

Goddard College

Contact: Michelle Barber

Phone: 802-322-1617

E-mail: michelle.barber@goddard.edu

Date: January 24, 2011

Goddard College Offers First Low-Residency Graphic Novel Focus

The nation's first low-residency Graphic Novel Writing Focus has been launched at Goddard College as part of its Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program. Faculty advisors Susan Kim and Rachel Pollack, both accomplished graphic novelists, began advising graphic novel students this semester.

"Goddard has a long history of innovation. We developed the original low-residency MFA in Creative Writing Program," notes program director Paul Selig. "And now we continue to innovate with our new Graphic Novel Writing Focus."

The market has exploded for graphic novels in recent decades, says faculty advisor Rachel Pollack. "What's so exciting about this form is that it allows the writer to think visually, panel-by-panel, page-by-page, and to really *show*, not tell the reader what's happening. It's a versatile form that can encompass every genre from creative nonfiction, fiction, and memoir, to fantasy and science fiction."

"In our intensive two year focus, we'll encourage writers to create and hone their script – a graphic novel's text and visual cues – and take that script to the limit of their creative abilities," says Goddard faculty advisor Susan Kim. "We'll also offer guidance in choosing and collaborating with an artist, editors, agents, and publishers."

Susan Kim is co-author of two graphic novels, *City of Spies*, which received starred reviews from Publishers Weekly and Booklist, and *Brain Camp*. Her television writing has been nominated five times for the Emmy. Ms. Kim joined Goddard's MFA faculty in 2006. Rachel Pollack has written thirty-one books of fiction and non-fiction and published extensively in the field of graphic novels and comics, including *Doom Patrol*, *Time Breakers*, and *New Gods*. She joined Goddard's MFA faculty in 2002.

The low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Program at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont, is a 48-credit, rigorous, student-centered program for writers. For more information, visit www.goddard.edu