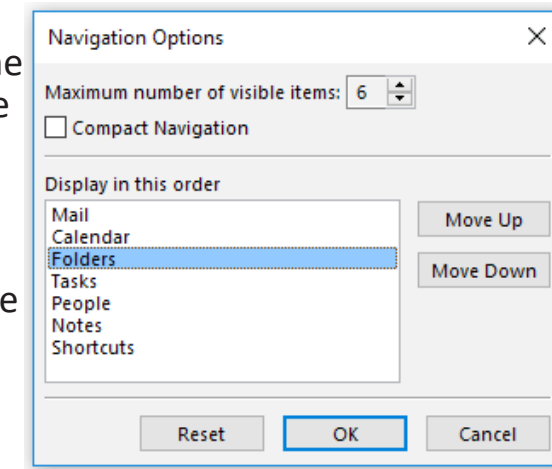
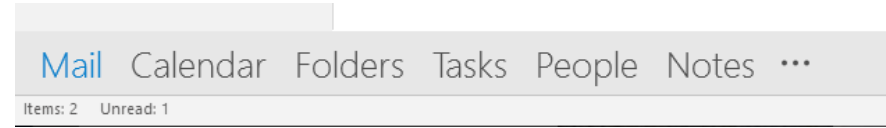
2. The default option includes four visible items set to *Compact Navigation* mode and the arrangement of the buttons is also set. (*Compact Navigation* is what controls the display of the navigation buttons - icons vs. text.)



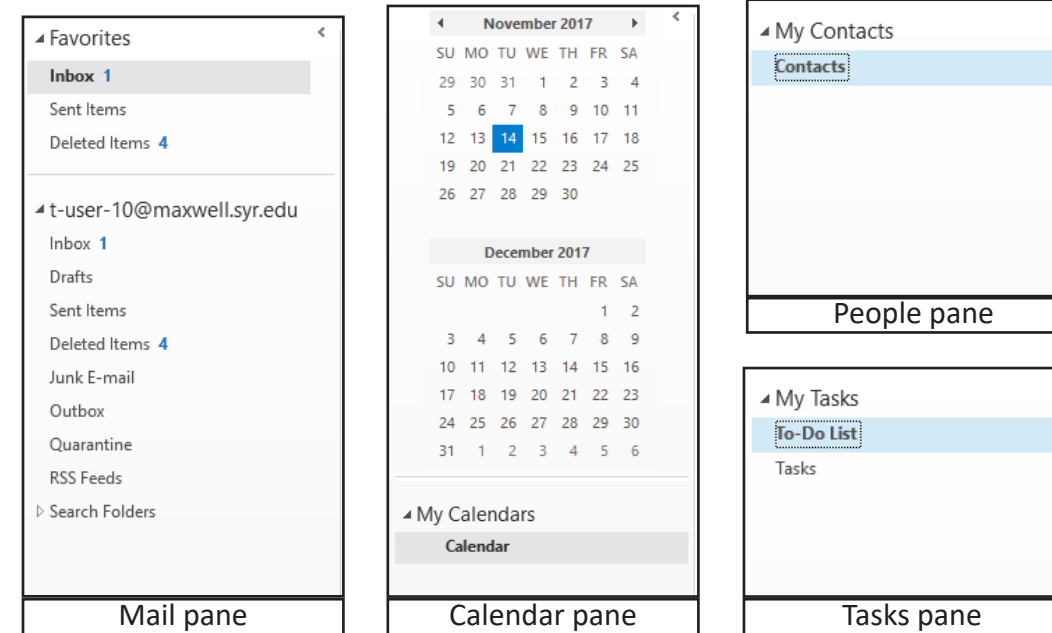
We have decided to display six items, we would like text instead of icons for the buttons at the bottom of the navigation pane, and we would also like those buttons to be arranged in a manner that fits what folders we use most.



3. Use the *“visible items”* spinner to increase (or decrease) the number of items you'd like to see at the bottom of the navigation pane. Uncheck *Compact Navigation* to see the buttons displayed as text instead of icons. Use the *Move Up* and *Move Down* buttons to rearrange the buttons. Then, click OK.
4. Based on the example on the right, the new display of the navigation pane buttons is as follows:

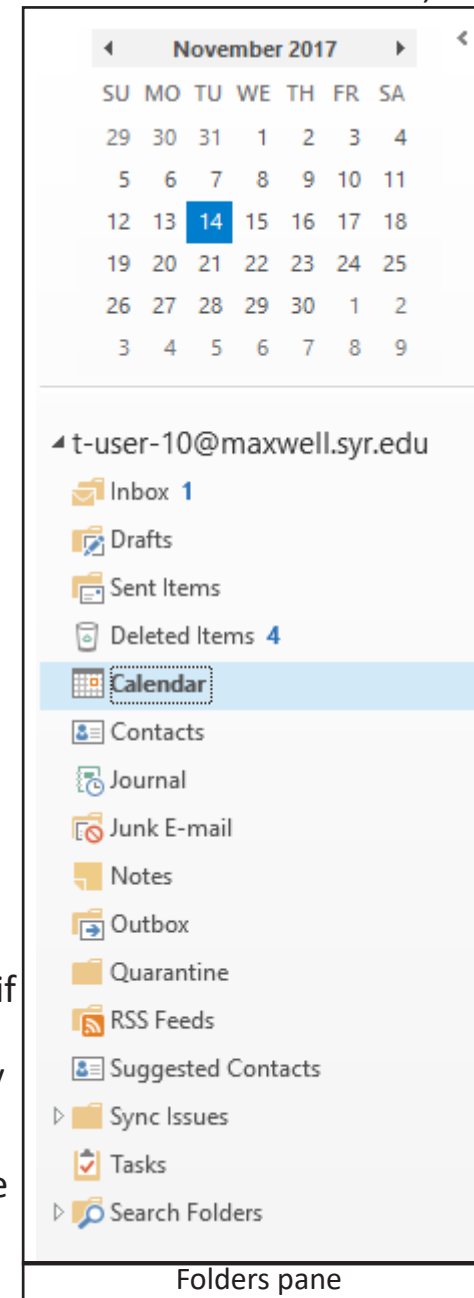


Every type of folder in Outlook has its own pane. For example, when I click the “Mail” button, my pane displays only folders that hold email message items; the Calendar pane displays only my calendar and any other calendars I have access to; Tasks and People are also limited to displaying just those types of items within their respective panes.



When I customized the navigation pane options, I included **“Folders”** in the list of visible buttons (image above). When you want to see all of your Outlook folders in one pane, click that button. You can quickly access any mail folders, for example, even if you are in your calendar view. If you are using the Tasks folder and a new message arrives, you can see the new item number listed by the Inbox.

Whatever applications you use, take a look at the Options - you are not stuck with defaults! We spend a lot of time working in these applications, set them up to work the way you want.



Staff Focus

Must-See T.V. in the World of ICT



Brian

T.V. Show: [Rick and Morty](#)

Channel: Adult Swin (Cartoon Network)

What do you like about it? R&M is an animated series that is very loosely based on the Doc

and Marty characters from the *Back to the Future* franchise. I love this show mainly for the outlandish Sci-Fi humor and its intertwining story lines that are interesting and original. The show follows Rick Sanchez and his grandson, Morty, as they travel through different dimensions causing trouble and going on adventures.



Tammy

T.V. Show: Old movies, trash t.v. and just plain dumb stuff

Channel: TCM, Bravo, Comedy Channel

What do you like about it? It's hard for me to narrow down just one show. I love old movies - almost anything from the

1940's and 1950's. [TCM](#) is my go-to channel for the old stuff. When I'm in need of "DUH" time, I head to [Bravo](#)...some of the most gosh-awful reality t.v. you could ever watch...train wreck...guilty pleasure. And, when I really need to go dumb, it's [South Park](#) all the way! Dumb...but, very clever at the same time. 😊



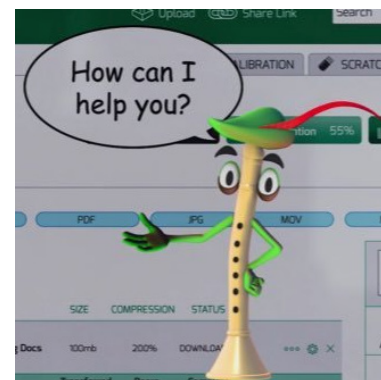
Stan

T.V. Show: [Silicon Valley](#)

Channel: HBO

What do you like about it? Silicon Valley follows the struggle of a [Silicon Valley](#) engineer trying to build his own video compression, then social networking

company. Very funny show that resembles real life stories of founders such as Google, Twitter and Facebook.



Matt

T.V. Show: [Life Below Zero](#)

Channel: NetFlix or [National Geographic Channel](#)

web site (if you have an active cable or satellite TV subscription)

What do you like about it? Watching this show makes me realize just how comfortable we have it living in Central New York.

Here is the description: Life Below Zero follows six people as they battle for the most basic necessities in the state with the lowest population density in the United States (Alaska). Most of the characters in this show live near or above the Arctic Circle and the logistics of providing for some of the most basic needs such as food, water, and shelter is astounding. The people who live these lives are true "characters"!

Here is a short video on it from YouTube: [Sue's Toughest Moments](#).

Note: the language during this show can be "salty" at times.



Mike F.

T.V. Show: [Round Planet](#)

Channel: Netflix and BBC

What do you like about it? Round Planet uses Planet Earth footage and adds a bit of sarcastic humor to the narration via comedian Matt Lucas. It is a fun watch in short stints (no binging here).

Honorable Mentions: [Narcos](#) (Netflix), [Mindhunter](#) (Netflix), and, of course, [Stranger Things](#) (Netflix).



Eddie

T.V. Show: [Bizarre Foods](#)

Channel: The Travel Channel

What do you like about it? There's something about Coconut Tree Grubs, fire-charred over a real hot bed of coals that sets the pleasure-senses on fire. 😊

This show does a very good job of highlighting man's appetite of foods from all civilizations and cultures, and pushes back against Western "snobbery" that would otherwise see these foods forever fall from the lips of man. (OK, that may be too thick 😊 - but how about those grubs!)



Continued on page 14.



Dave

T.V. Show: [An Idiot Abroad](#)

Channel: Netflix, Hulu

What do you like about it? It's a typical travel show where a host travels to exotic locales. This particular host happens to be annoyed by everything and truly does not want to be there, wherever "there" happens to be.



Tom

T.V. Show: [Grand Designs](#)

Channel: Netflix and [Channel 4 / All 4](#)

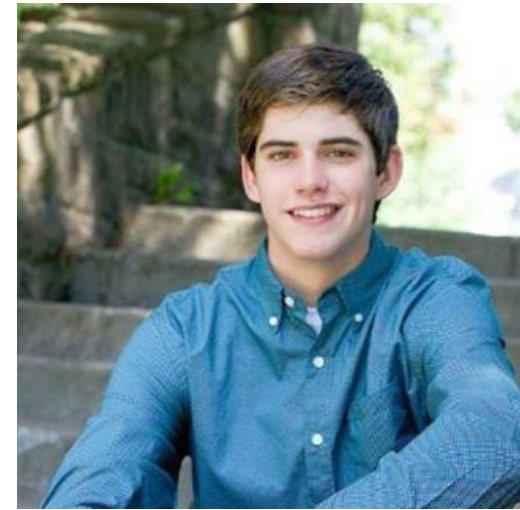
What do you like about it? Sixteen 40-minute episodes - each episode of this British series follows the months and years of creating a single unusual home. Full of lofty ideas, annoying setbacks, deep pockets, and much determination, all the projects are compelling to watch. The second episode, "North London", is worth watching if you have ever managed your own home improvement project – the couple tries to slam their home into the backyards of 17 neighbors' fenced properties. I like that the show sticks to just telling the story without being over-dramatic.



I am wrapping up a quick Netflix binge of [Fawlty Towers](#) - a twelve episode, mid-70s British sitcom from John Cleese of Monty Python. This series is well worth the handful of hours it takes to watch in entirety if you enjoy British farce.

Student Focus

Sam DeFavero



1. What program are you currently enrolled in?

I am a [VPA](#) Film major.

2. Expected Graduation date?

I plan to graduate in the spring of 2019.

3. What would you like to do after graduation?

After graduating, I'd like to travel around the world filming documentaries for companies like [National Geographic](#) and [Vice](#). Eventually, I am hoping to work internationally as a director/cinematographer for feature films.

4. What do you do for ICT?

I am currently a student worker for Maxwell ICT. The bulk of my job is preparing for and recording events, however, I also do miscellaneous tasks, such as answering phones and helping the staff in any way I can. I have been working here for a couple of years and I love it!

5. How do you use technology in your studies?

I use technology constantly in my studies. In fact, it would be impossible to be a student without it! I use my computer daily to edit videos and photos, mix sound and music, and write essays. My major requires me to work with most camera and sound equipment (which is the part I really enjoy). This has given me opportunities outside of my studies, such as editing a commercial and working on set for a Showtime original series. Technology is a vital part of my work, both academically and professionally.

6. What new technologies are you interested in?

I'm interested in multiple types of technology. Some new innovations in camera tech are pretty exciting. There has been a noticeable leap in affordable camera quality over the past 3 years, which has changed the way I make movies. The fact that my phone shoots [4K](#) video blows my mind every time I use it. Outside of media, I think that [precision robotics](#) and [Artificial Intelligence](#) are among the most interesting forms of technology to exist ever. Robotics and AI are progressing so fast it's almost alarming. [Boston Dynamics](#), a robotics company based in Massachusetts, has created a self-balancing [biped](#) and [quadruped](#), a feat that was not thought to be possible 10 years ago. These [automatons](#) are able to simulate human and animal movements, and use their complex AI-based software to self-correct their movement in real time. It is all so fascinating to learn about and see!



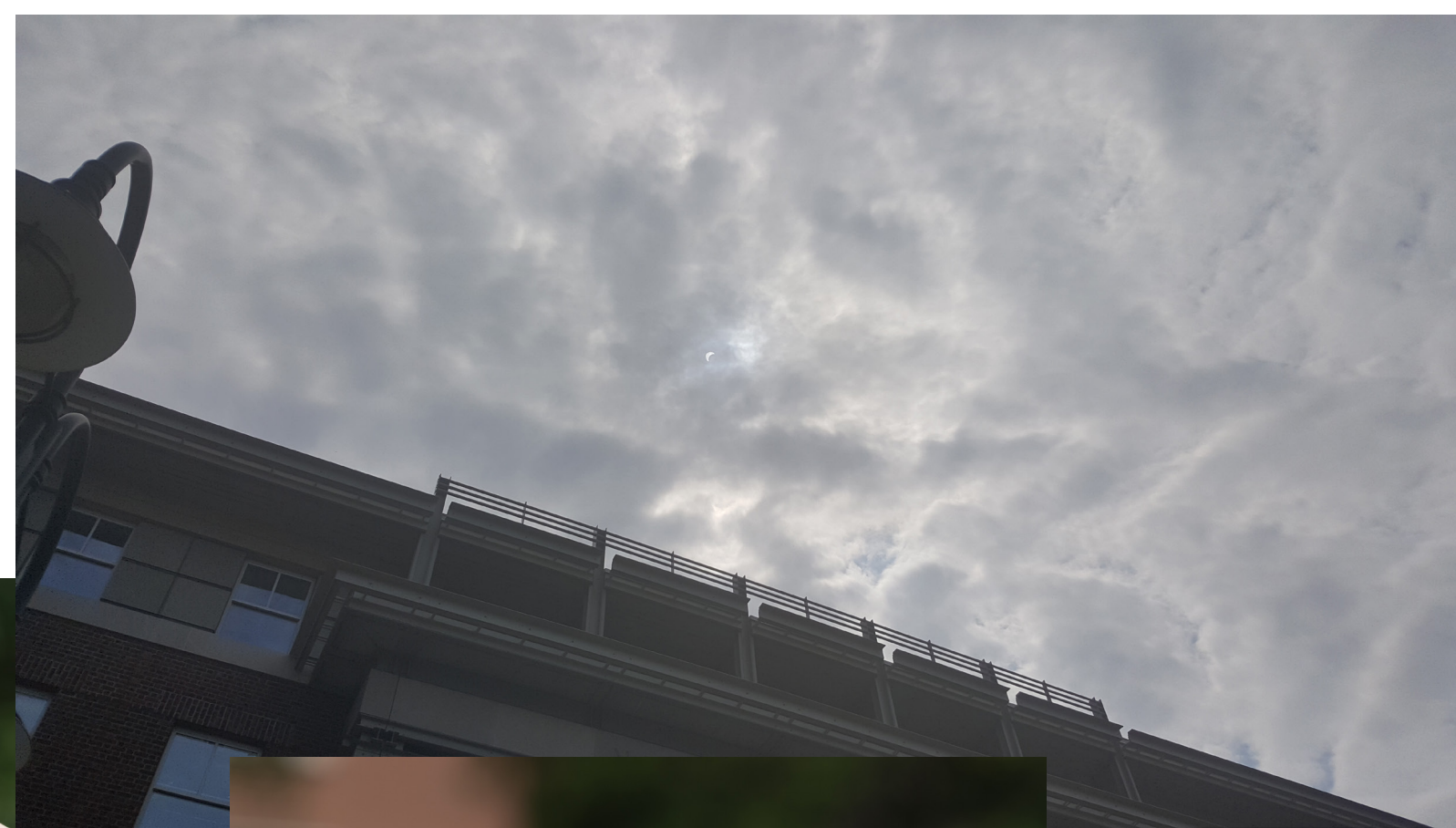
Fun Stuff

Partial Eclipse of the Sun

On Monday, August 21, 2017, the people of the Maxwell School were privileged to witness a partial eclipse of the sun. Syracuse University was too far north to witness the total eclipse, as some areas of the United States experienced, but it was exciting to be part of this celestial event.

To learn more about the eclipse of the sun, read this article put out by NASA:

[Eclipse: Who? What? Where? When? How?](#)



Laura McArdle , Dean's Office, Career Services



Amy Kennedy,
International Relations

Margie Johnson, Geography; Tom Fazio, ICT



Tom Fazio, ICT



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 Brian von Knoblauch 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 Brian von Knoblauch at: bevonkno@maxwell.syr.edu.
No form is necessary!

IML Coverage for this semester

- 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

<http://ict.syr.edu/>

Training

icttraining@maxwell.syr.edu

<http://ict.syr.edu/training/>

ICT Training Sessions:

<http://ict.syr.edu/ict-training-sessions-handouts/>

ICT Newsletter

ictnews@maxwell.syr.edu

<http://ict.syr.edu/ict-newsletter/>

Help Desk Hours (Room 034A)

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