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COMPOSING COMMUNITIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY TALK SCHEDULED

On Thursday, September 23, Dr. Jeffrey Grabill will kick off “Composing Communities for the 21st Century,” a series of talks on writing, literacy and community engagement. He will speak at 3 p.m. in the new Student Center, room 2227. The program is free and open to all interested.

A professor in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric and American Cultures at Michigan State University, Grabill also serves as co-director of MSU’s Writing in Digital Environments Research Center. He teaches composition, technical writing and digital rhetoric courses and has helped develop and administer professional writing programs. His research is the intersection of professional and technical writing, rhetorical theory and literacy theory, and focuses on the literate and technological practices of citizens, users, students, and others within communities and non-academic institutions.

Grabill’s most recent book is Writing Community Change: Designing Technologies for Citizen Action (Hampton Press, 2007), which addresses how people use advanced information technologies to write for community change. According to Grabill, the work of citizenship is knowledge work, and those writing for community change must interact with complex databases—even create them—work with ill-formed sets of information, and from this material, write persuasively to professional audiences. In fact, civic rhetoric requires the participation of many people and technologies.

Recently, Grabill’s work was included in a special issue of Technical Communication Quarterly that won the NCTE Award for Best Collection of Essays in Technical and Scientific Communication. His other work includes Community Literacy Programs and the Politics of Change (State University of New York Press 2001) and numerous articles published in College Composition and Communication, Technical Communication Quarterly, and Computers and Composition.

Developed by Dr. Kevin Roozen, Auburn University Department of English, “Composing Communities” is sponsored by the Office of University Writing, the English Department and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts. For more information about Grabill’s program or upcoming lectures in the series, call 334-844-4946 or visit www.auburn.edu/cah.

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