

Director's Report  
to the  
Management Advisory Board



Centre  
for the Study  
of Co-operatives



Lou Hammond Ketilson  
Director



June 2007





The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is an interdisciplinary teaching and research institution located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. Contract partners in the co-operative sector include Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, Federated Co-operatives Ltd., Concentra Financial, and The Co-operators.

The centre is also supported by Saskatchewan Regional Economic and Co-operative Development and the University of Saskatchewan, with The CUMIS Group making an additional contribution.

The university not only houses our offices but provides in-kind contributions from a number of departments and units—Agricultural Economics, History, Management and Marketing, and Sociology, among others—as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

We acknowledge with gratitude the ongoing support of all our sponsoring organizations.



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# Overview and Highlights

## ▲ Social Economy Project Update

Research is well underway in this large undertaking, with students, academics, and community partners across the region involved in almost thirty projects, some of which are nearing completion. Summer internships have been filled throughout the node, many of them by students. To assist them in the research process, the centre hosted a day-long workshop titled Building Respectful Relationships: Conducting Community-Based Research. Held 28 May just prior to our own conference and Congress 2007, the workshop was jointly facilitated by academics and representatives of community-based organizations.

Other activities include regular conference calls involving our Social Economy node and the Canadian Social Economy Hub and many administrative duties that keep centre personnel occupied on a regular basis. See faculty and staff individual sections for details about the project and their involvement.

## ▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ Roger and Jorge Sousa's (University of Alberta) collection of case studies on co-op conversions is in editing; it originated as a Co-operatives Secretariat project and will be a full-length book published by the centre
- ▲ Murray is working on a SSHRC project titled "Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives"
- ▲ He has another SSHRC project titled "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"; Lou, Brett, and Michael are co-applicants
- ▲ In another contract with the Co-operatives Secretariat, Murray, Rose Olfert, Mark Partridge, and intern Chipu Kangyi are examining Co-ops Secretariat data to identify the impact of co-ops and credit unions on communities across Canada
- ▲ There are three contracts with CCA, for all of which Lou is PI:
  - Lou, Roger, Quintin Fox (from CCA), and grad student Juanita Bacsu completed the preparation of the survey for credit unions and co-ops in English-speaking Canada to determine the level of support (loans, grants, in-kind, procurement policies) for Social Economy organizations; it is currently being administered and we are awaiting the results
  - Kim Sanderson completed the collection of resources on value-added, bio-resource co-op development.
  - She also finished the collection and analysis of information on opportunities for Canadian producers to become involved in the development of value-added bioresource agricultural co-ops; both documents have been forwarded to CCA.

## ▲ The Conference

The combined CASC/ACE/ICA conference that took place during Congress 2007 (28 May – 1 June) was possibly the largest and most intense short-term project the centre has ever undertaken. “Co-operative Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy” was a joint gathering of three separate but closely linked organizations — the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC), the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE), and the International Co-operative Alliance Research Forum (ICA). Our conference was part of a much larger, high-profile event — Congress 2007 — hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, which attracted nearly six thousand social science and humanities scholars and students. Congress featured Social Economy theme-day on 31 May, with several of our conference sessions open to all Congress delegates.

Each of the three collaborating organizations identified above have annual gatherings that address topics and issues related to co-operatives and co-operation. This year, these groups convened their meetings jointly for the first time, with oversight and co-ordination provided by the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives in the person of Roger Herman, who called upon faculty and staff for assistance from time to time. The event provided an important new networking and information-sharing opportunity for approximately 160 delegates from fifteen countries around the world.

The event began with a day-long preconference workshop for graduate students on the topic of conducting community-based research. The workshop was jointly facilitated by academics and representatives of community-based organizations. The conference formally started on Tuesday, 29 May, and wrapped up on Friday evening. Chad Gaffield, president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) provided the opening presentation, in which he emphasized the value of the research being undertaken on the Social Economy and specifically the centre’s role in that large research project. Keynote speakers for Social Economy theme-day included John Helliwell from the University of British Columbia and Nancy Neamtan of the Chantier de l’économie sociale. In total, ten invited or keynote speakers and approximately eighty session participants provided presentations over the four days.

In addition to the formal sessions, delegates attended a production by the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, visited co-operatives and other social economy organizations on either an urban or a rural tour, and joined in an evening of rural hospitality hosted by the community of Meacham, Saskatchewan. Each of the three hosting organizations used the occasion to hold their annual general meetings, and ACE also hosted a banquet and awards ceremony at which Federated Co-operatives Ltd., the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, and

Roger Herman were recognized for their contributions to co-operative education. During the AGMs, Lou Hammond Ketilson was elected chair of the ICA Research Committee, while Roger Herman was elected president of the Association of Cooperative Educators.

Various sponsoring co-operatives, foundations, and agencies provided generous support for the event, including the Canadian International Development Agency, which provided funds to help offset the participation of delegates from developing nations or nations in transition; the Canadian Co-operatives Secretariat and the Association of Cooperative Educators, which provided funds to offset the cost of simultaneous translation into French and Spanish; and the University of Saskatchewan Conference Fund, which provided support to offset costs for the participation of students and new scholars. A complete list of sponsors appears on the conference website.

The overall event has created a goldmine of resources for current and future use. All conference presentations and associated papers will be posted to the centre's website for broad access. All sessions where simultaneous translation was provided (all plenary and select concurrent sessions) were recorded and the audio files will also be posted (in each language) on the web site. Select papers will be collected as part of a book published by the centre, while others will provide the content for a special edition of the *Review of International Co-operation*, published by the International Co-operative Alliance. Using a variety of dissemination methods, the information shared at this conference will be accessible to academics, practitioners, educators, students, and co-operators around the world.

The high profile of our conference and of the larger Congress put a spotlight on co-operatives, the social economy, and most specifically on the work undertaken at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives. Many important relationships were developed or strengthened that may ultimately lead to new students and scholars becoming associated with the centre. Likewise, the focus of the Social Economy theme-day emphasized the importance of our work as part of the national research agenda. As host of this event, and also through the involvement of its Fellows, Scholars, staff, and students, the centre received a tremendous amount of attention and positive acknowledgements from our own university, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, the organizers of Congress 2007, and from the delegates in attendance.

The final acknowledgement needs to go to Roger Herman, on whose shoulders rested the responsibility for organizing this huge event. It has consumed most of his life for the past six months. Without his dedication, perseverance, and logistical skills, not to mention patience and good humour, none of it would have been possible.

## ▲ Awards

- ▲ During our conference, Roger was honoured at the Association of Cooperative Educators' banquet with the award for Professional Contribution to ACE by a Member, which recognizes contributions to advancing the stature of co-operative education and training. Congratulations Roger!
- ▲ The centre received an award at the same event for an Outstanding Contribution to ACE by an Organization.
- ▲ FCL received the award for Outstanding Contribution to Co-operative Education and Training by an organization.
- ▲ And grad student Dwayne Pattison was awarded the Saskatchewan Centennial Merit Scholarship from the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

## ▲ Publications Forthcoming

- ▲ *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*, an occasional paper by grad student Rob Dobrohoczki — forthcoming
- ▲ *The Social Economy in Quebec: Lessons and Challenges for Internationalizing Co-operation*, by Marguerite Mendell — editing complete, with author for approval
- ▲ *Consumer Identities and Co-operative Membership*, a research report by Social Cohesion summer researcher Colin Leinenweber — editing in process
- ▲ *Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion: Co-operative Community Responses to Globalization in Canada*, centre book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett and Nora — in process
- ▲ *Factors Influencing Demutualizing and Mutualizing: Conversions of the Co-operative Organizational Form*, by Roger and Jorge Sousa — centre book, in process

## ▲ Staff/Student/Centre News

- ▲ Lou was appointed chair of the International Co-operative Alliance Research Forum at the combined CASC/ACE/ICA meetings during Congress 2007 in Saskatoon; she had served as vice-president for several years
- ▲ Roger was appointed president of the Association of Cooperative Educators at its AGM during the same meetings; he had been vice-president for the two previous years
- ▲ Michael will be on sabbatical beginning 1 July. Though his plans are still evolving, he expects to be in Saskatoon for most of the time, working on the usual range of topics and projects, including his graduate student supervision.
- ▲ MA student Juanita Bascu successfully defended her thesis in June and is moving to Ontario, where she hopes to continue her graduate work
- ▲ MA student Jason Heit returned to the centre after several months in Vancouver and is back working full time on his thesis

- ▲ PhD student Mitch Diamantopoulos is leaving the centre at the end of June to head the University of Regina's School of Journalism and Communications; he will continue with his academic program on a long-distance basis
- ▲ PhD student Monica Juarez Adeler has moved to Winnipeg but will continue to work for the centre until the end of August, when she takes up a contract with the Social Economy project administered by the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance
- ▲ The centre was extremely pleased to be featured in a glossy promotional piece titled *Making Waves: A Landscape of Discovery, Creativity, and Innovation*, produced by U of S Research Communications and highlighting innovative research activity on campus. And Lou and details about our conference were featured in a brochure titled *Road to Congress*, which highlighted the theme days — one of which was the Social Economy — at Congress (copies of both are in your board package).
- ▲ Finally, we're very pleased to announce that on 29 June, Professor Candido Cervantes will be arriving to begin a six-month position as visiting scholar at the centre. Professor Cervantes is a professor of economic history in the Faculty of Economics and Business Studies, and currently dean of University Extension and Institutional Relations at the University La Laguna, Canary Islands, Spain.

#### ▲ The Seminar Series

The Social Economy and the Co-operative University in the Age of "Outreach and Engagement," Len Findlay, 29 March 07

#### ▲ Visitors

In early May, we hosted two Aboriginal scholars from Australia — Dr. John Maynard, chair of Aboriginal Studies and head of Wollotuka, School of Aboriginal Studies at the University of Newcastle, and Dr. Bob Morgan, an Aboriginal elder and educator, who has been involved for many years in policy work related to Aboriginal education. And in early June we hosted Masoud Ramezani, a researcher from Iran, who extended his time at Congress so that he could spend time at the centre.

#### ▲ Scholars Update

**Isobel Findlay** has ongoing duties on advisory committees for six MA and PhD students working on co-op topics and as academic co-director and principal investigator for nine Social Economy research projects based at CUISR. She has also published or presented on the following co-op topics:

Journal article: "Putting Co-operative Principles into Practice: Lessons Learned from Canada's North." *ICA Review of International Co-operation* 99, vol. 1 (2006)

Technical reports: with Wanda Wuttunee, *Our Co-op: Our Community*. Final Report for Koomiut Co-operative Association Ltd., Kugaaruk, Nunavut, Arctic Co-operatives Limited, and Nunavut Research Institute, 2006; also with Wanda Wuttunee, *Our Co-op: Our Community Newsletter*, for membership of Koomiut Co-operative, 2006

Conference presentation: with Mitch Diamontopoulos and Robert Dobrohoczki, “Exploring the Social Economy in Saskatchewan. Co-operative Innovation Influencing the Social Economy,” annual meeting of Association of Cooperative Educators, Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, and International Co-operative Alliance Research Forum, at Congress 2007, Saskatoon, 31 May

Workshop facilitation: chair and facilitator, one-day provincial Linking, Learning, Leveraging Social Economy workshop, 5 December 2006

**Louise Clarke** chaired two sessions at the joint CASC/ACE/ICA meetings in Saskatoon as well as participating on a regular basis in Social Economy meetings and project adjudication through CUISR. She is part of two PhD committees in the Co-op Concentration — chair of Monica’s and a member of Rochelle’s. And she is a member of the cluster studying social enterprise development in the Social Economy project.

**Len Findlay** made a presentation in the Centre’s Seminar Series titled “The Social Economy and the Co-operative University in the Age of ‘Outreach and Engagement.’”

**Sheryl Mills** is teaching her annual class on co-operative learning through the College of Education.

**Dan Ish** has ongoing involvement with the China Project, was co-author of a recent centre booklet, and serves on the centre’s board.

A number of Scholars participated in various ways in the joint CASC/ACE/ICA meetings during Congress 2007. **Ellen Goddard** was acclaimed for a second year as CASC president, gave a presentation, and chaired a session, in addition to bringing a number of her graduate students with her as presenters; **Jorge Sousa** gave two presentations and chaired two sessions; **Morris Altman** gave two presentations; **Ian MacPherson** gave a presentation, chaired a session, and was involved in various other organizational ways; and **Marj Benson** was a participant in one of the keynote speaker presentations.

## ▲ Partners and Developments

This section highlights relevant issues and developments among centre sponsors. Reports from The CUMIS Group and Concentra Financial were unavailable at the time of writing.

*Federated Co-operatives Limited* (Marilyn McKee reporting)**Democracy and Governance**

- ▲ FCL held a very successful 78th AGM in Saskatoon 5–6 March 2007. Delegates passed several resolutions, including one that will change the calculation of delegate entitlement to FCL. The formula will result in a fixed number of 425 delegates, a change from the current method of determining the delegate number based strictly on annual purchases from FCL and subject to inflation and not real growth. At minimum, every member is still allotted one delegate.
- ▲ FCL's board is currently looking at adjusting district boundaries and recommending a reduction in the number of districts from nineteen to fifteen, thus reducing the size of the board. Amalgamations, mergers, and dissolutions continue, which has caused an imbalance in representation. The board is attempting to address this issue with an in-depth study examining many factors, with the overall intention being to ensure that every member of FCL has fair representation. The board plans to bring a resolution forward for change at the next AGM in March 2008.

**News Items**

- ▲ On 23 May 2007, the Co-op Retailing System and FCL in particular lost a great leader when former FCL CEO Wayne Thompson passed away at RUH. Wayne served thirty-four years with FCL, twenty-four of those as CEO. Wayne had announced his retirement in late March of this year due to his declining health. We will all miss this icon of co-operation and business.
- ▲ FCL's Board of Directors appointed Art Postle as CEO effective 2 April 2007. Art has been with FCL since 1976, holding the position of Vice President – Treasurer since 1987.
- ▲ Wayne Elmgren was appointed FCL Vice President – Treasurer on 1 May 2007. Wayne began his career with FCL in 1977 and has most recently been the Corporate Controller.
- ▲ FCL is most appreciative of the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan for the nomination and subsequent awarding of the Outstanding Contribution to Co-operative Education and Training at the recent ACE conference. It is an honour indeed to be recognized by one's peers and we thank the centre for the nomination.

**Operations**

- ▲ In addition to the regular equity payment program, FCL made a special cash repayment of \$50 million to retail members in February 2007, which represented 8.4% of FCL shares held on 1 February.
- ▲ On 1 May 2007, FCL made a midyear equity payment totaling \$10.7 million. This is essentially a repurchase of 2% of shares each member held in FCL.
- ▲ After six months of 2007 operations, FCL is slightly ahead of budget, with sales of \$2.4 billion and savings of \$225 million. It is looking like another good year.

- ▲ The \$1 billion CCRL (refinery) expansion is still on target and will progress over the next five to seven years.
- ▲ The FCL lumber operation at Canoe, BC, is going through a difficult time, as are all lumber mills. Economics are such that this area of business will be closely monitored over the next few months. The division has experienced economic difficulties in the past and is braced for cutbacks if necessary.
- ▲ We are pleased with the co-op growth in western Canada, and also very proud of our PEOPLE who work in co-ops and of the many impressive new facilities that dot the landscape.

**SaskCentral** (Karl Baumgardner reporting)

**Financial**

	Actual (x 1,000)	Plan (x 1,000)
Assets	\$1,348,388	\$1,318,704
Total Equity	\$205,082	\$190,398
Interest Margin	0.50	0.43
Invested Earnings	\$8,463	\$5,017
Retained Earnings	\$131,000	\$108,400
Productivity	38.93%	59.43%
R.O.E.	9.3%	7.4%

- ▲ SaskCentral exceeded targets due to the performance of investors, SaskCentral, and the sale of CUMIS shares (\$13.6 million).
- ▲ In February 07, SaskCentral made a distribution of \$11.9 million to members, which represents 14% return on share capital.

**People**

- ▲ SaskCentral was ranked thirteenth in the Top 50 Best Workplaces in Canada.
- ▲ The board approved a new policy on corporate social responsibility.
- ▲ In January 07, SaskCentral began a new provincial democratic structure.

**Growth**

- ▲ Plans are underway to establish a Prairie Central (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta). Consultations and discussions with credit unions will be completed prior to 31 October 07.
- ▲ On 11 June, SaskCentral presented a position paper on TILMA as part of the government hearings.
- ▲ SaskCentral is preparing recommendations for changes to the *Credit Union Act*.

**Business**

- ▲ SaskCentral is an active participant in the plans for switching to chip-card technology.
- ▲ A financial gain was realized via the sale of CUMIS shares and in May, SaskCentral and Alberta Central announced the sale of CUETS to MBNA Canada.

## Board Appointments, 5 April 2007

- ▲ President: Gordon Lightfoot (Innovation Credit Union)
- ▲ First Vice-President: Dennis Anderson (Conexus Credit Union)
- ▲ Second Vice-President: Vern Buck (Spectra Credit Union)

## *The Co-operators* (Karl Baumgardner reporting)

### Financial

	March 2007	2006
After-Tax Income	\$8.2m	\$31.9m
Gross Written Premiums	\$423m	\$428m
Loss Ratio	74.4%	67.9%
Investment Income	\$45m	\$47.1m

- ▲ Auto claims were significantly higher than in 2006. Average premiums continue to decline due to rate decreases taken in most areas of Canada. The balance sheet is strong and investment gains are good.

### Growth

- ▲ The strategic intent is to expand the agency distribution from 474 (February 07) to 525 in 2010.
- ▲ Initiatives are underway to boost the multi-product client base.
- ▲ Three new members joined The Co-operators in April 07: Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations, Fédération des coopératives funéraires du Québec, and the Ontario Federation of Food Co-ops.
- ▲ The board approved a contribution of \$600,000 to the CED funds, raising the fund to \$5.2 million.

### Human Resources

#### *Management Changes*

- ▲ Kevin Daniel replaces Dan Thornton (COO, Co-op Life, Regina).
- ▲ Rob Wesseling replaces Peter Parkin (COO, Sovereign General, Calgary).
- ▲ Bruce West replaces Kevin Daniel (CFO, The Co-operators, Guelph).

#### *Board Changes*

- ▲ Richard Lemoing (Minnedosa, MB, and a director of FCL) was elected president and five new directors joined the board.

### Trust and Reputation

- ▲ The Co-operators received positive coverage in the media recently.
- ▲ The Co-operators Development Corporation received four Silver Tommie Awards.

# Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, Outreach and Engagement, and Administration

## Lou Hammond Ketilson

### ▲ Teaching

External Examiner for Juanita Bascu, Master of Arts, Political Studies, *Measuring Citizen Attitudes Toward Globalization*, successful defence, 4 June 07

Committee chair: MA Interdisciplinary Studies: Kama Soles, Dwayne Pattison;  
PhD Interdisciplinary Studies: Rob Dobrohoczki, Zhao Jun, Mitch Diamantopoulos

Co-supervisor: Rochelle Smith, PhD Interdisciplinary Studies

Committee member: Kim Brown, MA Political Studies; Kim Morrison, PhD Interdisciplinary Studies; Monica Juarez Adeler, PhD Interdisciplinary Studies

### ▲ Research

Lou is a participant in many research initiatives.

- ▲ principal investigator for the centre's Social Economy project, "Linking, Learning, Leveraging," jointly undertaken by the Centre and the Community-University Institute for Social Research in partnership with academics and community partners in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario
- ▲ co-applicant in the Atlantic, Southern Ontario, and Northern Social Economy regional nodes; participated in the annual symposium of the Southern Ontario Social Economy Node in Toronto in April
- ▲ member of the Working Group on Social Economy Curriculum in Business Schools; attended meetings 25–26 April in Toronto
- ▲ co-applicant for "Tracking Quality of Life in Saskatoon"; the survey has just been completed; Lou is responsible for writing two articles, one on the quality of life of Aboriginal peoples and another on the quality of life of women
- ▲ member of the CIRIEC-International-sponsored Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy working group for a project titled "Methods and Indicators for Evaluating the Social and Co-operative Economy." The group has just completed a draft report, *Système de classification économique des organisations d'économie sociale* (Economic Classification System of Social Economy Organizations), and a research assistant is currently gathering information on evaluation strategies used by social economy actors in Canada outside of Québec.

- ▲ co-coordinator of the Aboriginal Cluster of the Social Cohesion project; in process of preparing final report on research in northern communities
  - ▲ member of the Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation led by Denis Harrisson at the Centre de recherche sur les innovations sociales at the University of Quebec at Montreal; attended the first meeting, 18 April 07.
  - ▲ co-applicant with Jean Marc Fontan, Université du Québec à Montréal, in a SSHRC application for a grant aimed at creating an interuniversity research network devoted to the social economy and social innovation
  - ▲ co-applicant in Murray’s SSHRC-funded “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”
  - ▲ continued involvement with the Saskatchewan First Nations Wholesale Co-operative, writing a case study and overseeing the production of a tool-kit for Aboriginal co-op development; she is a partner in this Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) project
  - ▲ also working with the FSIN’s First Nations Agriculture Council to develop agricultural co-ops in Saskatchewan First Nations communities, and overseeing the production of a tool-kit to support First Nations agricultural co-op development; she is a partner in their second CDI application
- ▲ Publications and Related Activities
- ▲ reviewed two articles, one for CIRIEC International *Annals of Public and Co-operative Economics*; one for Canadian Edition of the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*
  - ▲ with Isobel Findlay, co-editing a special edition of *Économie et Solidarité*, the CIRIEC-Canada Journal, forthcoming 2008; also contributing an article on Pond Inlet
  - ▲ in process: three case studies — on the two CDI projects mentioned above, and the Pond Inlet study for the Social Cohesion project
  - ▲ “First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” chapter in forthcoming centre book *Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion: Co-operative Community Responses to Globalization in Canada*
  - ▲ two papers in progress: one on the methodological issues of mapping the social economy in the northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan node of the Social Economy project; and another on the methodological issues of measuring the social economy in the same region
  - ▲ with Gayle Broad, preparing a paper on “Mapping the Social Economy in Aboriginal Communities in Canada” for a book to be published by CIRIEC’s Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy working group, Methods and Indicators for Evaluating the Social and Co-operative Economy; presented a draft to the working group in Seville, Spain, in May 07

▲ Presentations

- ▲ panel member for workshop on Community-University Partnerships organized by SSHRC, Congress 2007, Saskatoon, 30 May
- ▲ moderator for panel on “Branding — The Co-operative and Credit Union Way,” at Harness the Hidden Potential, the 2007 Annual General Meetings and Congress for the Canadian Co-operative Association and Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Co-operatives, St. John’s, June
- ▲ collaborated with business school colleagues at York and Laval to submit a panel proposal on “Raising the Profile of Nonprofits, Co-ops and Social Enterprise as Legitimate Organizations for Management Research and Teaching” to Administrative Sciences Association of Canada annual meetings, Ottawa, June 07
- ▲ collaborated with Gayle Broad for paper proposal titled “Mapping the Social Economy in Aboriginal Communities in Canada” to be presented to the First World CIRIEC Research Conference on the Social Economy, Building and Strengthening Communities: The Social Economy in a Changing World, 22–25 October 07

▲ Conferences/AGMs

- ▲ annual meetings of Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, Association of Cooperative Educators, and ICA Research Committee, Saskatoon, 28 May – 1 June 07
- ▲ AGM and Congress for Canadian Co-operative Association and Newfoundland-Labrador Federation of Co-operatives, St John’s, 26–29 June 07

▲ Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ proposed and received approval for a three-year, once annual, Leadership Development Program for FCL board of directors
- ▲ with Roger, organized a half-day leadership workshop for Saskatoon credit union and co-op staff, 15 June; workshop leader was Françoise Morissette, Industrial Relations Centre, Queen’s University

▲ Administration

*Specific to the Centre*

- ▲ developed draft of the centre’s five-year plan
- ▲ developed centre budget for 2007–08, 09, 10
- ▲ chaired four student advisory committee meetings
- ▲ elected member of the board at the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association’s AGM, 15 June
- ▲ elected chair of the ICA Research Committee at the ICA’s annual Researchers’

Forum held in Saskatoon in May 2007, in conjunction with the hundredth anniversary of the university and Congress 2007

- ▲ member of advisory group for the Advanced Co-op Developer Training Program to be developed by Devco (FWC Development Cooperative), led by Melanie Conn and Marty Frost with funding under the CDI Innovations and Research Program
- ▲ member of the search committee for Centennial Chair in Public Policy
- ▲ since January 05, member of the university's Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Pre-eminence, which is drafting a foundational document for the university; participated in many meetings; final draft pending
- ▲ vice-chair of the ICA Research Committee, which will be holding an International Researchers' Forum in Saskatoon in May 07 in conjunction with the hundredth anniversary of the university and the annual meetings of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
- ▲ since May 06, member of the university's Task Force on the Management of Centres, which is considering all matters related to the management of research centres and institutes on campus and preparing draft recommendations to be approved by University Council; participated in several meetings to review drafts of report

### *Research Administration re the Social Economy Project*

Update on regional node activities:

- ▲ organized and chaired Graduate Student Workshop — Building Respectful Relationships, Saskatoon , 28 May
- ▲ with the assistance of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging management board, plus Nora and Lorraine, wrote and submitted the project Milestone Report, 31 March, which set out the final research plan for the overall project and planned methods for evaluating progress.
- ▲ participated in the conference calls and meetings organized by the National Hub and other associated committees and adhoc groups; since March first she has participated in a national facilitating committee conference call on Mapping the Social Economy and monthly conference calls for the national hub

## Brett Fairbairn

### ▲ Teaching

Brett's administrative leave ends on 30 June. During his leave, he has been doing only graduate teaching, which includes teaching his new PhD student, Mark McCulloch, half of his major field in Modern European History. In May, Brett's

student Tom Novosel successfully defended his thesis on early attempts to build a pulp mill in northern Saskatchewan. Brett is also supervising one and co-supervising one other PhD student, and is on seven additional PhD and MA committees.

## ▲ Research

Brett's research during his leave has revolved around winding up the Social Cohesion project (including the production of related publications) and developing the work of the Governance Cluster of the Social Economy project. The Governance Cluster will be co-directed by Quintin Fox of CCA-Ottawa, with whom Brett will be developing the cluster's idea of a "governance toolkit," including a range of different kinds of resources usable by small social enterprises, people involved in community-based planning, and people in larger social-economy organizations looking for in-depth materials. The idea is to develop widely useful materials not specific to particular legal jurisdictions or operating environments.

Brett's research from the Social Cohesion project was featured in the latest centre newsletter, and some of his ideas about governance were included in the centre's special mass-distribution newsletter on governance, *Co-op Strategies*.

In April Brett learned that he was successful in his application, as principal investigator, for a SSHRC Standard Research Grant (Interdisciplinary) entitled "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations" (\$123,930). His co-investigators are Murray and Marie Bouchard of Université du Québec à Montréal. Together they will investigate case studies of how multistakeholder engagement, facilitated by democratic governance structures of the social economy, has facilitated innovations.

Co-investigator, "Coordination, Identity and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada," SSHRC Standard Research Grant; principal investigator is Murray Fulton

Co-investigator, "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century," SSHRC Knowledge Impact in Society program; principal investigator is Murray Fulton

Co-investigator, "Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society," SSHRC Strategic Research Network program; principal investigator is Denis Harrisson of UQAM

## ▲ Publications

Brett has been working on a concluding volume from the Social Economy project, tentatively titled *Imagination and Cohesion: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*. When Brett and Nora have finished editing and revising the volume, with input from other authors — likely this summer — it will be submitted to a scholarly press for consideration. Other publications include:

- ▲ “Economic and Social Developments,” in *Imperial Germany 1871–1918: The Short Oxford History of Germany*, ed. James Retallack. Oxford: Oxford University Press (peer reviewed), forthcoming
- ▲ “A Shift in Values: Credit Union Expansion by Conversion of Bank Branches,” accepted for a volume on business conversions involving co-operatives, ed. Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa. Originally a research report to Co-operatives Secretariat, Government of Canada; forthcoming as a centre book
- ▲ “From Farm to Community: Co-operatives in Alberta and Saskatchewan, 1905–2005,” in *The Prairie West as Promised Land*, ed. Doug Francis and Chris Kitzan. Ottawa: Canadian Museum of Civilization (peer-reviewed), forthcoming
- ▲ “‘Canada’s Co-operative Province’: Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005,” *Perspectives of Saskatchewan: 1905–2005*, ed. Jene Porter. Toronto: University of Toronto Press (peer-reviewed), forthcoming
- ▲ “A Century of Prairie and Saskatchewan Farm Co-operatives: Philosophy, Organization, and History,” in *The Prairie Agrarian Movement Revisited*, ed. Murray Knuttila and Bob Stirling. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 2007, pp. 93–106.
- ▲ Review of Cornelius Torp, *Die Herausforderung der Globalisierung: Wirtschaft und Politik in Deutschland 1860–1914* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2005), *American Historical Review*, forthcoming

## ▲ Presentations

Brett has been busy as a speaker and presenter during his leave, taking advantage of his freedom from administrative duties to accept many more speaking engagements, including numerous keynote presentations that involved considerable preparation.

“A Rural Meeting,” Agriculture 2020: What’s Your Vision? Saskatoon, 12 April 07

“Stakeholders, Governance, Cognition: Democracy and Cooperative Success,” New Visions New Ventures study group, St. Paul, MN, 26 April 07

“Globalization, Community, and Cooperative Business: Creating Social Cohesion Through Market Relations,” keynote plenary address to annual meeting of the Northcountry Cooperative Development Fund, Minneapolis, MN, 26 April 07

“Academic Culture and Community Research: Building Respectful Relations,” keynote presentation to workshop titled Building Respectful Relationships: Conducting Community-Based Research, for graduate students studying the social economy, Saskatoon, 28 May 07

“Co-operatives and Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy,” keynote plenary presentation to CASC/ACE/ICA joint meetings, Saskatoon, 29 May 07

“Media, Religion, and Historical Revisionism in 20th Century Germany and France,” Canadian Historical Association, Saskatoon, 30 May 07

“Imagination and Identity: The Social Economy and the State in Canada,” international seminar titled “Social Economy: An International Perspective,” Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, 4–5 June 07

### ▲ Outreach and Engagement

Brett is a member of CCA’s Committee on Good Governance, 06–07, a committee established this past year with a mandate to (a) develop an index of good governance in co-operatives, and (b) develop a program of governance awards for co-operatives. Brett’s participation is connected with his work as co-lead of the Governance Cluster of the Social Economy project.

### ▲ Administration

Brett has gradually become re-involved in his duties in the Department of History and the College of Arts and Science, which resume fully on 1 July. Also, he has been elected to university council as a representative of the College of Arts and Science, and will assume duties as the chair of university council effective 1 July.

## Murray Fulton

### ▲ Teaching

Agricultural Economics 842.3: Agricultural Market Organizations  
Economics 898.3: Special Topics Class in the Economics of Co-operatives

Murray is supervising six MA and PhD students working on co-operative topics and is a committee member for a number of others. His PhD student Lampros Laprinakis is working on three papers: one on the impact of Saputo’s acquisition of Dairyworld; another on the role of cognitive dissonance in determining member commitment to co-operatives; and a third on the impact of decision framing on the strategic decisions taken by co-operatives.

### ▲ Research

Murray’s SSHRC-funded Knowledge Impact in Society project, “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century,” has spun off a lot of activity over the past couple of months. The first was a one-day workshop on 26 March that brought together leaders in the biofuels and bioproducts area to discuss the future of the industry over the next twenty years.

The second was to secure \$7,500 in funding from the Cyril Capling Trust Fund to undertake a project titled “Agriculture 2020: Visions of our Future.” This involved the writing of twelve essays, three of them by students, each from the point of view of some time in the future. The essays were presented at a workshop on 12 April; see details at [www.kis.usask.ca/Agriculture2020.html](http://www.kis.usask.ca/Agriculture2020.html).

The third was to co-sponsor the conference Food and Fuel: The Implications for Agricultural Research Policy, held in Saskatoon, 5–6 June, in conjunction with the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society and the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network. This international conference brought together academics with industry leaders and government officials to take stock of North American agricultural research and to explore ways in which agricultural research can be refunded and redirected to revitalize productivity growth.

Murray has a great number of other research projects underway, including a new one as of April 07 — Principal Investigator, “Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada,” SSHRC Standard Research Grant (\$45,000). Others include his co-investigative role in Brett’s new project, “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations,” and the following:

- ▲ “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives,” funded by SSHRC
- ▲ With Rose Olfert and Mark Partridge, examining the role of co-operatives in Canada as a factor in population growth; funding from the Co-operatives Secretariat; research is part of the Social Economy project
- ▲ “Evaluation of Market Opportunities and Supply Chain Structure for Bio-control Products in Canada,” examining the role of co-operatives in providing co-ordination in this particular supply chain
- ▲ Project examining the role of producer associations in innovation activity as part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network
- ▲ “Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management,” SSHRC funded
- ▲ The China Project, CIDA funded

#### ▲ Presentations

With Kathy Lang, “Agency and Declining Economic Linkage: The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Share Conversion Story,” to the Socialist Studies Annual Meeting, Congress 2007, Saskatoon, 30 May 07

With Lampros Lamprinakos, “Co-operatives and Local Communities: An Economic Psychological Approach,” to the CASC/ACE/ICA annual meeting, Congress 2007, Saskatoon, 30 May 07

“Canola Breeding and Freedom to Operate,” to the Food and Fuel: The Implications for Agricultural Research Policy conference, Saskatoon, 5–6 June 07

### ▲ Administration

Murray is a member of the Interdisciplinary Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

## Michael Gertler

### ▲ Teaching

Michael is not teaching this semester, although he continues his supervisory role with six MA students (four in sociology and two in co-op studies) and is a member of four interdisciplinary PhD advisory committees, three of which are in co-operative studies. He also served as external examiner for two MA defences, one in geography, the other in political studies.

### ▲ Research

Co-investigator with sector partner the Saskatoon Co-operative Association on SSHRC-funded “Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food System Performance”

Co-applicant on the centre’s SSHRC project on the Social Economy and a collaborator on the National Hub being run by the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies

Co-applicant in Murray’s SSHRC-funded “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”

### ▲ Publications

“Production Co-operatives and Co-operative Production: Legacy and Promise,” in *The Prairie Agrarian Movement Revisited: Centenary Symposium of the Foundation of the Territorial Grain Growers Association*, ed. Murray Knuttila and Bob Stirling, Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center, University of Regina, 2007, 107–26

Review of Michael Mayerfeld Bell, Susan Jarnagin, Gregory Peter, and Donna Bauer, *Farming for Us All: Practical Agriculture and the Cultivation of Sustainability* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), forthcoming in *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*

### ▲ Presentations

“Co-operative Learning: The Thesis as (Guided) Co-production,” keynote address, University of Saskatchewan/University of Regina, Joint Sociology Student Conference, Saskatoon, 9–10 March

“Studies in and with Communities: A Primer on Community-Based Research,” presentation to workshop titled Building Respectful Relationships: Conducting Community-Based Research, for graduate students studying the social economy, Saskatoon, 28 May 07

“Co-operatives and the Knowledge Nexus: From Education and Training to Brokering Knowledgeable Economies,” presentation at ICA/CASC/ACE meetings, Saskatoon, 30 May

“Introduction to Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food Sector Performance,” presented at annual meeting of the Canadian Association for Food Studies, Saskatoon, May 07

With JoAnn Jaffe, “Beyond Cheap, Low-Fat, Local, Organic, and Fair: Conceptualizing Food System Performance,” at same conference

With JoAnn Jaffe, “From Generation to Generation? Collective Food-Styles and the Social Construction of Consumption,” at same conference

With Nancy Allan, “Linking Global and Local: Fair Trade and Community Development,” at the Canadian Student Fair Trade Network annual international symposium, Saskatoon, 1–3 June

#### ▲ Administration/Outreach and Engagement

Michael is academic co-lead of the Community Economic Development Module, Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) and also a CUISR board member. He is past president of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation; a member of the Administrative Committee, Regional and Urban Development, and of the Equity Committee in the College of Arts and Science; a member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Library Committee and chair of the Employment and Education Equity Committee in the Department of Sociology; and a member of the Local Arrangements Committee, Canadian Association for Food Studies, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Saskatoon.

Michael represented the centre at the CEDNet conference in St. John’s, April 07.

He has also recently become a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Cooperatives*. In other editorial activity, he reviewed a manuscript for the journal *Agriculture and Human Values*.

#### Nora Russell

Much of Nora’s time over the past few months has been taken up with writing, editing, designing, and producing many communications-based materials in connection with the centre’s combined conference, Congress 2007, and the university’s hundredth anniversary celebrations. These include:

- ▲ writing and editing materials for the U of S Research Communications document *Making Waves*, which featured the centre as a unit with innovative research activities; this came out of the university's foundational document on areas of promise and pre-eminence, to which Nora some time ago contributed a detailed document on the centre's areas of expertise
- ▲ providing materials for the *Road to Congress* brochure, which featured the centre in connection with the theme day on the Social Economy
- ▲ producing an information package on the centre designed for the Canadian Student Fair Trade Network, which had a program at Congress
- ▲ producing display materials about research activities in our node of the Social Economy project for the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships booth at Congress, which featured the work of the five nodes across the country; our materials included a take-away piece on the Co-op Concentration as well as a coil-bound collection of one-page descriptions of twenty-seven research projects currently underway
- ▲ designing and supervising the production of a three-by-four-foot poster featuring the Aboriginal research being undertaken by the centre for a university-wide display on Aboriginal research during Congress; also prepared an abstract for the booklet produced to accompany the display
- ▲ designing, editing, and preparing the program for the CASC/ACE/ICA joint meetings, a fifty-six page document

Other activities this quarter included:

- ▲ editing, organizing, and doing the final layout for The Milestone Report updating SSHRC on activities and future plans for the Social Economy project; including the appendices, this is a 122-page document
- ▲ preparing a centre newsletter
- ▲ writing an article for the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association's newsletter
- ▲ writing a three-thousand-word article on the centre for the *UK Journal of Co-operatives*, which is producing a special Canadian edition
- ▲ editing the two CDI-funded projects administered through the centre and produced by Kim Sanderson (see Highlights section under Other Research Update)
- ▲ commenting on the draft report from the chair of the task force considering the establishment of a U of S Press; Nora was a member of this committee
- ▲ serving as part of the interview team for the USTEP summer student
- ▲ providing a great deal of editorial and publication advice and assistance to Centre Scholar Marj Benson in the preparation of her latest book
- ▲ participating in the centre's strategic planning retreat in March
- ▲ participating in the CASC/ACE/ICA conference and chairing one of the French sessions

- ▲ assisting Patty with her job appeal
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last advisory board meeting
- ▲ organizing, writing, and layout for this director's report

### *Professional*

Nora is on the executive of the Saskatoon branch of the Editors' Association of Canada. She was co-organizer of a very successful spring workshop on the production process in the publishing industry, which attracted participants from the university, provincial publishers, and other community-based organizations in the province. Nora is also a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, which connects the centre to other publishing organizations throughout the province.

## Roger Herman

As mentioned in the Highlights section, Roger was the co-ordinator and chair of the centre's joint conference held during Congress 2007 — Co-operative Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy. Organizing this event took months of painstaking preparation, demanding not only time, but also the ability to balance a myriad of concurrent tasks and responsibilities, co-ordinate and monitor the activities of others involved across the country, and sooth the concerns of the more than 160 participants, most of whom contacted him more than once in the weeks leading up to the conference. He managed it all with extraordinary skill and patience. And if this were not enough, he also found the time to serve on the university's Congress 2007 planning committee (see more details in the Highlights section under The Conference).

Roger was elected president of the board of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) at the organization's AGM, held during our joint conference; he has served as vice-president for the past two years. And he was also honoured with the organization's award for Professional Contribution to ACE by a Member.

Roger also has other responsibilities:

- ▲ He is a member of the Finance Cluster of the Social Economy project and is conducting research on the social economy with Lou and Juanita, and in conjunction with the Canadian Co-operative Association, regarding levels of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian credit unions. The survey is currently being administered and preliminary analysis will begin this summer.
- ▲ His work with Jorge Sousa (University of Alberta) on co-operative conversions, undertaken on contract with the Co-operatives Secretariat, is in editing and will be published in book form by the centre in the fall.
- ▲ He co-ordinated the successful completion of two projects for the Co-operative Development Initiative. The first identified opportunities for Canadian producers to become involved in the development of value-added agricultural

co-operatives. The second involved collecting and reviewing materials for developing value added co-operatives. The work was subcontracted to a consultant who is former student of one of the Centre Fellows.

- ▲ Roger participated in the centre's strategic planning retreat in March.
- ▲ He co-ordinated the participation of graduate student Mike Chartier in the Building Co-operative Futures youth conference in Guelph in May, and in the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program this summer.
- ▲ With Lou's assistance, he co-ordinated a workshop on Co-operative Leadership held in Saskatoon 15 June. Designed for senior managers and leaders from co-operatives, the workshop was facilitated by Françoise Morissette, who recently published a book on leadership in Canada that features a chapter on co-op leaders.
- ▲ Roger is responsible for co-ordinating visiting scholars at the centre, managing the centre's seminar series, and liaising with the centre's graduate students. Visitors this quarter included two Aboriginal scholars from Australia and a researcher from Iran.
- ▲ He continues to respond to inquiries regarding New Generation Co-operatives as well as co-ops in general, and recently met with a group interested in creating a co-operative for Metis people and agencies involved in the Batoche and area tourism industry.
- ▲ He is a board member for the Saskatoon Community Clinic, sitting on the Operations Committee and chairing an ad hoc committee developing policy to deal with complaints against clinic physicians. His term ends in June 07.

Roger is the centre's representative on a number of organizations:

- ▲ an advisory committee of the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan planning an international community development conference for Saskatoon in 2008
- ▲ a committee of community economic development organizations developing a Saskatchewan regional CED umbrella organization
- ▲ a national Social Economy discussion group facilitated by the Canadian Co-operative Association
- ▲ the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development
- ▲ and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, with whom he participated in a strategic planning workshop in March

## Lorraine Salt

### ▲ SSHRC Project Administration

The SSHRC Milestone Report was the preoccupation for several office staff in March. Lorraine co-ordinated the data collection, compiling the responses from

project researchers into a single set of project commitments over the five-year term of the research in terms of total number of published materials, conference presentations, online materials, graduate students, etc.

Planning for the CASC/ICA/ACE part of Congress 2007 was also a major part of our workload over the past few months. Lorraine invited Social Cohesion project researchers to present their findings at the conference and also organized an informal dinner meeting of the Social Economy project management board and distinguished guests. Lorraine was responsible for the headsets for simultaneous translation during the four-day event, and was available for general troubleshooting, escorting international visitors across the campus and helping to host them throughout the week, and helping with the urban community economic development tour.

She continues to participate in conference calls of the CSE Hub management committee.

#### ▲ The Websites

Luke Sather continues to work behind the scenes on a redesign of the centre's website. Numerous mock-ups have been circulated and opinions and new ideas are flowing back to Luke. The latest ideas are promising but will remain a surprise.

The Social Economy project website continues to be updated and to grow. Watch it for new information.

#### ▲ The Library

The online library catalogue is now current and shows a new look and interface. It is recommended that users search using the Expert Search option. Karen and Lorraine have added numerous new items to the catalogue over the past year, which is assisting Karen in developing her cataloguing skills.

A social economy pathfinder is in process of being developed, which will enable our researchers to quickly find project-related materials.

Lorraine continues to enjoy her role as reference librarian and researcher, answering questions from the Centre's Faculty, Scholars, staff, graduate students, campus students, and outside parties.

#### ▲ Professional

In early May, Lorraine attended the Saskatchewan Libraries Conference 2007. Lorraine was co-chair of the conference Social Committee and a member of the Program Committee. She is now chair of the SLA's Advocacy Committee and is co-ordinating the committee's advocacy efforts towards producing a series of

briefing papers on various issues of significance to Saskatchewan librarians, updating the advocacy pages on the SLA website, and continuing to respond to issues relating to library matters. Lorraine is the centre's representative to the Co-operative Network of Saskatoon and is also an active participant in the local Special Libraries Network.

## Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the centre's day-to-day operations and undertakes many additional duties as they arise. Much of her time is spent maintaining the centre's monthly financial statements as well as the SSHRC project account and other research accounts. This involves ensuring that all the supporting documentation is in the files and contacting the Central Registry to obtain the appropriate paperwork if it is missing. It also involves updating the externally-funded research report provided at each board meeting. Other financial activities include helping Karen with publication purchases; processing the transactions on the university credit card and ensuring that expenses are charged to the appropriate account; processing all other invoices and cheques that come into the centre for purchases and payments; and investigating errors.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ preparing and sending out the quarterly invoices to the sponsors; completing the cash report forms and making deposits upon receipt of the dues
- ▲ processing invoices from The Willows for expenses from the centre's retreat
- ▲ preparing a statement for Lou outlining projected expenditures to the end of June, the centre's year-end. This involved checking the various sub-accounts (i.e., travel, materials, equipment) and keeping an itemized listing in each category showing the total amount that would be expended by the end of June. It also involved reviewing numerous outstanding expenditures associated with the CASC/ICA/ACE conference, which will be processed before the end of June.
- ▲ preparing the paperwork for transferring funding for Chipu Kangyi, hired in connection with the SEE project with the Co-ops Secretariat
- ▲ tracking down many missing receipts and other documentation for several centre accounts; processing many journal vouchers for incorrect entries in our financial accounts in connection with the university's year-end April 2007.
- ▲ ensuring that the final expenditures associated with the Social Cohesion project had been cleared and the fund closed out
- ▲ assisting Lorraine with the Social Economy project by dealing with paperwork for sub-transfer agreements and cheque requisitions
- ▲ contacting the centre's suppliers regarding the change in credit card. This involved contacting each company, completing the required documentation, and providing the new card information.

- ▲ processing payroll forms for graduate students Zhao Jun and Monica
- ▲ processing the expenses associated with the two CCA projects in which the Centre was involved
- ▲ creating two new funds for the CASC/ACE/ICA conference and scrutinizing all expenses processed through them (i.e., travel expense claims, meal expenses, speaker expenses, translation expenses, etc.)

Patty is responsible for organizing the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes the many hours that go into co-ordinating a suitable date, preparing the minutes and other materials, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch.

Patty also co-ordinated several other meetings this quarter:

- ▲ three individual meetings in April between Lou and scholarship students Kama Soles, Rob Dobrohoczki, and Michael Chartier to discuss scholarship renewal
- ▲ Mitch Diamantopoulos's committee meeting in May
- ▲ Rochelle Smith's committee meeting in June

Other responsibilities this quarter include:

- ▲ assisting Lorraine and Karen with the USTEP applications submitted for summer employment; contacting candidates to set up interviews; contacting unsuccessful candidates and preparing payroll forms the successful applicant
- ▲ assisting Roger with various arrangements around planning the CASC/ICA/ACE conference such as faxing letters to international speakers, photocopying materials, confirming food arrangements, final preparation of the conference program, assembling binders and participant folders, etc.; Patty was also involved in registering participants and maintaining the registration table throughout the event as a central information desk
- ▲ assisting Lou in the completion of the ASPA Performance Appraisals and ensuring that the paperwork was submitted by the 15 May deadline

In addition to all this, Patty found the time to take a course on budget development in order to assist her in establishing the centre's budget on-line through the Unifi system.

Both Patty and Karen spend a great deal of time helping both Lou and Lorraine with various administrative tasks associated with the Social Economy project.

## Karen Neufeldt

Karen's regular duties include reception, paperwork, cash reports, filing, xeroxing and printing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, keeping track of stock for reprints, as well as invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills. She is also responsible

for sending out the seminar series announcements and periodic newsletters, updating various databases, whatever other mailouts are required, and helping to prepare packages for the advisory board meeting.

Other special activities this quarter include:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the March advisory board meeting
- ▲ assisting Patty with cheque requisitions, cash reports, and deposits
- ▲ helping Lorraine with typing some of the documents for the Milestone Report
- ▲ making changes and updates to the Social Economy list serves
- ▲ co-ordinating the mail-out of the centre newsletter in March
- ▲ co-ordinating room arrangements, printing, and mail-out of announcements for centre seminars
- ▲ assisting Lorraine with cataloguing information sheets and data input of catalogue records; helping with the distribution of the FCL donation to the Main Library and to BCICS; assisting with circulation, routing journals, shelving returns, etc., as well as helping patrons when Lorraine is away
- ▲ co-ordinating conference calls for both the Social Economy project and the Congress committee meetings
- ▲ making registration, travel, and accommodation arrangements for centre personnel:

Lou and Brett for the Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation meeting at UQAM in April

Lou for the Ontario Social Economy Research Alliance meeting in Toronto in April

Michael for the 2007 CED Conference in St. John's, NF, in April

Michael Chartier to attend the Co-op Youth Conference in Guelph in May

Lou for the CCA Congress in St. John's, NF, in June.

Once people returned, Karen prepared their travel expense claims and submitted them for payment.

- ▲ assisting Roger with many arrangements for the CASC/ACE/ICA conference: typed and submitted forms for the exhibitor booth; faxed and couriered invitation letters to guest speakers; completed registrations for all centre faculty, staff, students, and guests; assisted the many Congress participants with registration, accommodation, responding to e-mail requests as well as in person; made hotel and flight arrangements for eight guest speakers for Congress; dealt with catering arrangements and room assignments, arranged bus charter for Native Theatre Company production; helped Patty, Lorraine, and Juanita at the registration desk throughout the conference; then processed many, many travel expense claims for CIDA-sponsored participants, domestic-sponsored participants, as well as guest speakers

- ▲ inputting data into forms for InterD students' progress reports for Zhao, Dwayne, Kama, and Rochelle and submitted to Grad Studies office
- ▲ printing applications for the Norm Bromberger bursary and sending them to all Canadian universities as well as to Jackie Kuntz at SaskCentral and Warren Crossman at SCA; invoiced SaskCentral for the expenses

Karen also undertakes many incidental tasks for faculty, staff, and scholars.

## The Students

**Angie Wagner** has just completed a CCA internship in Ghana as a reproductive health officer, collecting baseline data on rural male and female artisans.

**Jason Heit** is back in residence at the centre working on his MA thesis. The paper he wrote on website design and quality in selected co-operative organizations awaits Nora's attention for editing. It will be a research report arising from the Social Cohesion project. Jason gave a paper at the CASC/ACE/ICA conference, chaired a session, and assisted with many logistical matters during the meetings.

**Kim Brown** is also working on her MA thesis. She just completed a CCA internship in Kenya working for the Swedish Co-operative Centre on a project targeting agricultural co-operatives and producer groups, addressing issues of poverty and social injustice.

**Monica Juarez Adeler** is nearing the end of the third year of her interdisciplinary PhD. She is currently working on the formal proposal for her dissertation. Monica gave a paper at the CASC/ACE/ICA conference and also assisted with a variety of tasks throughout the week. She left the centre in June for Winnipeg, where she will continue to work for the centre long-distance until the beginning of September, when she begins a contract associated with the Social Economy project for the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance.

**Rob Dobrohoczki** has finished the course work for his PhD and is studying for his comprehensives, which he hopes to sit in September. He has two publications forthcoming, one a chapter co-authored with Brett Fairbairn in the centre book, *Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion*, the other a centre occasional paper titled *Social Cohesion through Market Democratisation*. Rob made two co-presentations at the CASC/ACE/ICA conference and also presented a paper titled "Building Commonwealth: Co-operative Law in the Global Economy" at the 12th annual interdisciplinary Legal Studies Graduate Conference at UBC.

**Zhao Jun** has finished the course work and comprehensives for his PhD and is working on the proposal for his dissertation. Like the other grad students at the centre, he made a presentation at the CASC/ACE/ICA conference and assisted with

various logistical matters. Zhao assisted Michael with the preparation of a proposal for a research project on organic farming in the spring and has returned to China for the summer to work with the World Bank on an agricultural project in western China. He will also be doing case studies on women's participation in co-operatives with the China Academy of Social Science.

**Dwayne Pattison** is nearing the end of the second year of his Interdisciplinary MA program and is working on the literature review for his thesis. He spent much of May working on preparations for the CASC conference; he and Juanita were responsible for putting together the urban and rural tours. He also presented a paper at the conference entitled "Delegates and Branches as a Co-operative Response to Rural Restructuring in Northern Saskatchewan." During the week he helped out where he could but was mainly responsible for looking after the AV equipment.

Dwayne will be spending the summer working on his MA thesis. He has just received ethics approval for his research and is very excited about setting up interviews. In addition, as part of a CUISR internship, he is researching the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association, which recently converted into a co-operative.

Dwayne was pleasantly surprised and honoured to hear that he had been awarded the Saskatchewan Centennial Merit Scholarship from the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

**Rochelle Smith** is working on her PhD dissertation titled "The Relationship of Saskatchewan's Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Toward a New Understanding." She is very close to being finished and hopes to defend it in the fall.

**Mitch Diamantopoulos** has completed the course work for his PhD. He made two presentations at the CASC/ACE/ICA conference and has been spending much of his time recently making preparations to move to Regina to take up his new responsibilities as head of the University of Regina's School of Journalism and Communications on 1 July.

**Juanita Bacsu** recently completed and successfully defended her MA thesis, which examined citizens' attitudes toward globalization and is based on the Social Cohesion project. She also just completed a survey instrument that examines credit union support for co-operative and social enterprise development; the survey is in the process of being implemented. With Dwayne, she helped plan the rural and urban tours for the CASC/ACE/ICA conference. And like other graduate students, she made presentations at the conference and had many organizational responsibilities preparing for the event.

**Mike Chartier** has been busy with a variety of activities over the past couple of months. During March and April, he worked on his paper "Adult Education and

the Social Economy: Rethinking the Communitarian Pedagogy of Watson Thomson” for the Congress 2007. He also completed teaching a course in the College of Education entitled Educating for a Global Society. During May and June, Michael continued to work on a paper for the centre, as part of his scholarship obligations, on the historical co-operative development policy trends in Saskatchewan for Brett Fairbairn. In addition, he has begun a research project working as student-researcher with CUISR, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, and the Co-operative Ventures Worker Co-op, which will be completed at the end of October. Michael is continuing to work on his thesis and hopes to finish by the end of December 2007.

**Kama Soles’s** Interdisciplinary Studies Master’s thesis, “Empowerment through Co-operation: Disability Solidarity in the Social Economy,” was inspired by her role in the creation of a housing co-op for people with disabilities. Recognizing the potential that the co-operative model has for empowering people with disabilities, Kama will present the strengths and challenges faced by different kinds service organizations in the disability community (housing, employment, health care) and will identify barriers to inclusion in the social economy and the formation of co-operatives. Kama is still completing her coursework, having completed a sociology policy seminar and an educational research methodology course. She plans to take special topics courses on disability studies, the history of co-operatives and a seminar on Co-ops and Sustainable Development. Kama recently gained two new co-supervisors, Kathleen James-Cavan from English, and Brett Fairbairn from History. Kama did a presentation at the Canadian Disability Studies Association conference on The Fragmentation of Citizenship and Community: Disability Rights, Economic (In)Security, and Social Policy, and a co-presentation with Robert Dobrohoczki at the recent CASC/ICA/ACE conference titled “Empowering Community through Co-operatives: The Need for Progressive Legislative Change in Saskatchewan.”