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THE BROADSHEET



Senior Seminar: Front Row: Emily Stephens, Professor Plasse, Dakota Durbin, Chrissi DiMartino. Back Row: Annie Ellis, Rachel MacKelcan, Bridget Kennedy, Matthew Hydzu, Caitlin Saad, Eric Gonnem. Not Pictured: Maddy Donlan, Kiera Duggan, Colleen Rockwell.

THIS ISSUE

ENGLISH CAREER NIGHT: RECALIBRATING DREAM JOB EXPECTATIONS

REMAINING OPEN TO ALL POSSIBILITIES: ENGLISH ALUMNI OFFER THEIR WISDOM

THE IMPACT OF BUTTON POETRY: OLIVIA GATWOOD INSPIRES GENERATIONS OF WOMEN

AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. CHRISTY POTTROFF

REMAIN OPEN-MINDED AND PATIENT WHEN IT COMES TO FINDING THAT DREAM JOB: ENGLISH CAREER NIGHT

This year's Career Night panel featured alumni Amy Tremblay ('05), Jennifer Hanselman ('13), Megan Hathaway ('13), and Gregory Lingley ('15). The panel represented a variety of vocations and each participant emphasized that the skills they honed in the English Program continue to serve them in their jobs, making them highly adaptable, quick learners. Tremblay, a Marketing Manager at HarbourVest Private Equity, and Hathaway, the Professional Advisor Relations Manager at The Boston Foundation, detailed the importance of technical writing in their career paths, while Lingley, an English teacher at Amesbury High School, described the value he finds in close-reading texts with his students. Jen Hanselman, a Data Associate at Amazon, garnered much of the attention during the question-and-answer period, because she is working on the company's new home concierge system. While many of us have heard over the years that our degrees will make us more marketable and adaptable in the workplace than our parents' generation, it was nice to witness living proof of this forecast in the wide range of career options pursued by the alumni panelists. Career Night is intended to give English majors an idea of the rich array of job paths available to them, and

An official publication of the Merrimack College English Department, The Broadsheet is published four times during the academic calendar year. Its mission is to celebrate the English Department's role in promoting the literary arts on campus, to acknowledge the accomplishments of faculty and students, to profile students and alumni, and to create a forum in which issues relevant to English studies can be discussed.



Colleen Rockwell '18

Hanselman's advice in particular reinforced how well the event succeeds at its intended mission. In between answering several high-spirited questions about Amazon's Alexa technology (including one, for example, that focused on whether or not gender was a consideration when it came to naming the new system and giving it a voice), she recommended that students not succumb to frustration if their work right after graduation doesn't qualify as a dream job—after all, she reminded us, an individual's dream job might not have been invented yet! For attendees like senior Colleen Rockwell, the panelists' stories provided her with relief and encouragement concerning her own future, saying it “helps to know it is okay if an English major doesn't have a job right out of college.”

While Career Night can help broaden the perspectives of students regarding what kinds of positions are within their reach, the event also provides affirmation to those who have set a career trajectory for themselves during their undergraduate training. Senior Matt Hyzdu, for example, found Greg Lingley's narrative concerning his life as a high school teacher especially reassuring. Matt observed, “I particularly enjoyed the diversity of the speakers at Career Night, as there were majors who went on to business, marketing, and education. The highlight of the night for me was hearing Gregory's story of how he utilizes his knowledge and experience from the major in his everyday career in high school education. I enjoyed hearing his discussion, as this is what I am planning on doing for my career as well.”



Matt Hyzdu '18

From its inception, Career Night has celebrated the accomplishments of successful graduates from the English program and it continues to inspire and instruct current undergraduate English majors. The event also serves as an opportunity for the English department faculty to appreciate the ways in which their work with students pays off. Professor Ellen McWhorter, who specializes in 20th-century American literature and Modernism, said, “the most memorable part of the night for me was seeing students I had in class years ago (who in my mind are still twenty-two) as adults, living awesome lives and thriving. I'm always so impressed with our alumni.” At the other end of the spectrum, the event, created and programmed by English Department Chair Professor Steven Scherwatzky, affords our graduates an opportunity annually to reconnect with the program that trained them and the faculty who mentored them. Career Night leaves the door open for alumni to return and, perhaps more importantly, to contribute something of lasting value to an anxious group of students who are currently in the same frame of mind once experienced by those alumni. Indications have been emerging steadily that the open door permits passage both ways, fostering correspondence between current and former students and thereby building connections that might eventually minimize the gap between undergraduate and post-graduate life and create a pipeline for ongoing career advice and perhaps even job opportunities for current students.

Be Proactive and Adventurous in Your Career Planning: Alumni Interviews

Over the last four years I have had the pleasure to meet a variety of Merrimack College English alumni through the annual English Career Night and I have had the privilege to interview many of them during my time as a member of the production staff for *The Broadsheet*. While each of these individuals has shared unique and personal experiences, collectively the group has also expressed qualities and insights that reveal a common threads that connect, despite differences in years, careers, and professional interests. The public's pre-conceived notion that an English major's end goal must be teaching represents an all too common hurdle almost every English major must clear. I have no qualms with the English major who pursues that path (especially since I have made the same choice). However, I have learned from the stories that emerge from Career Night panels and Alumni Profiles that this notion is just not the case for the majority of our majors. English graduates work in all areas of the professional world, whether it be law, marketing, investment planning, computer programming, media consultation, or even videogame design. English majors consistently extend the boundaries of what they can achieve in a rapidly growing workplace and I am sure you will notice that the following set of alumni interviews highlights just that breadth and tenacity.

At the end of each English Career Night, after meeting face to face with living proof that my training can extend beyond the classroom, I ask myself, "just what is it that defines the English major?" What qualities, attributes, knowledge and expertise most accurately identify our community? Is it our ability to break down and analyze texts and data of all sorts? Our rhetorical skill? Our ability to make valuable contributions to professional conversations in fields beyond English? Is it simply the care and attention to our writing that has put us in a better position than our competitors? I ask these questions because I genuinely believe that, as an English major, I must define what this discipline means to me and how this discipline remains integral in the fabric of my life and to the society in which I live.

I believe skill at analysis and the capacity to render clearly and meaningfully the fruits of that analysis, in addition to our close attention to detail, define us. Furthermore, the English major cultivates sensitivity toward the complexities involved in interpretation, and he or she also remains acutely cognizant of the role conversation plays in bonding any community. Even at the undergraduate level we are constantly seeing that our skills transcend the classroom because the conversations we are having ramify well beyond the institution. We engage society by studying its discourses. But this is just merely one response to the many questions I have posed, and I know that the true value of a major in English cannot be encapsulated easily. The alumni interviews that follow, though, deliver thoughtful and provocative insight. Please enjoy their stories and wise words.

Interviews conducted by [Dakota Durbin](#).



Laura Stevens

Class of '14

What kind of professional work have you been doing since graduation?

“Upon graduating from my Master's Program in May of 2017, I began working for the town of North Andover as the Support Services Coordinator for the Youth and Recreation Department. I work in close collaboration with the North Andover Public Schools running therapeutic and support groups, conducting crisis intervention as needed, doing a bit of therapeutic mentoring, and more or less being one more trusted adult in the lives of young people. I also run some after school programming, create our seasonal programming pamphlets and advertisements, help run our social media accounts, do some fundraising/charity work, and generally do anything else that needs to be done!”



To what extent has the English major helped you to this work?

“I can't overstate how much the English major has helped me both in my graduate studies and in my professional work. During graduate school, I felt confident in organizing, researching for, and writing lengthy term papers, and examining and analyzing primary sources. I think as English majors we take this skill for granted because it becomes so second nature to us by the time we are ready to graduate.” [Editor's note: Laura double-majored in Psychology]

“Day to day at my job now, I constantly find myself grateful for my English major background! Just this past week I was writing college recommendations for some of my students. These are so important, and can be the deciding factor for whether or not a student is admitted to his or her dream school. Colleges receive thousands of applications each year, so as counselors we have to be skilled at making the most impact immediately with the fewest words. It's no exaggeration that a single recommendation can help determine a kid's future, so needless to say I take this writing very seriously. Grant writing is also a primary responsibility in my position. We are a town department, and we also have an associated nonprofit organization which provides funding for numerous projects —this funding comes largely from grants. Again, these committees sometimes receive thousands of applications for one grant, so it's up to me as the writer to make my proposal the most impactful, the most convincing, and the most memorable.”

“Less obviously related to the English major but still very important, I am responsible for most of the department's social media presence. Each of our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, our website, etc.) has a very different audience. Facebook mostly reaches our parent population, while Instagram posts are targeted towards students. I'm going to use different language when posting about the same subject matter depending on who I'm intending to access, a skill I honed during my time at Merrimack.”

“There's also the day-to-day experience of simply helping kids with whatever they need, and sometimes that means helping them understand the plot of *Catcher in the Rye*, or assisting them with writing their college essays.

Sometimes it means advocating for kids in a tough spot through email to administrators, teachers, or parents. These are all examples from the past week or so only—I don't go one day in my job without utilizing the skills I built as an English student at Merrimack.”

Have you earned any advanced degrees since your undergraduate graduation? If so, what are they? If not, do you plan to pursue graduate study in the future?

“Immediately after graduating from Merrimack in 2014, I began a graduate program at Lesley University. I earned my Master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a School and Community Specialization. During my time in graduate school, I worked as a counseling intern at New England Academy, a therapeutic middle and high school in Beverly, and at North Andover High School. My role at each of these schools was to provide therapeutic and counseling support to students in middle and high school.”

What did you like best about the Merrimack English major?

“Hands-down the relationships I built with professors. Scherwatzky, Vatalaro, McWhorter, Mahoney—these people not only taught me how to write and read more effectively, but they also helped me as a counselor. I learned from them how to hold a space and a platform where students can express ideas freely and openly, and have healthy debates and disagreements. I also learned through observation how to provide feedback to students in a way that is constructive, and therefore likely to be well received. I learned through experience that even if the subject matter is something intimidating, like *Paradise Lost*, or *The Cenci*, if the teacher is effective, engaging, and shows he or she cares, students will actually want to participate in that class. Of course I became a much better reader and writer as an English student, but I also became a better counselor.”

What advice would you give current English majors?

“Please take advantage of all the department has to offer you. Part of the reason I am successful in my current role is because of my time working on *The Broadsheet*. I currently do all of the formatting for our seasonal brochures and registration forms, which was my main role when working as an intern for *The Broadsheet*. It's easy to stay in your dorm or stay home when the department puts on events—resist the urge to remain uninvolved; it will make all the difference in your development as a student and as a person. Don't shy away from the difficult classes with the professors that challenge you most—this is how you will grow. Vatalaro may give you your only B+ in your time at Merrimack. Cry about it for a minute, then get over it, and work harder in the next class you take with him!”

Kristina Regonini

Class of '06

What kind of professional work have you been doing since graduation?

"I have been working as a marketing professional for a market-leading commercial HVAC brand. I started as an intern, hired to assist with promoting and opening a new store location for the aftermarket parts and supplies business. After my internship was complete, and once I graduated from Merrimack with my B.A. degree in English (and minor in Business Administration), I was interviewed for a full time position at the Sales and Service office. I was first hired as a Marketing Coordinator, supporting the Marketing Manager for the New England district office. My company has locations globally and all across the U.S., but our local territory serves all of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island."



"Over the years I worked on my personal and professional development, and when the position of marketing leader for the district opened up it was a natural progression for me to assume that role. I have been working in this position for the past 7 years. Fun fact: when I first decided to interview for the internship I had no clue what HVAC stood for! Of course, I am now able to let you know, it stands for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, if you've been wondering."

To what extent has the English major helped you to this work?

"In my job I do LOTS of communicating in many formats and media, both internally for our employees, and externally to our customers. Formally and informally as well, so it's important to be articulate, thoughtful, clear and succinct. I also do a fair amount of proposal writing for our energy services division where we are required to respond to lengthy Requests for Qualification or Proposal (RFQ/P). This is where it's important to tell our story by showcasing the capabilities, experience and expertise of our company and especially of the local employees who will be assigned to the project. This includes write ups on customer case studies, employee resumes, and other summaries on key aspects of our operations."

Have you earned any advanced degrees since your undergraduate graduation? If so, what are they? If not, do you plan to pursue graduate study in the future?

"Yes, after two years of working full time, I decided to go back to school part time for my Master's degree. I enrolled at Emerson College and graduated with a M.A. in Marketing Communications."

What did you like best about the Merrimack English major?

"Professors Scherwatzky's and Vatalaro's courses, of course! Also the variety of courses that were offered which provided exposure to many different periods of writing and learning how it related to the history of the times."

What advice would you give current English majors?

"Intern (or at least job shadow even for just a day) as often as you can. That's one thing I would definitely go back and do more of if I could. There are so many possibilities for English majors and by getting a hands on glimpse, you can narrow your focus."

Amy Tremblay

Class of '05

What kind of professional work have you been doing since graduation?

"I have had a variety of jobs since graduating from Merrimack in 2005. My first job after graduation was teaching Introduction to Writing to freshman at the University of Maine as a graduate instructor. After I graduated from UMaine and I decided teaching was not the path for me, I returned to Massachusetts and worked in two private medical practices in an administrative and office management role. After that, I decided to try something totally new and began working in an administrative position at PwC, a large accounting firm. I was fortunate at PwC to be able to work closely with our Marketing team and use my writing skills while working on proposals, presentations and other Marketing collateral. Working closely with our Marketing team gave me great experience to move into my current position as a Marketing Communications Coordinator at a private equity firm in Boston, HarbourVest Partners."



To what extent has the English major helped you to this work?

"I learned so many skills in the English major that have proved valuable in all of my career experiences. Perhaps the most important skill I took away from the major was the ability to communicate effectively and write clearly across various disciplines. Writing well is such an important skill to have in any industry. I have found in the financial services world just how important it is to be able to communicate well. When working with Accounting and Finance professionals I have seen how highly they value someone with good communication skills to interact with their investors and clients. Another incredibly important skill I learned was the ability to read any text and analyze it. The analytical reading skills I learned while at Merrimack can be applied to any type of text in any industry. This has been extremely useful when reading complicated market research or legal documents in my current and past jobs. Even if some of the content is beyond my understanding, I am well equipped to work through it and summarize it well for others."

Have you earned any advanced degrees since your undergraduate graduation? If so, what are they? If not, do you plan to pursue graduate study in the future?

"A year after graduating from Merrimack, I attended the University of Maine in Orono and received a Master of Arts in English Literature with a concentration in Composition and Rhetoric."

What did you like best about the Merrimack English major?

"The English major has changed a lot since I graduated, but I enjoyed how varied my classes were. Whether I took a poetry course or a drama course, I was learning such vastly different skills. Some courses had a heavy focus on writing and others on reading and analyzing. I think English majors at Merrimack are fortunate that they have the experience of taking courses with such dedicated professors with a vast variety of interests and areas of expertise. There is truly something for everyone in the major, whether you're interested in writing, poetry, literature, theater or film."

What advice would you give current English majors?

"This major has a lot to offer you. It is hard to choose what you want to do with the rest of your life when you are a college student. I would suggest you get some experience with different careers. I always thought I would be a teacher, and once I had some experience teaching, I realized it was not for me. While you are still in school, it is a great time to explore your options with career shadowing, internships and networking. Don't feel you have to stay with something you don't love doing. You have a lot of freedom with this major to do many things and there are so many people both on and off of campus who want to help you. Take advantage of these opportunities often and early."

Olivia Gatwood: She's My *New American Best Friend*!

By Bridget Kennedy

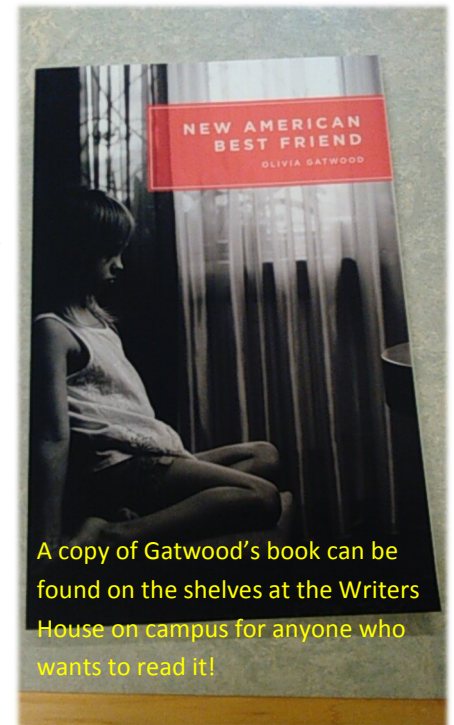
Button Poetry is a fast-growing internet sensation, showcasing slam poets performing their pieces to audiences well beyond the confines of the auditorium and the moment of the initial performance. Videos of many poets' performances have gone viral on various media platforms, especially Facebook and YouTube. These videos have fostered an awareness and appreciation for poets in a big way, and it would seem that the internet has galvanized these artists the same way it has for independent artists working in music, visual art, and more.

Olivia Gatwood is one of my favorite poets of the many I have discovered from the Button Poetry circuit. She embodies a contagious energy, a strong, powerful voice in her work, and tackles a variety of topics women deal with every day, from menstrual periods to stereotypes. Gatwood always has something intelligent, poignant, and funny to say. Her performances are attention-grabbing, but maintain fluid storytelling. She has, as the title of her first book implies, all the energy and relatability of someone I'd want to be my best friend, and that reaches me as a fan even though I haven't seen her perform in person. Just as one might experience at a concert or any other live performance, when I hear her drop lines like "This is a war between your body and your country, which side are you on?" it makes me stand up and cheer at my laptop as though I were sitting in the audience at her performance. I may as well buy a jersey to wear with pride as a way of representing the ever-growing masses of Team Gatwood.

She is currently promoting *New American Best Friend*, a recent release featuring a few of the poems that can be found on the Button Poetry site (and on the bookshelf at the Writers House on campus!). Olivia Gatwood's book is up for a Goodreads Choice Award, along with my other favorite Button Poet Sabrina Benaim, whose poetry book *Depression and Other Magic Tricks* also dropped recently (And is 100% worth checking out too!).

Gatwood's work is important for reminding the world, but women especially, that women are strong and have a voice—a particularly important reminder now that we are experiencing the throes of current events regarding Hollywood's Weinstein scandal. So much has come to light about women being taken advantage of by men in power that women need to hear their experiences brought to light and validated. The pieces are unabashed call-outs and calls to action. Her words condemn the behavior that harms women directly, indirectly, or by perpetuating those harmful forces. Gatwood's poems act as their own solidarity campaign with every view, like, and share they get. Women who hear or read her poems will instantly be able to relate to the struggle of being told to smile more, to keep themselves and each other safe by any means necessary, and will be reminded of the importance of silencing the "Manic Pixie Dream Girl" stereotype that often promotes objectification of women. Most women who hear the stories Gatwood's poetry tells will immediately be able to relate to the experiences, from catcalling to bleeding through a once good pair of underwear.

The *Tampa Bay Times* published an article in April of this year on Gatwood's work, celebrating her bold honesty and empowering voice. The article's author, Sarah Whitman, talks about how important



the messages in Gatwood's poetry are for young women. "Her words empower young women to stand fierce and real, to smile if they want to, not because society insists girls look pretty. As a mother of a baby girl, I applaud Gatwood. Girls need to know they can speak out. They are not porcelain dolls, no longer worthy if tarnished or broken. I can see myself passing Gatwood's book onto my daughter one day." What I find significant is that the author wrote this in her Christian religion column and uses Gatwood's works as an example of how to stand up against the perpetuation of rape culture, effectively comparing Olivia Gatwood to a guardian angel of sorts for young women. "Rape culture exists in part," Whitman writes, "because the American evangelical Christian church ignores its role in perpetuating the cycle. Young women often leave or avoid church because of the 'Christian girl' model. Many feel they fail to live up to the expectation. Some just don't want to. Either way, they are absent on Sundays. Maybe they choose to write poetry instead." This statement absolutely blew me away. Society promotes countless stereotypes and gender conformity conventions. We witness controversies and victim blaming and the extreme valuing of "purity" that result from and perpetuate rape culture, and for this author to overtly call out her own religious organization using someone whose poetry is not overtly religious at all I find fantastic. (You can read her article in full here: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/religion/whitman-christians-must-temper-christian-girl-model/2321710>)

I am not at all religious, nor have I ever really been. But I can still 100% relate to the experiences of systematic double standards and have witnessed the outright denial and dismissal of rape culture, oppressive gender stereotypes, and even generally neutral or positive experiences Gatwood discusses in her poetry. I am an emotional auditor; ask anyone who knows me and he or she will tell you that I have a clear, passionate and emotional response to just about everything I read, watch, or listen to. When I hear or read poems like the kind Olivia Gatwood writes and performs, I feel overcome with a strong sense of solidarity and sisterhood, which is exactly what Sarah Whitman values in the messages Gatwood sends out into the world: that we are not alone; we are having valid experiences, and that someone is taking a stand and representing the people who may not be at liberty to express themselves. Olivia Gatwood has come of age and lived in the same world as I have—for better or worse—and she delivers a crucially important message for women and people everywhere.

Since discovering her, I began to regard Olivia Gatwood as a goddess, but the term "guardian angel" fits just as perfectly. This is something incredible, and rarely has a poetry as art and social discourse been more accessible to

such a large audience on so many platforms. Olivia Gatwood's poetry is a treasure, and she, along with the other poets featured on Button Poetry, will surely have a lasting impact on the legacy of our generation and beyond.

Recommended Viewing for Olivia Gatwood on Button Poetry's YouTube channel:

"Manic Pixie Dream Girl" – If you're looking for an empowering stereotype-smashing poem.

"Ode to My Period Underwear" – If you want to commiserate with a clever "you know you've been there" relatable piece.

"Ode to the Women on Long Island" – Fantastic characterization, strong images, and a great honor to the strong women of New York.

"Ode to My Bitchface" – You're as angry as people say you look about having to smile on command.



Print, Postage Stamps, and Net Neutrality:

An Interview with Professor Christy Pottroff

By: Rachel MacKelcan



While sitting in Dr. Pottroff's office, looking at a letter that could be better characterized as a "single 8x12 hand-written note card," I found myself intrigued by the notion of how hard communication used to be—no email, no twitter, and most of all no texting. In essence, the only "dms" one could slide into during the 1700's was better recognized as the now extinct notion of "knocking on someone's door." Baffling, I know; however, Benjamin Franklin came along with his printing press, got the gears moving, the ink flowing, and before we all knew it, we arrived at how we view print today.

Drawn to Merrimack by its New England Location and the promise of better connectedness to the region's rich literary history, including the roots of folklore and witchcraft, Dr. Christy Pottroff has joined the full-time English faculty hoping to educate students about Early American Literature and introducing them to the fascinating story of how the postal system allowed publishing to become what it is today. I welcomed the chance to conduct an informal interview with her and followed up on our conversation by asking her to respond to a series of specific questions regarding her main area of interest.

What role did the city of Worcester play in the publishing movement?

Worcester became a prominent printing hub in the North American colonies in 1775 when Isaiah Thomas (sometimes referred to as "the patriot printer") was driven out of Boston for criticizing the British Colonial Government. From Worcester, he continued to print his politically engaged newspapers that helped to drive the colonists toward revolution.

Thomas was the first person who printed music in North America; he printed magazines and books, and media of all types.

In 1812, Thomas established the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester. The mission of the AAS --both then and now--is to collect, preserve and make available for study all printed records of what is now known as the United States of America. The society started by Thomas in Worcester in 1812 now contains one of the most expansive collections of rare and unique books in the country. If you want to know what people were reading in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, Worcester is the place to go.

What was involved in the printing process?

A lot of work went in to the printing process in the 18th and 19th centuries--and many people participated in the production of a single book.

Typically, authors work with publishers to produce their books. Publishers then enlist printers (the people who set type, etc) and suppliers (paper and ink merchants, for example) to put the book together. The labor of "setting type" was incredibly time consuming, and it took a lot of skill. After the type was set, this was the process of putting the words on the page [here is a link worth checking out: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gi4uWuh2S0w>] Books were then sewn together by hand.

Then books needed to be delivered and circulated (which is where my interest in the post office comes in). Understanding all of these different steps allows us to see who worked together to make early American literature. It wasn't just Nathaniel Hawthorne and Edgar Allan Poe, but a lot of different people--women, people of color, and recent immigrants--who worked together to create early American literature as we know it today.

Why was the United States Postal Service a key player in the way texts got transmitted?

Before the invention of the electric telegraph (in the middle of the nineteenth century), circulation of information was bound by material transmission. To learn any news, to get a letter or message from a friend, etc, someone had to write it down (or print it), and then someone had to deliver that paper. To facilitate this kind of communication over long distances, the federal government established the US Post Office Department. They thought that the speedy and accessible circulation of information would help to elevate the country--and so they established the postal system to implement new technologies to deliver the news and correspondence throughout the country. In many ways, the U.S. postal service was the internet of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. People would even hang out at the post office to keep up to date with the news.

Why is this information important today?

While the postal system might seem like an outdated system, understanding its history can actually help us more thoughtfully engage with our digital media landscape.

For example, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, politicians and their constituencies frequently debated over the role, function, and protocols of the post office--in ways that have direct resonances with our digital information environment. More specifically, learning about the post office would be instructive for debates about net neutrality today. The post office was free, accessible, and neutral--there weren't fast lanes, and people did not have to pay extra for services. Every town, city, and village had a post office--and with that post office, they were afforded equal access to information (thanks to the funding of the federal government). This pre-internet net-neutrality not only did wonders for the U.S. economy, but it also helped keep "everyday Americans" informed.

What do you believe is the future of print and how will it continue or not continue to influence society?

That's a big question! Stories are what makes humans human--we tell stories about our daily lives, we get lost in novels, and religions and national histories are composed of stories. The way we tell and absorb stories will always be shaped by historical and technological factors--stained glass windows hold stories, video games tell stories. While this adaptability can lead to a great deal of beauty, it can also be unsettling and lead to doubt about the future of older media.

But the printed book has its own kind of magic. Books have been around for centuries, and they'll endure for centuries more. There's nothing like sitting down with a book, feeling the weight of the story, and engaging with characters on the page. Reading a book is a meditation on what it means to be human.



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