

Awarded second place for the Ossip Award for Excellence in Seminar in Composition is a graphic memoir called IT KEEPS GOING by Kyr Goyette. Kyr wrote the piece for *First-Year Seminar: Doctoring the Story*, a course instructed by Laura Nelson who presented students with an opportunity to construct a “graphic medicine memoir comic” and tell a personal story relating to themes of health and medicine.

IT KEEPS GOING is a stellar example of how composition can be more than words. Kyr’s use of storytelling elements, such as text captions and speech bubbles, along with the visual element of a comic, engages the reader throughout the graphic memoir. The interaction of text and image demonstrates understanding of the potential of their interdependence, keeping readers caught between the act of perceiving and the act of reading.

The emotional thread of the narrator’s personal experience was insightfully crafted, and the Committee was particularly impressed with Kyr’s command of narrative pacing. Not only was it an emotional story, but also the expositional prose was thoughtfully set against visual information. The panels would change from being text-heavy, which quickens the reading pace, to rendered with visual detail and contrasting colors, which slows the pace. The deliberate pacing and shift in temporal space halfway through the comic resonates with the Committee, as we could experience the narrator’s perspective at different points in her life. Beyond the personal narrative, IT KEEPS GOING rouses provoking questions and encourages needed reflection on how health impacts our perception of self and our daily interactions.

And so, it’s my great pleasure to introduce Kyr Goyette to share her graphic memoir with you.