Watson Committee 2015-16 report

Committee members included Brenda Brueggemann, Tim Johnson, Andrea Olinger,

Mary Sheridan (for Fall 2015), Joe Turner and graduate student assistant directors Laura Matravers and Megan Hartline, with assistance from the previous graduate student assistant director Megan Bardolph.

The committee had three tasks. First, it recruited Professor LuMing Mao of Miami University of Ohio to be the Watson Visiting Professor for Fall 2017. Professor Mao is a leading scholar on cross-cultural and comparative rhetorics. His research publications include the books *Comparative Rhetoric: Traversing Rhetorical Times, Places, and Spaces*, from Routledge 2014; *Reading Chinese Fortune Cookie: The Making of Chinese American Rhetoric*, a Chinese translation of which has just recently been published; and *Representations: Doing Asian American Rhetoric,* which received an Honorable Mention for the MLA 2009 Mina Shaughnessy Prize.

The Committee’s second task was organizing and seeing through to completion the Watson preconference symposium, which took place in early March 2016, with about 55 participants. In addition to the symposium paper presenters, these included almost 50 UofL grad students and faculty.

Our third task is ongoing, namely, organizing and seeing through to completion this Fall’s Watson Conference, which explores Mobility Work in Composition: Translation, Migration, Transformation. We received 255 proposals for panels and presentations in response to our call. From these, we have put together a full two and half days of plenary and concurrent sessions exploring what mobility work in composition might, can, and should mean. Keynoters include Christiane Donahue of Dartmouth College, Eli Goldblatt of Temple University, Carmen Kynard of CUNY, and Scott Wible of the University of Maryland. UofL faculty are welcome and encouraged to register and attend. The conference is scheduled for October 20-22. Except for a Thursday reception at the Brown hotel, all events will be held on the University of Louisville Belknap campus.