Gene Yang to Join Faculty in the Low-Residency MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults (MFAC) at Hamline University

Hamline is pleased to announce that in July 2012 Gene Yang will be joining the faculty of its MFAC program. With Gene Yang aboard, the program will expand its writing genres to include graphic novels and comics. The focus will be on the writing of graphic novels and comics, although an understanding of the visual context will be part of the learning process. Writers who are also visual artists are welcome, although the degree is not in illustration or visual arts.

Students interested in working with Gene Yang will be encouraged to work with other faculty as well, exploring additional genres, over the course of their two-year program. The two-year program includes five residencies and four semesters.

Gene Yang began publishing comic books under the name Humble Comics in 1996. In 1997, he was awarded a Xeric Grant for *Gordon Yamamoto and the King of the Geeks*. Since then, he’s written and drawn a number of stories in comics. His book, *American Born Chinese*, became the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association’s Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature. It also won an Eisner Award for Best Graphic Album—New. *The Eternal Smile*, a collection of short stories illustrated by Derek Kirk Kim, also won an Eisner Award and was selected as aYALSA Best Book for Young Adults. His most recent graphic novels are *Prime Baby* (first serialized in *The New York Times Magazine*) and *Animal Crackers*. *Level Up*, illustrated by Thien Pham, is forthcoming in June 2011. In addition to cartooning, Gene teaches computer science at a Catholic high school in California.

For more information, go to [www.hamline.edu/mfa-children](http://www.hamline.edu/mfa-children)