



Director's REPORT

to the
Management
Advisory
Board

Lou Hammond Ketilson, Director
Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

June 2008



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 the Saskatchewan Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and the University of Saskatchewan.

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.



Overview and Highlights



Social Economy Project Update



Other Research Update



Conferences and Workshops



Publications



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The Seminar Series



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Overview and Highlights

▲ Social Economy Project Update

The Saskatchewan Social Economy Workshop took place 2 May 2008 in Saskatoon, hosted by the centre and the Community-University Institute for Social Research. Approximately forty academics, community partners, and student researchers were in attendance. Lou opened the workshop with an overview of key initiatives and achievements in our regional node and the national hub to date. She was followed by seven presentations updating participants on a variety of projects, a mini-workshop on sharing practical experiences and training the trainer, and then a plenary session on defining directions. Participants were clearly inspired by the progress of the work underway and felt privileged to share the experiences of those involved. The impact on communities has been considerable and the possibilities for the future of the work begun through these projects is exciting to contemplate.

The Social Economy project was well represented at the Canadian Community Economic Development Network conference in Saskatoon, 21–23 May 2008. Two linked workshops, “Stronger Local Economies/Research: What and How Are We Learning about the Social Economy?”, combined presentations with opportunities for questions and answers to learn about policy-related research findings from four of the regional research nodes and the national hub. Lou led a workshop titled “Women-Centred CED Research,” during which participants shared lessons learned by academics and practitioners in their use of gender-focused methodologies as well as methods that engage practitioners in the design and implementation of the research. Michael made a presentation in a session titled “Tackling Poverty and Homelessness: Primary Industries and Sustainable Livelihoods for Aboriginal Communities.” Also in attendance from the centre were Roger, Heather, Catherine, and students Tsegi Chuluunbaatar and Karlah Rudolph.

The Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation conference — titled Co-operative Renewal: Co-operatives in the Twenty-First Century and held in conjunction with Congress 2008 in Vancouver 5–7 June — attracted researchers from across Canada and a few from further afield. Twelve of the forty-one presentations were directly related to Social Economy research. Topics covered a broad spectrum of interests including co-ops and sustainability, issues around governing oral institutions, food security, co-ops and government policy, co-operative governance, social co-operatives, worker co-operatives, and co-operatives and youth. The centre was well represented at these meetings, with ten people — faculty, staff, students, and one Centre Scholar — in attendance.

▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ centre becomes administrative home for the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation
- ▲ centre partners with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association for a successful USTEP application to study the role of youth in Saskatchewan co-ops
- ▲ Lou and Kim Brown's work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada researching the use of co-op models to finance Aboriginal economic development; first draft complete
- ▲ Brett's SSHRC project "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations"; ongoing
- ▲ Michael and Jason Heit's "Co-operative Marketing Options for Organic Agriculture," funded by the centre and by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan Program; concluded
- ▲ Murray's "Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives"; ongoing
- ▲ Murray's "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"; ongoing
- ▲ Murray's "Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada"; ongoing

▲ Conferences and Workshops

- ▲ Northern Ontario Women's Economic Development Conference, Thunder Bay, 28–30 April
- ▲ National Cooperative Business Association meetings, Washington, 29 April– 1 May
- ▲ Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. AGM, Winnipeg, 5–6 May
- ▲ 2008 National Canadian Community Economic Development Network conference — Waves of Change: Building People-Centred Economies — Saskatoon, 21–23 May
- ▲ Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation annual meetings — Co-operative Renewal: Co-operatives in the Twenty-First Century, Vancouver, 5–7 June
- ▲ Saskatchewan Co-operative Association AGM, Saskatoon, 15 June
- ▲ Community Development Society's 40th annual international conference, coming up 22–25 June, Saskatoon

▲ Publications

- ▲ *Between Solidarity and Profit: The Agricultural Transformation Societies in Spain (1940–2000)*, booklet by visiting fellow Cándido Cervantes — published in May
- ▲ *The Agriculture of the Middle Initiative, Pre-Mobilizing Considerations, and Formal Co-operative Structure*, occasional paper by Thomas Gray, a rural sociologist with the United States Department of Agriculture — edited, with author for approval

- ▲ *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, by Roger and Jorge Sousa — centre book, in process
- ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, centre book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett and Nora — in process
- ▲ *The Social Economy in Quebec: Lessons and Challenges for Internationalizing Co-operation*, by Marguerite Mendell — with author for revisions

▲ Faculty/Staff/Student News

- ▲ Lou was honoured with the Co-op Merit Award for Exemplary Contributions to Co-operative Studie at the CASC meetings in Vancouver, 5–7 June; congratulations, Lou — we are all so proud of you!
- ▲ Brett takes up his new post as University Provost and VP Academic effective 1 July
- ▲ Michael’s sabbatical year comes to an end 30 June and he will be returning to his regular duties at the centre and in the Sociology Department
- ▲ Murray is moving back into the Diefenbaker Centre in his role as graduate chair in the new Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
- ▲ Curtis Stofferahn, a sociologist from the University of North Dakota, who joined us for three months as a visiting fellow, returned to his home university at the end of March; he expects to be back for brief periods to carry on the research he began here on the former Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
- ▲ Dwayne Pattison, who successfully defended his MA thesis at the end of March, has been hired on a contract to look at mergers taking place in the co-op retail sector
- ▲ Kim Brown, who also recently defended her MA thesis, has been hired on a CUISR contract to work on a Social Economy project
- ▲ Kama Soles received the Hantelman Humanities Scholarship for 2008; congratulations Kama!
- ▲ and we have hired two summer researchers — Chen Bi is working on the Social Economy website and database and Zunyi Lin is working on a redesign and reorganization of the centre’s main website

▲ The Seminar Series

“Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Case Studies from Manitoba and Saskatchewan,” presented 1 May 08 by Tsevelmaa Chuluunbaatar, Karlah Rudolph, Kama Soles, and Tim Zagozewski, graduate students in the centre’s InterD Seminar on co-ops and sustainable development; case studies included Arctic Co-operatives Ltd., Winnipeg; Churchill Park Greenhouse Co-operative, Moose Jaw; Granny’s Poultry Co-operative (Manitoba) Ltd.; and Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse, Winnipeg

▲ Visitors

The centre hosted a visit from Diana Martinez and Rosa Amelia Centeno of the Fundación Entre Mujeres (FEM —Among Women Foundation) in Nicaragua. FEM works with rural women in thirteen rural communities surrounding Estelí, Nicaragua, offering integrated gender-responsive literacy, health, eco-agricultural, and women’s leadership development programs. The organization also promotes and markets organic Fair Trade coffee produced by women-owned and -operated co-operatives in those communities.

▲ Partners and Developments

This section highlights relevant issues and developments among centre sponsors. Due to time constraints around deadlines Karl Baumgardner, Marilyn McKee, and Mary Beckett will provide oral updates.

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

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Teaching

Interdisciplinary Studies 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development; Lou co-ordinated the course and was one of several people team teaching it; class concluded mid-April

▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is co-supervisor for Rochelle Smith (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies). She is also a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler, an interdisciplinary PhD student. She is committee chair for Kama Soles and Dwayne Pattison, both MA students in Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as Rob Dobrohoczki, Zhao Jun, and Mitch Diamantopoulos, all PhD students in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Dwayne Pattison successfully defended his MA thesis 25 March.

As chair of the Co-op Studies Concentration, Lou successfully facilitated the entry of Tsegi Chuluunbaatar into the MA program and is working on Patricia Elliot’s application to the PhD program.

▲ Research

Lou is a participant in many research initiatives.

- ▲ with Kim Brown, she is working on a project with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to write a position paper on using co-operative models to finance Aboriginal economic development. The first draft was completed 31 March; Kim will be presenting the results at the CASC conference in Vancouver
- ▲ 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 nodes; she is a co-investigator in a project titled "Integrating Social Economy Curriculum into Canada's Business Schools" with the Southern Ontario node; and a co-investigator with the Northern node in a project titled "The Role of Women in Social Economy Organizations in Canada's Far North"
- ▲ part of the Finance Cluster of the Social Economy project and, with Roger and in conjunction with CCA, is conducting research on the level and types of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian co-ops and credit unions
- ▲ 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"; other member of the Canadian team is Marie Bouchard, Canada Research Chair in the Social Economy
- ▲ co-coordinator of the Aboriginal Cluster of the Social Cohesion project; drafting report based on interviews conducted October 05; used as a basis for paper presented to Innovation conference in Montreal in November 07 — accepted for conference proceedings
- ▲ member of the Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation led by Denis Harrisson at CRISES, University of Quebec at Montreal
- ▲ co-applicant in Murray's SSHRC-funded "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"
- ▲ 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 third CDI application, which involves developing an evaluation tool for the ongoing project

▲ Publications and Related Activities

- ▲ with Gayle Broad, drafted 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; draft presented to working group in Seville, Spain, in May; the book will be published by Peter Lang Publishers, peer reviewed

- ▲ “First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” chapter in forthcoming centre book *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Agricultural Co-operatives in Canada and Their Role in Rural Development,” presented to the Rural Development Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, 9 April
- ▲ “Update on Research Activities,” presented to the Saskatchewan provincial workshop of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project, Saskatoon, 2 May
- ▲ “Strategies for Engaging with Community: Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan Social Economy Node,” presented to Waves of Change: Building People-Centred Economies, CCEDNet’s annual conference, Saskatoon, 24 May
- ▲ “A Manager Is a Manager Is a Manager — or Is She?” presented to A Challenge for Management Education: Incorporating Organizational Diversity into the Business School Curriculum, Management Education Division symposium, Administrative Sciences Association of Canada annual meeting and conference, Halifax, 26 May
- ▲ “What’s in a Name?: Defining the Social Economy,” presented to the first annual meeting of the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research, Vancouver, 5 June
- ▲ “Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development: The Feasibility of Using Co-operative Models,” presented to the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, Vancouver, 6 June

▲ Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ participated in a study tour of newly formed agricultural co-operatives in regions close to Beijing and Xi’an; in Beijing sponsored by the Rural Development Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; in Xi’an, sponsored by Plan International, 3–14 April
- ▲ organized and chaired the workshop “Raising Women’s Voices: Encouraging the Use of Gender-Focused Research Methodologies” at the Waves of Change: Building People-Centred Economies, CCEDNet’s annual conference, Saskatoon, 23 May
- ▲ with Roger, working with The Co-operators to organize a youth conference in Guelph for fall 2008

▲ Conferences/AGMs

- ▲ Northern Ontario Women’s Economic Development Conference, Thunder Bay, 28–30 April
- ▲ Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. AGM, Winnipeg, 5–6 May
- ▲ Canadian Community Economic Development Network annual meetings Saskatoon, 21–24 May

- ▲ Administrative Sciences Association of Canada annual meetings, Halifax, 24–27 May
- ▲ Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation annual meetings — Co-operative Renewal: Co-operatives in the Twenty-First Century, Vancouver, 5–7 June

▲ Administration

Specific to the Centre

- ▲ as a board member of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, participated in one conference call meeting and attended the AGM 15 June
- ▲ member of advisory group for the Advanced Co-op Developer Training Program to be developed by Devco (FWC Development Co-operative), led by Melanie Conn and Marty Frost, with funding under the CDI Innovations and Research Program
- ▲ chaired one student advisory committee meeting and facilitated the admission of two students
- ▲ prepared for June management advisory board meeting
- ▲ with Nora, developed an Accountability Report for distribution to co-op sponsors; first used in conjunction with SaskCentral’s AGM

Specific the Social Economy Project

- ▲ participated in the conference calls and meetings organized by the National Hub and other associated committees and adhoc groups; since 1 April, Lou has participated in three monthly conference calls for the national hub and one in-person subcommittee meeting
- ▲ chaired in-person meeting of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging Management Board, Saskatoon, 22 May

Specific to her role as chair of the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research

- ▲ assisting in organizing the annual conference in Trento, Italy, October 08
- ▲ will attend ICA Latin America region research conference in Brazil in August

Brett Fairbairn

Brett is in the process of taking up his duties as provost and vice-president academic and has been extensively involved in the development of the university’s Integrated Plan, in preparations for implementation of the plan, in internal reorganization of the provost’s office, and in transition related to his new job. His duties will allow him minimal time in future to keep alive one research project (his SSHRC grant for a study of Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy), to continue supervising his PhD students, and — perhaps in future years — to teach an occasional class.

▲ Teaching

History 288: Co-operatives in the World

This class ended in early April. In the last class Brett asked the students to write down one thing they had learned. The most common answer was that they had not known anything about co-ops, or even what a co-op is, before taking the class.

Brett continues to supervise or co-supervise three PhD students:

- ▲ Mark McCulloch (History) “Women’s Groups and Consumer Co-operatives in East Germany, 1949–71,” supervisor; Mark is in Berlin this year doing research on the history of co-operatives in Communist East Germany
- ▲ Warren Weir (Interdisciplinary) “A Co-operative Model for Community Economic and Political Development in First Nations Communities in Saskatchewan,” supervisor; Warren is working on his comps
- ▲ Rochelle Smith (Interdisciplinary) “Co-operative Health Centres,” co-supervisor and on committee
- ▲ Brett is also on a number of other PhD and MA advisory committees.

▲ Research

- ▲ co-wrote a paper with Murray Fulton and Marie Bouchard, which was presented at the What Is an Organization? conference in Montreal, May 08
- ▲ “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multi-stakeholder Organizations,” SSHRC funded; co-investigators are Murray Fulton and Marie Bouchard (Université du Québec à Montréal, UQAM)
- ▲ co-investigator, “Coordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada,” SSHRC funded; principal investigator is Murray Fulton
- ▲ co-investigator, “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century,” SSHRC funded; PI is Murray Fulton
- ▲ co-investigator, “Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society,” SSHRC funded; principal investigator is Denis Harrisson of UQAM
- ▲ Brett turned over leadership of the Governance Cluster of the Social Economy Project to Murray and Quintin Fox of CCA

▲ Publications

- ▲ review of *It Was a Great Privilege: The Co-operative Memoirs of B.N. Arnason, foreword by Ian MacPherson* (Victoria: British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies, 2004), forthcoming in *Saskatchewan History*.
- ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, book; Brett is author or co-author of four chapters; with Nora for editorial comment; will be submitted to a peer-reviewed scholarly press after review and revisions
- ▲ with Rob Dobrohoczki, “Credit Unions and the Construction of Locality: The Case of South Interlake Credit Union, Canada,” article submitted to *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, UK

- ▲ “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 2008
- ▲ “A Shift in Values: Credit Union Expansion by Conversion of Bank Branches,” in *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, ed. Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa, forthcoming centre book
- ▲ “‘Canada’s Co-operative Province’: Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005,” *Perspectives of Saskatchewan: 1905–2005*, ed. Jene Porter. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, forthcoming

▲ Outreach and Engagement

Brett served as an adjudicator for CCA’s inaugural awards on Innovation in Co-operative Governance, May 08. He served as a consultant to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in May 08, regarding a plaque to be placed in Saskatchewan commemorating a co-operative. And he did a CBC interview about the early history of the Co-op Refinery and the successes of retail co-ops in western Canada.

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

AgEc 342: Industrial Organization of Agricultural Markets

AgEc 842: Organization of Agricultural Markets

AgEc 898: Special Topics in Bioresource Economics (four-week session on the economics of collective action, with David Natcher)

One-week course in Cost-Benefit Analysis at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, in Crete, Greece, May 08

Two-week course on Industrial Organization at Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, Hohhot, IMAR, China, 2–13 June 08

Murray is supervising five MA and PhD students working on co-operative topics and is a committee member for a number of others. Three of his PhD students successfully defended their dissertations — Lampros Lamprinakos, Jamie Partridge, and Daniela Mihali. Lampros’s dissertation was titled “Cognitive Dissonance, Mental Frames, and the Financial Value of Agricultural Co-operatives.” A major portion of Daniela’s thesis looked at the role of producer associations in the carbon trading market. Lampros is also working on three papers with co-op content: 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

- ▲ principal investigator, SSHRC-funded Knowledge Impact in Society (KIS) project, “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”; Brett, Lou, and Michael are co-investigators
- ▲ principal investigator, “Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada,” SSHRC Standard Research Grant; Brett is a co-investigator
- ▲ principal investigator, “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives,” funded by SSHRC
- ▲ co-investigator, “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations”; SSHRC funded; Brett is principal investigator
- ▲ “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

▲ Presentations

- ▲ with Marie Bouchard and Brett Fairbairn, “Multistakeholder Governance and Innovations: Organizations through the Social Economy Lens,” at the What Is an Organization? Materiality, Agency, and Discourse, Language, Organization and Governance Research Group Conference, Montréal, 21–22 May
- ▲ “Rural Credit and Agricultural Technology Extension: Approaches and Policy in Canada,” to Parliamentary Centre, Beijing, China, 11 June

▲ Outreach

- ▲ numerous entries to the Illative Blog — see www.illativeblog.ca. The purpose of the blog is to provide a forum for people interested in agriculture and rural communities to use their intuition and imagination to look into the future and determine where they think things are going.

▲ Administration

- ▲ graduate chair, Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics
- ▲ graduate chair, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
- ▲ member of the Interdisciplinary Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research

Michael Gertler

Michael is on sabbatical until 30 June but continues his centre-based activities.

▲ Teaching

Interdisciplinary Studies 898.3: Special Topics in Co-operatives and Sustainable Development. Lectured on co-operative development and sustainable development. This class concluded mid-April.

▲ Graduate Supervision

Supervisor

Dwayne Pattison. MA. "Governance, Membership, and Community: Developing a Regional Consumer Co-operative in Saskatchewan." Interdisciplinary Studies (Co-operative Studies). Accepted.

Timothy Zagozewski. MA. "(Re)Making Bread: Industrial Technologies and the Skills of Food Industry Workers." Sociology. Accepted.

On-going supervisor: two MA students (Sociology)

Member of Committee

Two interdisciplinary MA students (co-operative studies)

Four interdisciplinary PhD students (three in co-operative studies)

▲ Research

- ▲ "Co-operative Marketing Options for Organic Agriculture," funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan Program; project is complete
- ▲ 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 Social Economy project and a collaborator on the National Hub 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"
- ▲ applicant, Saskatchewan Housing Research Program grant application, "Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan," funded at \$22,000 over one year. This is a study of the Quint housing co-ops to be done in collaboration with Eric Leviten-Reid, Bill Holden, Isobel Findlay, and Len Usiskin.

▲ Presentations

- ▲ organized, chaired, and co-presented workshop, "Primary Industries and Sustainable Livelihoods for Aboriginal Communities," 2008 National Canadian

Community Economic Development Network conference titled *Waves of Change: Building People-Centred Economies*, Saskatoon, 21–23 May

- ▲ with Jason Heit, “Co-operative Marketing of Organic Field Crops in Saskatchewan: Record and Prospect,” at the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation annual meetings, Vancouver, 5–7 June
- ▲ paper session chair at the same conference
- ▲ participant, Advanced Co-op Developer Training, Winnipeg, 11–13 June

▲ Publications

- ▲ 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*
- ▲ with J. Jaffe, “Sustainable Development in the New Economy: Risk, Vulnerability and Eco-Social Justice,” in *Currents: New Scholarship in the Human Services* (University of Calgary on-line journal), forthcoming 2008

▲ Administration/Professional/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 Rural Sociological Society Membership Committee; a member of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network Local Planning Committee for the 2008 National CED Conference in Saskatoon, 21–24 May 08; and a member of the Local Program Committee for the same conference.

Michael is a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Cooperatives*, and reviews manuscripts for the journals *Agriculture and Human Values* and *Ecology and Society*.

In other professional activities, Michael made a sabbatical research trip, 12 April – 8 May: he visited Michael Laffleur, director, IRECUS, Université de Sherbrooke; Marie Bouchard, Research Chair in Social Economy, UQAM; Denis Harrisson, director, CRISES, UQAM; Mario Carrier, Université Laval; Colette Lebel and Mario Hébert, La Co-op Fédérée, Montreal; and John Anderson and Lynne Markell, CCA, Ottawa.

Nora Russell

Large projects this quarter include:

- ▲ writing, design, and print co-ordination of the glossy, four-page Accountability Report to the centre’s co-op sector sponsors in connection with contract renewal preparations

- ▲ redesigning the twenty-six original posters for the Social Economy project for consistency, gathering material from researchers and updating and revising as outcomes become available; also added images; preparing fifteen new posters; preparing files and co-ordinating printing of posters into a bound book for giveaways at CASC meetings; we now have 41 posters for the 55 projects underway
- ▲ redoing layout, designing covers, and co-ordinating printing of the three Social Economy reports to SSHRC for distribution to various parties (Milestone Report, Annual Report, and Midterm Report)
- ▲ doing layout, co-ordinating proofreading, entering changes, reformatting, applying for CIP data, preparing files for printing on visiting scholar Cándido Cervantes's booklet on the agricultural transformation societies in Spain; published in May

Other activities this quarter:

- ▲ editing Roger's contribution to the ACE newsletter on the centre's InterD seminar on co-ops and sustainable development
- ▲ preparing seminar series ads
- ▲ entering changes and reformatting Mitch Diamantopoulos's report on Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods; ready to go to printer once the common covers for the Social Economy reports are approved
- ▲ designing package listing centre publications for CASC booth
- ▲ assisting Michael and Jason with their PowerPoint presentation to the Canadian Organic Certification Co-operative in Swift Current
- ▲ writing an article for U of S Research News on the Social Economy project
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last advisory board meeting
- ▲ co-ordination, writing, and layout for this director's report

Reprints

- ▲ *Research for Action: Women in Co-operatives*
- ▲ the centre's spring newsletter 2007 focussing on credit unions, for SaskCentral's AGM

Brett's book, with a new working title, *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, based on the Social Cohesion research, is with Nora for editorial comment prior to being sent to a scholarly press. She has set aside July to deal with this.

Professional

Nora is on the executive of the Saskatoon branch of the Editors' Association of Canada. With a colleague, she organized a two-day professional development workshop on basic copy editing that took place 28–29 April. Response to the workshop was so enthusiastic that they had to turn people away. Nora is also a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, which connects the centre to

other publishing organizations throughout the province. And she is the centre's representative to the Saskatoon Co-op Network, which organizes lunches and speakers of interest to local co-op organizations.

With others from the centre, Nora attended the CASC conference 5-7 June in Vancouver.

Roger Herman

Roger continues to work on the post-conference details following the spring 2007 Co-operative Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy event. This includes further dissemination of the various presentations on the conference website and other publications.

His book with Jorge Sousa (University of Alberta) on co-operative conversions, undertaken on contract with the Co-operatives Secretariat, is undergoing revisions prior to design, layout, proofreading, and publication

Along with various centre faculty and scholars, Roger was part of the teaching team for InterD 898: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development; the class concluded in April.

Social Economy project activities:

- ▲ part of the Finance Cluster; with Lou and in conjunction with the Canadian Co-operative Association continues research on the level and types of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian co-ops and credit unions
- ▲ participated in the project management advisory board meeting in Saskatoon
- ▲ attended Saskatchewan regional workshop in Saskatoon in May

Roger has been involved in many other activities this past quarter.

- ▲ he is the president of the board of directors of the Association of Cooperative Educators and in addition to those duties is also chairing a special committee tasked with succession planning following the resignation of the organization's executive director; he traveled to Washington, DC, in April for board and committee meetings; on behalf of the Centre, he is preparing a proposal to ACE for the provision of administrative services
- ▲ he is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of visitors to the centre; he and Michael recently hosted visitors from Nicaragua exploring models for co-operative federated systems for their coffee producing co-operatives and also interested in developing a formal relationship with the centre
- ▲ he attended SaskCentral's annual meeting in Saskatoon
- ▲ he represented the centre at a University of Saskatchewan Centre's Forum meeting; these meetings are intended to explore common issues and to ensure that the respective centres' concerns are heard

- ▲ with Dwayne Pattison and representatives from SCA, he co-ordinated a regional youth conference that via the Internet connected with groups around the world in the international Building Co-operative Futures Youth Conference, May
- ▲ he is part of a committee organized by The Co-operators to plan a national youth conference to be held in Guelph later this year
- ▲ he is helping to plan and co-ordinate the new centre research project examining mergers and amalgamation in the co-operative retail and credit union sectors
- ▲ he continues to respond to inquiries regarding New Generation Co-operatives as well as co-ops in general
- ▲ he manages the centre's seminar series and is the liaison with the centre's graduate students

Conferences and AGMs

- ▲ National Cooperative Business Association, Washington, 29 April– 1 May
- ▲ Canadian Community Economic Development Network, Saskatoon, 21–23 May
- ▲ Community Development Society of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, 25–28 June
- ▲ Saskatchewan Co-operative Association AGM, Saskatoon, 15 June

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, 25–28 June 08; he also chairs a subcommittee co-ordinating mobile learning workshops (tours) for the event
- ▲ 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 Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan
- ▲ the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association; as the centre's alternate representative, will attend their AGM in June

Heather Acton

▲ The Library

- ▲ materials signed out: 63
- ▲ materials returned: 98
- ▲ reference and research requests responded to: 56
- ▲ books catalogued: 5
- ▲ new borrowers registered: 13

Heather and Duy, our IT expert, are exploring open-source library software called Evergreen with the hope of replacing our current software, LibraryWorld 98, which is no longer adequate.

We are considering some renovations to our library space. There isn't adequate room for patrons to use the library materials and Heather's workspace is also limiting. We recovered the shelving from the former Native Law Centre library and hope to expand our shelving with the planned renovation. Shelves are currently overcrowded and more space is desperately needed. We will also be exploring alternatives for better storage and preservation of important historical materials.

▲ Events Attended

- ▲ Saskatchewan Social Economy Workshop, Saskatoon, 2 May
- ▲ Canadian Community Economic Development Network Conference, Saskatoon, 21–24 May
- ▲ meetings of the Saskatoon Special Libraries Network and the University Librarians, Saskatoon, May
- ▲ meetings of the Social Economy Hub (conference calls); in-person meetings with CUISR regarding the Social Economy project; Social Economy management board meeting, Saskatoon, 22 May
- ▲ meetings of the Social Economy Learning Network planning group, Vancouver, 3–4 June
- ▲ Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation annual meetings, Vancouver, 5–7 June
- ▲ Special Libraries Association Conference, Seattle, 15–19 June; Heather's primary goals are to look at library technology (catalogue software and other add-ons and digitization) and special library management for solo librarians

▲ The Centre Blog, the Social Economy Blog, and the Websites

- ▲ Heather continually monitors and updates the blogs with information of interest to centre faculty and staff; she also maintains a list of events and deadlines on both blogs
- ▲ she has spent considerable time editing and updating the new Social Economy website; although there is still work to be done, it is much improved

▲ Other Activities

- ▲ provided continued library and research support to Brett Fairbairn's students in History 288: Co-operatives in the World
- ▲ began planning for information updating in compliance with the final Linking, Learning, Leveraging report template, as required by SSHRC
- ▲ obtained approval for one of the two USTEP grants applied for; hired a summer student to continue historical research on youths in co-operatives in Saskatchewan in partnership with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association
- ▲ hired two additional summer students under Heather's supervision; Zunyi Lin is working on the Centre's website and Chen Bi is working on a database for the Social Economy project

- ▲ registered the centre's library as a member of the Online Computer Library Centre, the worldwide library co-operative that produces and maintains WorldCat; this will enhance the library's and hence the Centre's international presence

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 updating and recording the various revenues/expenditures associated with the centre's monthly financial statements as well as maintaining the SSHRC project account and all 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.

One of Patty's main ongoing responsibilities is 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. Extra responsibilities this quarter involved co-ordinating and organizing a dinner honouring outgoing board members Ernie Barber, Bob Effa, Dan Ish, and Lawrence Martz.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ issuing invoices to our sponsor organizations for 07–08 fourth quarter dues; completing the cash report forms; because of new requirements from the university's Financial Services Division, working with our financial consultant, Barb Geib, on the creation of new accounts for each sponsor organization and arranging for the payments to be deposited into the appropriate account code
- ▲ obtaining missing documentation for various financial accounts; this involves reviewing the monthly accounts and processing many journal vouchers for incorrect entries originating with the university's financial records
- ▲ reviewing the standing purchase order for the Centre's Treo cell phone, calculating the amount for 2008–09, and renewing the standing order
- ▲ ensuring that all the expenditures associated with the Mapping the Presence of Co-op's and Credit Unions in Canada project had been cleared and the fund closed out
- ▲ reviewing the past year's monthly financial statements and preparing a spreadsheet outlining expenses associated with the Organic Farmers' project that were

- processed through the centre's account; on the basis of this information, preparing a detailed invoice and arranging for reimbursement
- ▲ monitoring expenses associated with the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada contract; submitting the payroll for researcher Kim Brown; keeping track of travel and other miscellaneous expenses associated with the contract
 - ▲ preparing a financial summary for Lou outlining projected expenditures to the end of June, the centre's year-end; this involved examining the subaccounts (travel, materials, equipment, etc.), keeping an itemized list for each category, and estimating the outstanding expenditures associated with upcoming conferences and other items that will be processed before the end of June
 - ▲ reviewing the current centre budget and estimating the anticipated expenditures for all categories for next year's budget; entered these on-line in the budget development section of the university's Unifi system
 - ▲ assisting Heather with the Social Economy project by supplying information to the university's Office of Research Services for the subtransfer agreement letters for Algoma University, University of Manitoba, the University of Winnipeg, the University of Western Ontario, and CUISR
 - ▲ setting up a subtransfer agreement letter with the Office of Research Services in connection with Brett's SSHRC grant to provide funding for a scholarship student working with Marie Bouchard at UQAM

Other responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ editing and preparing the 7 November 07 management advisory board meeting minutes as well as obtaining agenda items for the next meeting
- ▲ assisting Heather with the USTEP applications submitted for summer employment at the centre; preparing and sending out letters to the unsuccessful candidates; preparing payroll forms for the successful candidate, Breann Heggie
- ▲ preparing payroll information for Zunyi Lin, hired for the summer as a website design assistant, and Chen Bi, hired to work on the website and database for the Social Economy project; organizing appropriate workstations and equipment and helping them settle into their positions at the centre
- ▲ co-ordinating the employment arrangements and payroll forms for former grad student Dwayne Pattison, hired on a six-month contract to research mergers among retail co-operatives
- ▲ arranging to have Catherine Leviten-Reid and Roger's work stations assessed by the Department of Occupational Health and Safety; this resulted in a request for ergonomic work stations for both of them
- ▲ setting up meetings for Lou in connection with the School of Public Policy's move into the Diefenbaker Centre; co-ordinating contact with the project manager for the renovations and keeping centre personnel informed

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, invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills, as well as monitoring office supplies and ordering replacements as required. 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.

Karen assists with organizing special events at the centre; this quarter included:

- ▲ sending out announcements for the InterD 898 Co-ops and Sustainable Development student presentations, 1 May; organized refreshments, lunch, and IT support
- ▲ organizing lunch, room, etc., for Nicaraguan visitors to the centre, 9 May
- ▲ making dinner arrangements for the Social Economy Management Board meeting, 22 May at Rembrandt's
- ▲ arranging rooms for the Building Co-operative Futures Youth Conference, 2–3 June

Other activities this quarter include:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the March advisory board meeting
- ▲ posting ads for website design assistant and USTEP positions through student information; sending out ads to campus departments; printing off transcripts from PAWS for the applications; collecting, copying, and supplying applications to appropriate centre and Saskatchewan Co-operative Association personnel
- ▲ assisting Patty with payroll forms for Zunyi Lin, website design assistant, Chen Bi, summer student working on the Social Economy project database, and Breeann Heggie, the USTEP student working with SCA's history project; processed payroll forms for Dwayne Pattison, working with the centre on a six-month research contract
- ▲ registering faculty, staff, and students for the Saskatchewan Social Economy Workshop, 2 May; the CCEDNet conference, 21–24 May, and the Community Development Society's conference, 22–25 June
- ▲ sending Cándido Cervantes's booklet *The Agricultural Transformation Societies in Spain* for legal deposit through National Library of Canada, the university's main library, and BCICS
- ▲ assisting in the library with registering students, helping with research questions, copying, checking in and filing books, checking-in and routing journals
- ▲ assisting with many travel, accommodation, and conference arrangements for centre personnel:
 - Lou and Zhao — to China 3–14 April to do a presentation to the RDI Institute in Beijing and visit farmer co-operatives
 - Tsegi Chuluunbaatar and Karlah Rudolph — to Winnipeg for interviews for the 898 class, 7–12 April
 - Lou — to Thunder Bay and Toronto for the PARO Conference and Third Annual Social Economy Conference 29 April to 1 May

Roger — to Washington for the NCBA Conference and ACE Meetings 29

April – 1 May

Lou — to Winnipeg for Arctic Co-ops AGM, 7–8 May

Wu Haotao — to Winnipeg to do interviews for her PhD research, 19–22 May

Will Bartlett (Social Economy partner from London, England), to Saskatoon to attend the CCEDNet Conference 21–23 May, and Social Economy management board meeting on 22 May

Lou — to Halifax for the ASAC meetings, 24–27 May

Lou, Nora, Heather, Kim, Rob, Kama, Michael, Catherine — to Vancouver for CASC meetings, 5–7 June (conference registration, flights, accommodation)

Michael — to Winnipeg for Co-op Developer training, 11–13 June

Heather — to Seattle for Special Libraries Association Conference, 15–17 June

▲ processing travel expense claims for all the above activities

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

Catherine Leviten-Reid

The centre's first postdoctoral fellow, Catherine continues her research on child care co-operatives, studying whether child care co-operatives offer higher quality care than other organizational forms, and whether workers in child care co-operatives experience higher levels of satisfaction and engagement versus non-profits, sole proprietorships, and corporations. She presented a draft paper titled "Co-operatives and Dimensions of Co-operation: Do They Determine Quality Child Care" at the CASC meetings in Vancouver, 5–7 June.

Curtis Stofferahn

Curtis was with us as a visiting scholar for three months in early 2008 doing research on the former Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. While with us, he made a presentation in the Centre Seminar Series and worked on a research monograph, a paper for presentation at a professional meeting, and planned a centre publication. Though he returned to his home university in North Dakota at the end of March, his research on SWP is ongoing and he hopes to return to the centre in the near future.

The Students and Contract Researchers

In late March, **Kim Brown**, a former centre MA student, gave a presentation in the Centre Seminar Series on her CCA internship in Kenya, Africa.

She completed the first draft of her Indian and Northern Affairs Canada sponsored project under Lou's supervision titled "Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development: The Feasibility of Using Co-operative Models." She and Lou presented the results at the CASC Conference in Vancouver, 5-7 June, where Kim also presented her thesis research, "Co-operative Democracy: Board Diversity and the Representation of Women."

Kim is currently working on a CUISR internship, writing a case study on the community of La Ronge for the Social Economy project titled "Exploring the Social Economy in Saskatchewan."

Angie Wagner, another of our successful MA students, joined Kim in the Centre Seminar Series in March, presenting on her CCA internship as a reproductive health officer in Ghana, West Africa.

Monica Juarez Adeler is working on the formal proposal for her dissertation. She is currently working in Winnipeg on a contract associated with the Social Economy project for the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance titled "Building a Tax Policy Framework to Enable Co-operative Development." She made a presentation based on this research at the recent CASC conference.

Rob Dobrohoczki's responsibilities as a sessional lecturer in the College of Law and the Edwards School of Business concluded at the end of April. He is currently studying for his PhD comprehensives. He has one publication forthcoming, a chapter co-authored with Brett Fairbairn in the centre book *The Self-Help Solution*. Like other graduate students at the centre, Rob made a presentation based on his research at the CASC conference in Vancouver; it was titled "The Co-operative Difference: Jurisprudential Interpretation in the Post-National Constellation."

Zhao Jun continues to work on his PhD, though he intersperses these activities with other work from time to time. In March, his committee approved his revised dissertation proposal. April 3-14 he spent travelling with Lou in China as an interpreter and guide; they visited the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing Municipal Government, and some farmer co-ops in Beijing and Shaanxi. He is spending the summer working for the China-EU Watershed Management Project as a Farmers' Co-operative Groups Formation specialist.

Dwayne Pattison successfully defended his thesis titled "Membership, Governance, and Community: Developing a Regional Consumer Co-operative in the Context of Rural and Retail Restructuring" on 25 March. He currently has a contract with the centre to research mergers taking place in the co-op retail sector.

Dwayne was also on the steering committee for the Building Co-operative Futures Conference, held online this year, with a number of regional forums linked together through the Internet. The centre hosted the Saskatchewan regional forum held 2–3 June.

Dwayne continues to work on a Social Economy project with CUISR. He and Arlene Bear from the Big River First Nations Reserve are writing a report on the development of the Big River Arts Marketing Co-operative, which is currently being established to market the artisans' work and to preserve the Cree culture.

Rochelle Smith is scheduled to defend her PhD dissertation titled "The Relationship of Saskatchewan's Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Towards a New Understanding" in August.

Mitch Diamantopoulos is working on the research and writing for his PhD dissertation. He made a presentation at the CASC conference titled "Globalization, Innovation, and Co-operative Support Organizations: Sector, Territory, Synergy."

Mike Chartier has a CUISR internship for a Social Economy project titled "Advancing the Co-operative Sector: Mapping Development Needs of Co-ops in Emerging, Underrepresented, and Struggling Sectors." He is working with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and Co-operative Ventures Worker Co-op. He also teaches at Ecole Victoria School and continues to work on his MA thesis on the communitarian pedagogy of Watson Thomson.

Kama Soles's MA thesis, titled "Empowerment through Co-operation: Disability Solidarity in the Social Economy," is investigating the potential of the co-operative model for empowering people with disabilities. Kama recently completed an InterD 898 course, Co-ops and Sustainable Development, in which she did a case study of the Churchill Park Greenhouse Co-op in Moose Jaw. This case study gives the reader a better understanding of how co-operatives contribute to sustainable community economic development, following the social model of disability. She did a presentation titled "Building Inclusion through Co-operation: A Case Study of the Churchill Park Greenhouse Co-op" in the centre seminar devoted to student work in the 898 course. She also made a presentation at the CASC conference titled "Strategies for Inclusion: Empowerment, Disability, and Co-operatives." Kama added to her growing list of awards received over the past couple of years, receiving the Hantelman Humanities Scholarship for 2008.

Tsegi Chuluunbaatar, our most recent Co-op Concentration student, completed the InterD 898 course on co-ops and sustainable development and travelled to Winnipeg in April to do a case study on Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. With other students in the class, she presented her findings in the centre seminar in early May. Tsegi's MA research will focus on the role of women in Mongolia.

Karlah Rudolph, our most recent Social Economy scholarship winner, is working with Murray and Brett on Brett's Social-Economy-based, SSHRC-funded project titled "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multi-stakeholder Organizations." She, too, recently completed the InterD 898 class and went to Winnipeg with Tsegi, where she did a case study on Granny's Poultry Co-operative, which she presented in the centre seminar based on student research.

Two new student researchers have joined us for the summer. **Chen Bi** is working under Heather's supervision compiling the database for the Social Economy project and working on the project website, while **Zunyi Lin** is working on the design and organization of the centre's website.