



Director's REPORT

to the
Management
Advisory
Board

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

June 2009



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 — Bioresource Policy, Business, and Economics, 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



Contract Renewal



Social Economy Project Update



Other Research Update



Conferences and Workshops



Publications



Faculty/Staff/Student News



The Seminar Series



Centre Scholars Update



Partners and Developments



Overview and Highlights

▲ Contract Renewal

Contract renewal negotiations, underway since January, are ongoing and expected to be concluded within the next few weeks.

▲ Social Economy Project Update

The annual Saskatchewan Regional Workshop took place in Prince Albert, 1 May 09, with about thirty people in attendance from Saskatchewan and Northern Ontario. Guest speakers Gayle Broad and Sheila Gruner from Algoma University College presented “Building Alliances and Knowing Traditional Territory: An Intergenerational Dialogue.” Poster sessions and discussions followed on the Aboriginal social economy, disability services, governance issues, and sustainable food systems, among other topics. Partners, students, and academics shared learning experiences in a facilitated group setting, followed by an interactive plenary session that defined future directions. Plans are underway for another regional conference in February 2010, likely in Northern Ontario.

Three more final reports have come in; one has been printed and posted for circulation, with the other two awaiting Nora’s attention.

We have had many planning meetings around the exhibition of research results undertaken in partnership with the Diefenbaker Canada Centre. Summer student researcher Norma Brunanski is well into researching suitable display material from various projects to fit into the exhibit theme — Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being. Materials for the first of five modules, Building Sustainable Communities, are ready and production work on the panels has begun. It has been a steep learning curve for everyone involved, but with great effort on all sides, we are now reaping the advantages of collaborative work.

▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ the Community University Research Alliance application with CCA and others was successful at the Letter of Intent stage; we received \$20,000 to assist in the preparation of the full application, due 10 September
- ▲ visiting scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard’s project with Lou on the impact of credit unions on communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba; ongoing
- ▲ Lou’s project on a gender analysis of the research being conducted within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships; ongoing
- ▲ Lou, Roger, and Dwayne’s project examining amalgamations and mergers in the retail co-op sector; ongoing

- ▲ Brett’s SSHRC project “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations”; ongoing
 - ▲ 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
 - ▲ Michael’s work with a variety of partners on “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan,” a study of the Quint housing co-ops; ongoing
 - ▲ Michael’s “Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives, and Opportunities”; ongoing
 - ▲ Catherine’s “Co-operatives Delivering Care Services: An Essay on Theory and Outcomes”; ongoing
 - ▲ Catherine’s comparative analysis of co-op legislation in Canada that enables the development of social co-operatives; ongoing
- ▲ Conferences and Workshops
- ▲ National Community-Based Research Networking Initiative Meetings, Princeton, NJ, 18–20 April; Social Economy interns Jon Aniuk and Heather Williamson attended and presented
 - ▲ Saskatchewan Regional Workshop, Social Economy project, 1 May, Prince Albert; centre personnel Lou, Roger, Heather, Catherine, and Dwayne; visiting scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard; centre scholars Isobel Findlay and Louise Clarke; CUISR liaison Maria Basualdo, and student researchers Norma Brunanski and Leah Horlick attended
 - ▲ Arctic Co-ops AGM in Winnipeg, 5–7 May; Lou attended
 - ▲ Association of Cooperative Educators meetings in Minneapolis, 11–13 May; Roger attended
 - ▲ Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation conference, 27–29 May, Ottawa; centre staff Lou, Michael, Roger, and Catherine; centre students Rob Dobrohoczki, Zhao Jun, and Kama Soles; former centre student, now researcher Dwayne Pattison; centre scholars Isobel Findlay, Ian MacPherson, Jorge Sousa, and Louise Clarke; and centre visiting scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard attended and presented
 - ▲ CEDNet conference, Full Circle: Sharing a Vision for the 7th Generation, in Winnipeg, 3–5 June; Social Economy researchers Arlene Bear, Maria Basualdo, and Isobel Findlay attended and presented
 - ▲ CCA’s National Congress in Ottawa, 16–19 June; Lou and Roger will attend
 - ▲ Rural Co-operation in the 21st Century: Lessons from the Past, Pathways to the Future, Rehovot, Israel, 15–17 June; Murray will attend and present

▲ Publications

- ▲ *The Agriculture of the Middle Initiative, Pre-Mobilizing Considerations, and Formal Co-operative Structure*, occasional paper by Thomas Gray, published
- ▲ *The Importance of Policy for Community Economic Development: A Case Study of the Manitoba Context*, by Brendan Reimer, Dan Simpson, Jesse Hajer, and John Loxley, Social Economy report, published
- ▲ *Northern Ontario Women's Economic Development Conference*, by PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise, Social Economy report, published
- ▲ *Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development: The Potential for Using Co-operative Models*, occasional paper by Lou and Kim Brown, originally a report to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; editing, layout, and proofreading complete; awaiting Nora's attention for final formatting and printing
- ▲ *Co-operative Marketing Options for Organic Agriculture*, by Jason Heit and Michael Gertler, Social Economy report, in editing
- ▲ *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
- ▲ *Enabling Policy Environments for Co-operative Development: A Comparative Experience*, by Monica Juarez Adeler, Social Economy report, in process
- ▲ *Culture, Creativity and the Arts: Achieving Community Resilience and Sustainability through the Arts in Sault Ste. Marie*, by Jude Ortiz and Gayle Broad, Social Economy report, in process

▲ Faculty/Staff/Student News

- ▲ visiting scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard spent time with us at the centre during March and May
- ▲ Centre student Michael Chartier successfully defended his MA thesis in March and won the University of Saskatchewan graduate thesis award in the Social Sciences B category; congratulations Michael!
- ▲ student researcher Norma Brunanski has joined us for the summer to work on the exhibition of research results for the Social Economy project
- ▲ we are sharing student researcher Leah Horlick with the Diefenbaker Canada Centre for the summer; Leah, too, will be working on the exhibition
- ▲ we have two new students in the InterD Co-op Concentration Program — Michael Charter (see above), and Maria Basualdo, CUISR liaison; both are pursuing PhDs

▲ The Seminar Series

- ▲ "Banking on the Difference: Credit Unions as Community Assets," Jessica Gordon Nembhard, 19 March 09
- ▲ "Engaging Communities: Working with Aboriginal Co-operatives in Saskatchewan," Isobel Findlay and Maria Basualdo, 23 April 09

▲ Centre Scholars Update

Morris Altman

- ▲ “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Economic Theory, Corporate Governance, Economic Agency, and Public Policy,” International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Research Conference, Riva del Garda, Italy, 15–18 October 08
- ▲ involved with Social Economy research

Louise Clarke

- ▲ attended and moderated a session at the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) meetings in Ottawa, 27–29 May 09
- ▲ attended the Saskatchewan Region Workshop for Social Economy project in Prince Albert, 1 May
- ▲ participated in InterD 898: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development seminar; presented “Critical Management Theory and the Study of Co-operatives” at one session
- ▲ with Mitch Diamantopoulos and Isobel Findlay, “Snakes and Ladders: Co-operatives, Social Enterprise and Public Policy in Saskatoon’s Core Neighbourhood,” ICA Research Conference, Riva del Garda, Italy, 15–18 October 08
- ▲ member of Saskatchewan Social Economy team; regular participant in meetings and project adjudication
- ▲ on committees for two Co-op Concentration students

Isobel Findlay

Teaching

- ▲ INTD 898.3: Organizations, Communities, and Social Change — co-taught with Michael Gertler
- ▲ COMM 300: Business Communication II — includes co-operative cases
- ▲ InterD 898: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development seminar — participant
- ▲ supervisor of four PhDs in Co-op Concentration; on advisory committee for one PhD

Presentations

- ▲ with Maria Basualdo, “Building Sustainable Livelihoods through Eco-Tourism: Rebuilding the Knowledge Economy of the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association Co-operative; Research from Practitioner/Academic Collaborations, CCEDNet Conference, Winnipeg, 3–5 June 09
- ▲ with Maria Basualdo, “Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Research, Relationships, and Reflexivity in Action,” CASC meetings, Ottawa, 29 May 09
- ▲ “Self-determination in Action: The Entrepreneurship of the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association Co-operative,” CASC meetings, Ottawa, 27 May 09
- ▲ with Maria Basualdo, “Engaging Communities: Working with Aboriginal Co-

operatives in Saskatchewan,” Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Seminar Series, 23 April 09

- ▲ “Bridging the Traditional and Social Economies: The Case of the Northern Trappers Association Co-operative,” ICA Research Conference, Garda del Riva, Italy, 15–18 October 08
- ▲ with Louise Clarke and Mitch Diamantopoulos, “Snakes and Ladders: Co-operatives, Social Enterprise, and Public Policy in Saskatoon’s Core Neighbourhood,” ICA Research Conference, Garda del Riva, Italy, 15–18 October 08

Publications

- ▲ *Business Communication Now: Canadian Edition* (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2009) begins with Mountain Equipment Co-op and features many other co-ops and credit unions

Other

- ▲ university co-director and principal investigator for eight Social Economy research projects at CUISR
- ▲ principal investigator for Social Cohesion research on dotcoop domains
- ▲ applicant, The Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association Co-operative: Building Sustainable Livelihoods through Eco-Tourism-Pilot Project; Co-operative Development Initiative Innovation and Research grant, January 2009
- ▲ chair, Saskatchewan Regional Workshop for Social Economy project, Prince Albert, 1 May 2009

Len Findlay

- ▲ arranged special session for the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English for Congress 2009 in Ottawa on the theme “Capital Disconnections: The Co-operative University and Competitive Economies”; there was so much interest (especially from young scholars) that the session had to be moved to the largest theatre available
- ▲ “Interdisciplinarity and the Co-operative University,” Conference on Interdisciplinarity, Athabasca University, November 08
- ▲ “The Co-operative University and Co-operative Economies: A Schematic for Sustainability,” ICA Research Conference, Garda del Riva, Italy, 15–18 October 08
- ▲ “Academic Freedom, Institutional Autonomy, and the Co-operative University,” forthcoming in *Academic Callings: The University We Had, Now Have, and Could Have*, ed. Janice Newson and Claire Polster (Toronto: Scholars Press)
- ▲ on committees for two Co-op Concentration PhD students

Ian MacPherson

- ▲ “The Roles and Challenges of National Apex Organizations within the Co-operative Movement: 100 Years of Experience in the English-Canadian

- ▲ Movement,” keynote presentation, CASC meetings, Ottawa, 27–29 May 09
- ▲ co-ordinator of joint CASC/ANSER (Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research) session at the CASC meetings, Ottawa, 27–29 May 09
- ▲ with Janel Smith, “Considering the Social Economy in Historical Perspective: Some Observations,” CASC meetings, Ottawa, 27–29 May 09
- ▲ “Circles, Not a Pyramid: Co-operatives, the Social Economy, and the Roles of History,” keynote presentation, ICA Research Conference, Garda del Riva, Italy, 15–18 October 08
- ▲ co-applicant, Social Economy project

Ellen Goddard

- ▲ chair of the Co-operative Program in Agricultural Marketing and Business, Department of Rural Economy, University of Alberta; many of her students are involved in co-operative research and make presentations at conferences and workshops.
- ▲ co-applicant, Social Economy project

Teaching

- ▲ Agricultural and Resource Economics 482: Co-operative and Alternate Business Institutions

Publications (not reported last year)

- ▲ with Getu Hailu and Scott R. Jeffrey, “Efficiency, Economic Performance and Financial Leverage of Agribusiness Marketing Co-operatives in Canada,” *Advances in the Economic Analysis of Participatory and Labor-Managed Firms*, 10 (2007): 47–81
- ▲ with Jing Zhang and Mel Lerohl, “Estimating Pricing Games in the Wheat-Handling Market in Saskatchewan: The Role of a Major Co-operative,” *Advances in the Economic Analysis of Participatory and Labor-Managed Firms*, 10 (2007): 157–91
- ▲ with Getu Hailu and Scott Jeffrey, “Capital Structure, Firm Size, and Efficiency: The Case of Farm Petroleum and Animal Feed Co-operatives in Canada,” *Agricultural Finance Review*, 67, no. 2 (2007): 279–93
- ▲ with Getu Hailu and Scott Jeffrey, “Do Co-operative Managers and Directors Differ in their Familiarity with Innovative Business Risk Management Strategies?” *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, 40, no. 120 (2007): 17–27
- ▲ with Getu Hailu and Freida Glover, “Lilydale Poultry Co-operative: A Case Study,” in *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, ed. Jorge Sousa and Roger Herman, forthcoming from the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan

Sheryl Mills

- ▲ Sheryl graduated with her PhD in Educational Administration at spring convocation at the University of Saskatchewan
- ▲ conference presentation on co-operative learning

- ▲ with Rani Kanthan, “Co-operative Learning in the First Year of Undergraduate Medical Education,” *World Journal of Surgical Oncology*, 5 (November 2007): 136

Brian Oleson

- ▲ University of Manitoba Agribusiness Chair in Co-operatives and Marketing
- ▲ principal investigator in a project titled “The Viability of a Producer-Controlled Saskatoon Marketing Association: An Integrated Approach”
- ▲ workshop 20 March 2009 on Legal and Institutional Considerations in Forming a Producers Co-operative for Saskatoon
- ▲ participant in a group working on A Strategy for Developing and Maintaining Manitoba’s Co-operative Community
- ▲ co-applicant, Social Economy project

Jorge Sousa

- ▲ presentation on the history of CASC at CASC meetings in Ottawa, 27–29 May 09
- ▲ working with the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation to convert their public housing stock into co-operatives; piloting one and developing a process to proceed with more of the properties once we have refined the blueprint; plans to initiate a similar process in Edmonton
- ▲ working with a student group at the University of Alberta to build student co-op housing
- ▲ co-investigator with the southern Ontario and BC-Alberta regional nodes of the Social Economy project
- ▲ book in progress with Roger Herman — *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*

▲ Partners and Developments

This section highlights relevant issues and developments among centre sponsors.

SaskCentral and The Co-operators

Karl Baumgardner will give a verbal report.

Concentra Financial (Mary Becket reporting)

Operations

Financial Update (31 March): Market volatility and uncertainty continue to be the “new normal” and, although the consolidated net income year-to-date is slightly ahead of the prior year, it is projected that market factors will continue to impact financial results in the current year. There is a continuing focus on prudent balance sheet management and ensuring the company is properly positioned for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Organizational Update: One of the major initiatives for the current year is the

review and evaluation of business and product lines to ensure they are operating profitably, efficiently, and in a manner that best serves our clients and our stakeholders. Concentra is continuing to make further changes to its enterprise-wide structure this year. The intent is to ensure the organization is focused and aligned on key issues and opportunities.

Product Development

In conjunction with SaskCentral, Concentra has rolled out a “Liquidity Bulletin Board,” which is designed to enable credit unions looking for either investor or investment opportunities to be able to more easily meet those opportunities within the credit union system. The intent is to make this facility available nationally.

On the personal trust front, the company is rolling out the Executor-Ease program, which is designed to assist named executors with their duties and responsibilities. Rather than taking over the full administration of the estate, which was the traditional model, this product allows executors to select from a menu of services and pay on a fee-for-service basis.

Strategic Planning

Amalgamations and consolidations continue within the co-operative system as evidenced most recently with the consolidation and realignment of the Atlantic Centrals. Concentra’s board and management are actively engaged in the Prairie Centrals’ Initiative, which is working towards the consolidation of the three Prairie Centrals into a single entity. Under this new design, Concentra will continue to operate as a retail association and the Prairie Central will become its controlling shareholder.

Concentra continues to focus on establishing a consolidated viewpoint of today’s environment as well as the current and future needs of our client partners.

Market Conditions

Capital and liquidity continue to be a key factor across Canada and throughout the global market. To deal with these challenges, Concentra Financial continues to focus on prudently managing its financial resources.

Federated Co-operatives Limited

Marilyn McKee will present a verbal report.

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

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is co-supervisor for Rochelle Smith (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies) and supervisor for Tselvelmaa Chuluunbaatar (MA, Interdisciplinary Studies). She is a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler, an InterD PhD student, and Nicoleta Uzea, Wu Haotao, and Douglas Akhimienmhonan, PhD students in Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics. She is committee chair for Kama Soles (InterD MA), as well as Rob Dobrohoczki, Zhao Jun, Patricia Elliot, and Mitch Diamantopoulos, all InterD PhD students.

▲ Research

- ▲ the Community University Research Alliance application with CCA and others was successful at the Letter of Intent stage; we received \$20,000 to assist in the preparation of the full application, due 10 September; first meeting held in Ottawa in May; regional meetings planned in August
- ▲ in partnership with the Canadian Women's CED Council, Lou is working on a project funded by the Social Economy grant to conduct a gender analysis of the research being conducted within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships
- ▲ 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 with CCA for a SSHRC-funded CURA that proposes to examine the impact of co-operatives in Canada
- ▲ with Roger and Dwayne, she is a participant in the centre's research project examining mergers and amalgamation in the co-operative retail sector
- ▲ 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"
- ▲ co-applicant in Murray's SSHRC-funded "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"

▲ Publications and Related Activities

- ▲ with Johnston Birchall, “Resilience of the Co-operative Business Model in Times of Crisis: A Report for the International Labour Organisation,” ICA *Review of International Co-operation*, forthcoming
- ▲ with Kim Brown, “A Post-Merger Governance Review,” a study of the impact of amalgamation on the governance structure and effectiveness of Advantage Credit Union; if the credit union is agreeable, the centre intends to publish this as an occasional paper
- ▲ with Kim Brown, *Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development: The Potential for Using Co-operative Models*, for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; the centre is publishing this as an occasional paper
- ▲ “The Role of Co-operatives in Supporting Agriculture and Rural Development in Canada,” in *Farmers’ Co-operatives*, ed. Dr. Yuan Peng, Rural Development Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing; in progress
- ▲ with Gayle Broad, “Mapping the Social Economy in Aboriginal Communities in Canada” chapter in forthcoming book by the Social Economy Research Partnership
- ▲ “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 and Conferences Attended

- ▲ SaskCentral AGM, 8 April, Regina
- ▲ Action Plan to Reduce Poverty conference, 16–18 April, Saskatoon
- ▲ Saskatchewan Regional Workshop, Social Economy project, 1 May, Prince Albert; attended and presented
- ▲ Arctic Co-ops AGM in Winnipeg, 5–7 May; attended
- ▲ meeting of Steering Committee, Co-operators conference on Youth and Sustainability, 26 May, Guelph
- ▲ Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings, Ottawa, 27–29 May; moderated one session and participated in a panel discussion in another
- ▲ CCEDNet meetings, 4–5 June, Winnipeg
- ▲ CCA’s National Congress in Ottawa, 16–19 June; will attend and moderate a session

▲ Administration

Specific to the Centre

- ▲ commitment leader for the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship priority of the U of S Second Integrated Plan 2008–12; numerous meetings with VP Research and members of commitment working group since early April
- ▲ board member, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association; participated in one board meeting
- ▲ member of steering committee for the September 2009 Youth Sustainability

Conference hosted by The Co-operators in Guelph; also member of program design committee; have participated in monthly conference calls for both committees

- ▲ numerous meeting related to contract renewal
- ▲ prepared for June management advisory board meeting

Specific to the Social Economy Project

- ▲ participated in the monthly conference calls and meetings organized by the National Hub and other associated committees and adhoc groups
- ▲ chaired conference call meetings of LLL management board
- ▲ two trips to Winnipeg to oversee the change in administration for our Social Economy partner there from WIRA to the Institute of Urban Studies
- ▲ meetings with University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg business schools re adding co-op material to curriculum

As Chair of ICA Committee on Co-operative Research

- ▲ assisting with organization of the annual conference in Oxford, September 09
- ▲ member of the steering committee of the Research and Policy Programme at the Co-operative College, Manchester

Brett Fairbairn

Most of Brett’s time is devoted to his administrative responsibilities as University Provost and VP Academic, though in a reduced capacity he remains connected to the centre and co-operative studies in a variety of roles.

▲ Graduate Supervision

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

- ▲ Mark McCulloch (History) “Women’s Groups and Consumer Co-operatives in East Germany, 1949–71”
- ▲ Rochelle Smith (InterD) “The Relationship of Saskatchewan’s Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Towards a New Understanding”

He is also on a number of other PhD and MA advisory committees.

▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator, “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations,” SSHRC funded; co-investigators are Murray Fulton and Marie Bouchard of 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; principal investigator 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

▲ Publications

- ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, Brett is author or co-author of four chapters; ms is with Nora in preparation for distribution to authors
- ▲ 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
- ▲ “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
- ▲ review of Robert Arsenschek, *Der Kampf um die Wahlfreiheit im Kaiserreich: Zur parlamentarischen Wahlprüfung und politischen Realität der Reichstagswahlen 1871–1914* (Düsseldorf: Droste, 2003), *German History*, forthcoming
- ▲ review of Uwe Puschner, *Die völkische Bewegung im wilhelminischen Kaiserreich: Sprache, Rasse, Religion* (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2001), *German Studies Review*, forthcoming

▲ Professional Practice

Brett is on the editorial board of the *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics* and is a member of the steering committee for the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

Murray Fulton

Murray is on sabbatical this year, spending most of his time on research projects, though he has managed to fit in some teaching and conference work.

▲ Teaching

Public Policy 805.3: Economics for Public Policy Analysis, a two-week course for the School of Public Policy

▲ Graduate Supervision

Murray is supervising five MA and PhD students working on co-operative topics and is a committee member for a number of others.

▲ 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
- ▲ co-applicant in the centre’s SSHRC project on the Social Economy; academic co-lead of the Governance Cluster
- ▲ “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

▲ Publications

- ▲ with M. Cule, “Business Culture and Tax Evasion: Why Corruption and the Unofficial Economy Can Persist,” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, accepted for publication
- ▲ with James Vercammen, “Optimal Two-Part Pricing in a Carbon Offset Market: A Comparison of Organizational Types,” *Southern Economics Journal*, accepted for publication

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “The Economics of Co-operatives,” workshop presentation to faculty and students at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 22–24 April 09
- ▲ with Julian Alston, “Sources of Institutional Failure and Underinvestment in Levy-Funded Agricultural Research,” to the Canadian Agricultural Economics Association/Canadian Economics Association annual meeting, Toronto, 29–31 May 09
- ▲ “Anticommons and Canadian Railways,” to The Anticommons Problem and Potential Future Research symposium at the same meetings
- ▲ “Rural Co-operation in Canada,” to the Rural Co-operation in the 21st Century: Lessons from the Past, Pathways to the Future conference, Rehovot, Israel, 15–17 June 09

▲ Administration

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

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community
 InterD 898.3: Organizations, Communities, and Social Change (co-instructed with Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay and others)

▲ Graduate Supervision

Two of Michael’s students successfully defend their theses during the past quarter; he was a supervisor for Daniel DeLury and an external examiner for Michael Chartier, whose MEd thesis was supported by one of the centre’s Social Economy scholarships. Michael has on-going supervisory duties for one MA student in sociology; he is also on advisory committees for two InterD MA students (co-operative studies) and five InterD PhD students (four in co-op studies, one in sociology).

▲ Research

- ▲ Michael is the PI for a project titled “Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives and Opportunities,” funded by Heifer International Canada
- ▲ 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”
- ▲ applicant, Saskatchewan Housing Research Program grant, “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan,” a study of the Quint housing co-ops

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Food Sovereignty in Canada,” Heifer International Canada, Food Sovereignty Learning Event, March 09, Saskatoon
- ▲ with Eric Leviten-Reid, “A Co-operative Approach to Assisted Home Ownership,” Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings, Ottawa, May 09

▲ Administration/Professional/Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ associate member, School of Environment and Sustainability, 1 July 2008–
- ▲ associate member, International Studies Program, 2007–09
- ▲ management board member, Community-University Institute for Social Research, U of S
- ▲ member, College of Graduate Studies and Research Interdisciplinary Committee, 2008–11
- ▲ member, Regional and Urban Planning Administrative Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
- ▲ member, College of Arts and Sciences Employment Equity Committee
- ▲ member, editorial board, *Journal of Cooperatives*, January 07–
- ▲ member, editorial board, Rural Studies Series, Rural Sociological Society and Penn State University Press, July 2008–11
- ▲ member, Rural Sociological Society Membership Committee, 2007 to present

Catherine Leviten-Reid

▲ Teaching

- ▲ Catherine’s MA-level class on the Social Economy and Public Policy for the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy concluded in April; she received very positive course evaluations from her students

▲ Research

- ▲ Catherine’s occasional paper “Co-operatives, Child Care, and Quality” is with Nora for editing
- ▲ she continues to work on her paper titled “Co-operatives Delivering Care Services: An Essay on Theory and Outcomes”
- ▲ she is overseeing the work of a graduate student from the School of Public Policy who is helping Catherine with a comparative analysis of co-op legislation in Canada that enables the development of social co-operatives

▲ Publications

- ▲ with Brenda Parker and Kristen Springer, “Making Space for Graduate Student Parents: Practice and Politics,” *Journal of Family Issues*, accepted for publication
- ▲ “Consumer Involvement in the Delivery of Social Care: Testing Co-production and Stakeholder Theory in the Child Care Sector,” submitted to the *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*
- ▲ did final edits on a paper on home care co-operatives accepted for publication by the *Canadian Journal on Aging*
- ▲ working on the conference proceedings for the centre-sponsored conference Health Co-operatives: National and International Perspectives

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Social Co-operatives and Enabling Legislation,” Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings, 27–29 May 09, Ottawa
- ▲ also presented opening remarks and chaired the AGM

▲ Outreach

- ▲ serves on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic
- ▲ president of the board of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation; duties include adjudicating the CASC awards; chairing board meetings; acting as program chair for the 2009 conference, which also includes developing the program; reviewing conference abstracts; fundraising; assisting with production of the CASC newsletter; and communicating with members

Jessica Gordon Nembhard

Jessica has been with us for several weeks over the past year as a visiting scholar. She is working on the Social Economy project, focussing her research on three areas within the broad topic of Measuring the Impacts of Social Enterprises and Co-operatives

- ▲ Measuring the impact of the social economy on communities: This research will examine a variety of measurement strategies of the effectiveness of the social economy and community-based enterprises, particularly as they address poverty alleviation, community economic development, structural inequality, and nontraditional asset building.
- ▲ Wealth accumulation and asset building through co-operative and shared ownership: This research will identify strategies and develop methods to understand and measure asset ownership and wealth accumulation through democratic ownership of a co-operative business, beginning with credit unions and worker co-operatives.
- ▲ A comparison between the development, functions, and accomplishments of Aboriginal/First Nations co-operatives in Canada and African-American-owned co-operatives in the US.

This summer she is working with Lou on a pilot study titled “Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Measuring Member and Community Benefits and Asset Building from Credit Union Ownership.” It will explore the many ways that credit unions benefit their members and their communities by documenting and measuring the kinds of products, programs, and services credit unions provide and sponsor; and by calculating the impacts of these programs and services on members’ well being, financial stability, asset/wealth-building, and skill development. It will also calculate the impact of credit unions on community economic development and civic engagement. Centre researcher Dwayne Pattison has been hired to help with the pilot this summer.

Jessica is currently visiting assistant professor at Howard University, Department of Economics, Center for Race and Wealth in Washington; in the fall she begins a new job as associate professor in Community Justice and Social Economic Development, African American Studies Department, John Jay College, City University of New York. We have been very lucky to have her with us this year.

Nora Russell

▲ Editorial

- ▲ final formatting and press supervision for *The Agriculture of the Middle Initiative*, occasional paper by Tom Gray; published in April
- ▲ heavy substantive editing on chapter one of Roger and Jorge's book on co-op conversions; sent to authors for comment
- ▲ editing and layout for Lou and Kim Brown's report to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, *Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development*, which will be a centre occasional paper; proofreading complete; awaiting Nora's attention
- ▲ final editing, formatting, and press supervision for *The Importance of Policy for Community Economic Development: A Case Study of the Manitoba Context*, a final report for the Social Economy project
- ▲ prepared another final report from the Social Economy project for printing and posting — the *Northern Ontario Women's Economic Development Conference Report*
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last advisory board meeting
- ▲ wrote article describing how the centre's activities make innovative economic and cultural contributions in Saskatchewan and Canada for one of the university's commitment groups
- ▲ a great deal of work on the centre's exhibition of research results for the Social Economy project
- ▲ co-ordination, writing, and layout for this director's report

▲ Other Activities

- ▲ layout for Lou and Kim Brown's report to Advantage Credit Union — *A Post-Merger Governance Review: Report to the Governance Committee of Advantage Credit Union*; the centre hopes to publish this as an occasional paper
- ▲ layout for the French and English versions of the CASC spring newsletter
- ▲ prepared seminar ads
- ▲ assisted Catherine in the preparation of the CASC program
- ▲ prepared more materials for CCA's history book — photographs and cutlines, a write-up on the centre
- ▲ finished project preparing centre publications for posting to website — did updates and revisions to front matter and prepared pdfs of 38 titles; all centre publications in electronic format are now posted to the website
- ▲ prepared materials for display at CCA's centennial congress

▲ Reprints

- ▲ Social Economy newsletter
- ▲ plus fourteen reprints to come as soon as Nora can turn her attention to them

▲ Professional, Outreach, and Other

Nora is a member of EAC Saskatchewan, a branch of the Editors' Association of Canada. She 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.

Roger Herman

Roger continues to be involved a great variety of centre activities. A major new responsibility is the management of the centre's project developing an exhibition of research results from the Social Economy project co-ordinated with the Diefenbaker Canada Centre. In aid of this, he applied for and was successful in obtaining a USTEP grant to subsidize the cost of hiring a summer student to assist with work on the exhibit. Along with Nora and Heather, he has spent many hours in meetings with Dief Centre staff defining the scope of the project and discussing how to use the research materials most effectively to appeal to a broad spectrum of the public. A major requirement is linking the content to the K-12 school curriculum in the province, which adds another layer of complication.

Roger was invited as the centre's representative to participate in a meeting hosted by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education in Regina, 22 April, where participants reviewed new provincial social studies curriculum for grades six to nine and discussed opportunities for contributing relevant resources for this and other social studies curriculum. Along with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, Roger will continue to monitor the curriculum review process for opportunities to contribute information on co-operatives.

Roger is member of the Finance Cluster of the Social Economy project and is a regular participant in the Social Economy project management advisory board meetings.

He is working on final revisions to his book co-edited with Jorge Sousa (University of Alberta), *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*. And he is working with Catherine Leviten-Reid preparing the proceedings of the centre-sponsored October conference on the role of co-operatives in the delivery of health care.

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

- ▲ as president of the board of directors of the Association of Cooperative Educators, he attended a board meeting in Minneapolis in May

- ▲ he participated in the annual Saskatchewan Regional Symposium for the Social Economy project held in Prince Albert on 1 May
- ▲ he represented the centre at a presentation on the Kiva micro-finance initiative and participated in follow-up discussions considering the use of this model in Saskatoon
- ▲ he spent many hours working on the participant selection committee for the national youth conference being organized by The Co-operators that will take place in Guelph in September 2009
- ▲ with Lou and Dwayne, he is co-ordinating the centre's research project examining mergers and amalgamation in the co-operative retail sector; he presented research findings at the CCA Institute of Co-operative Studies in Banff in February; Dwayne will present this research at the meetings of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation in Ottawa in May
- ▲ he continues to respond to inquiries regarding New Generation Co-operatives as well as co-ops in general
- ▲ he is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of visitors to the centre; he manages the centre's seminar series; and is the liaison with the centre's graduate students
- ▲ he is an alternate centre representative at the University of Saskatchewan Centre's Forum, which explores common issues and ensures that the respective centres' concerns are heard
- ▲ he is an alternate centre representative to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and participated in a strategic planning meeting in Regina on 30 March.

Heather Acton

▲ The Library

- ▲ materials signed out: 42
- ▲ materials returned: 38
- ▲ reference and research requests responded to: 44
- ▲ books catalogued: 5
- ▲ new borrowers registered: 7

The library renovations are complete and we are more or less settled in the new spaces, apart from a major shelf shift that has to take place to re-space the books. We have gained considerable shelving space, which will make materials much more accessible, and also a workroom off the library for students and our technical assistant. We have moved all our centre publications into a new storage area, freeing up an office with a window, not to mention heat, for Heather.

▲ Social Economy Project

Much of Heather's time has been devoted to the upcoming exhibit of research

results, in meetings with Roger and Nora and Dief Centre staff and in communications with researchers in order to facilitate the timely gathering and updating of project information. She has also dealt with a number of administrative issues relating to the project. In addition, she has been very involved with our USTEP student, Norma Brunanski, providing direction and answering questions related to her work with our Social Economy exhibit.

▲ Events Attended

- ▲ 1 May 09 — Saskatchewan Regional Workshop, Social Economy project, Prince Albert; Heather assisted with the organization of this event
- ▲ many meetings
 - Saskatoon Special Libraries Network
 - University Librarians
 - Social Economy Hub
 - LLL Management Board
 - CUISR
 - Exhibit Committee (several)

Heather continues to regularly update and maintain both the Centre's blog and the LLL website and blog, and monitors topical websites and blogs of interest to faculty and staff.

Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the centre's day-to-day operations and undertakes many additional duties as they arise. Regular duties include:

- ▲ updating and recording the revenues/expenditures associated with the centre's monthly financial statements; preparing the spreadsheet for reporting to the management advisory board
- ▲ maintaining the SSHRC project account and all other research accounts, including monitoring these accounts to ensure that the funds are expended in accordance to the specified requirements
- ▲ investigating errors and processing journal vouchers for incorrect charges to particular accounts
- ▲ ensuring that all the supporting documentation is in the files; obtaining any missing documentation from Central Registry
- ▲ updating the externally-funded research report provided at each board meeting
- ▲ 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

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ calculating dues and issuing invoices for each of our sponsor organizations;

- processing journal vouchers for each sponsor's funds; completing the cash report forms and making deposits upon receipt of the dues
- ▲ assisting Roger with processing and submitting payroll forms for Norma Brunanski, hired on a USTEP grant to work on the Social Economy exhibit; also ensured that Norma was assigned an appropriate workstation and helped settle into her position at the centre
 - ▲ preparing and submitting payroll forms for Dwayne Pattison
 - ▲ preparing scholarship payroll forms for Wu Haotao
 - ▲ working with the Dept. of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics sorting out the payroll details for Fortunate Mavenga, a grad student working with Rose Olfert on a Social Economy project
 - ▲ reviewing the standing purchase order for the centre's Treo cell phone and calculating the new amount for the 2009-10 financial year
 - ▲ preparing financial information summarizing projected expenditures to 30 June, the centre's year-end; this involved checking individual sub-accounts and keeping itemized lists of planned expenses as well as estimating a number of expenditures that will be processed before the end of June
 - ▲ ensuring all expenditures associated with the INAC project were processed by the 30 April deadline; this involved processing many journal vouchers and preparing payroll forms for researcher Kim Brown
 - ▲ processing the expenditures associated with the Advantage Credit Union project by the 30 April deadline

On an ongoing basis, 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. This quarter it also included co-ordinating a date for and organizing a farewell dinner for departing board members.

Other responsibilities this quarter include:

- ▲ editing and preparing the November 08 management advisory board meeting minutes; obtaining agenda items for the next meeting, making arrangements for printing and couriering to board members
- ▲ in connection with the centre's contract renewal process, gathering information regarding funding contributions from the co-op sponsors over the past five years; sending out contract funding proposal letters to sponsors as well as to the co-op representatives on the advisory board
- ▲ assisting Michael Gertler with the ethics approval forms for his Housing and Communities project; ensuring that the paperwork was completed and submitted on time; creating a new fund upon final approval
- ▲ completing and submitting paperwork for renewal of a number of centre memberships
- ▲ attending a presentation by Citizenship and Immigration to obtain more information about various requirements for graduate students and visiting scholars coming to Canada

- ▲ ensuring that the paperwork for the ASPA merit process was completed and submitted to Human Resources by the deadline
- ▲ arranging to have Heather's workstation assessed by the Health and Wellness Resource Centre; submitting a request for an ergonomic workstation
- ▲ assisting Lou and others in arranging meetings, contacting participants booking rooms

Karen Neufeldt

Karen's regular duties include:

- ▲ reception
- ▲ paperwork, including processing cash reports and filing
- ▲ xeroxing and printing
- ▲ invoicing and mailing publication orders; keeping track of stock for reprints
- ▲ invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills
- ▲ monitoring office supplies and ordering replacements as required
- ▲ mailouts as required
- ▲ updating the databases
- ▲ assisting with the preparation of packages for the advisory board meetings

Special activities this quarter include:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the March advisory board meeting
- ▲ co-ordinating the mailout of seminar series announcements and booking rooms for March and April
- ▲ reshelving hundreds of items in the library, Heather's new office, and the new publications room after library renovations were complete
- ▲ assisting Lou with the submission of two applications — for Mike Chartier and Maria Basualdo — for the InterD Co-op Concentration program
- ▲ co-ordinating bank transfer from ICA in Geneva for Lou's research work
- ▲ checking in and routing of journals; assisting with circulation for patrons; reshelving returns; placing book orders; assisting with editing the library catalogue records
- ▲ preparing posting for the USTEP summer student position and submitting to Student Central as well as all departments on campus; assisting with office arrangements for Norma Brunanski, the student hired as a result
- ▲ assisting with the organization of the Advisory Board Retirement Dinner at Boffins, 15 June
- ▲ co-ordinating the preparation of the packages for the Norm Bromberger Scholarship application for circulation to universities across Canada as well as to SCA and SaskCentral
- ▲ assisting with many travel, accommodation, car rental, and conference arrangements for centre personnel and others; processing travel claims upon return:

For Jon Aniuk and Heather Williamson, Social Economy interns, for a conference in Princeton in April

For centre staff, students, and scholars to participate in the Saskatchewan Region Workshop for the Social Economy project in Prince Albert, 1 May

For Lou for the Arctic Co-ops AGM in Winnipeg, 5–7 May

For Roger to attend Association of Cooperative Educators board meeting in Minneapolis, 11–13 May

For Lou for meetings in Guelph prior to the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) meetings in Ottawa

For centre staff, students, and other researchers to participate in the CASC meetings in Ottawa, 27–29 May

For Arlene Bear, Maria Basualdo, and Isobel Findlay, Social Economy researchers, to attend the CEDNet Conference in Winnipeg, 3–5 June

For Lou and Roger to attend CCA's National Congress in Ottawa, 16–19 June

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

The Students and Contract Researchers

Kim Brown continues to work part time on a CUISR internship writing a case study on La Ronge for the Social Economy project titled “Exploring the Social Economy in Saskatchewan.” She is currently employed full-time as a case assessment officer for the Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat in Regina.

Dwayne Pattison has completed the first draft of his report titled “Post-Amalgamation Environments: Assessing the Impact of Retail Co-operative Amalgamations on Membership, Management, and Governance,” overseen by Roger and Lou. The next step will be a survey of members, which is expected to provide a broader perspective on the issues under examination.

Dwayne has also been involved in the Canadian Research Agenda, a project sponsored by CCA, CCCM, and the Co-operatives Secretariat, the goal of which is to bring together those interested in co-operative research to discuss priorities, gaps in knowledge, and future direction of co-operative research in Canada. More info on the project is provided in the CASC newsletter at www.coopresearch.coop/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/casc-newsltr-spr09.pdf. With his colleague from Quebec, Julien Levac, Dwayne has written a report on the process to date and everyone is welcome to provide comments and/or discuss the findings.

This summer, Dwayne will be conducting interviews for visiting scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard for her Social Economy research project titled “Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Measuring Member and Community Benefits and Asset Building from Credit Union Ownership.”

Dwayne moderated a panel at the CASC meetings, presented the findings of the amalgamation study, and also gave a brief overview of some of the developments with the Canadian Research Agenda.

He has another important summer project researching smoothie recipes to be enjoyed on his balcony.

Monica Juarez Adeler is working on her dissertation proposal and also acting as the co-ordinator for our new Social Economy partner in Manitoba, the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg. She has completed her report for the Social Economy project titled “Building a Tax Policy Framework to Enable Co-operative Development”; it’s with Nora for editing.

Rob Dobrohoczki is studying for his PhD comprehensives. He has one publication forthcoming; he assisted Brett with a chapter in the forthcoming centre book *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*. And he presented two papers at the CASC meetings: “The Co-operative Difference in Tumultuous Times: Financial Crisis or Opportunity?” and “Successful Collaborative Governance in the Social Economy: Themes from the Literature.”

Zhao Jun continues to work on his doctoral research, which is on farmers’ co-operatives in China. He intersperses this with other activities — co-op development work in China and working part time for the CASC Secretariat housed at the centre, among other things. This year he moderated a session at the CASC meetings and also presented a paper titled “Farmers’ Professional Co-operative Law in China: Rule of the Jungle?”

Rochelle Smith continues to work on revisions to her PhD dissertation titled “The Relationship of Saskatchewan’s Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Towards a New Understanding.”

Mitch Diamantopoulos is working on the research and writing for his PhD dissertation on the promise and potential of worker co-operatives in Canada, while working full time as the head of the School of Journalism at the University of Regina. He has one publication forthcoming, a chapter titled “Belonging, Comfort, and Home: Globalization, Social Exclusion, and Innovations in Co-operative Housing” for the centre book *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*.

Mike Chartier continues to work on 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 grade eight at W.P. Bate Community School in Saskatoon. He successfully defended his MA thesis titled “Adult Education and the Social Economy: Rethinking the Communitarian Pedagogy of Watson

Thompson,” and received a Graduate Thesis Award in Social Sciences B at spring convocation. Michael has been accepted into the InterD Co-op Concentration Program to do a PhD. His research topic is “A Whiteheadian Approach to Ethical Decision Making: How Could It Facilitate Effective Co-operative Governance?” We’re extremely pleased that Michael has chosen to continue his academic career with the centre.

Kama Soles’ Kama Soles’ Interdisciplinary Studies Master’s thesis, “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 presented a paper at the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings in Ottawa, 28 May, titled “Leaders and Allies: The Role of Multistakeholder Co-operatives in Building an Inclusive Society”; the paper discusses the ways disabled and nondisabled people can work together through multistakeholder alliances to build the political empowerment of the disability community. Kama has worked over the past year co-ordinating the Centre Seminar Series with Karlah Rudolph.

Tsegi Chuluunbaatar, who is at the course-work stage of her MA in the Co-op Concentration, has returned from medical leave. Her thesis is tentatively titled “Increasing Opportunities for Women in Rural Mongolia through Co-operatives and Co-operative Models of Development.”

Karlah Rudolph is working with Murray and Brett on Brett’s SSHRC-funded project “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations.” She has completed one year of course work for her InterD MA; her thesis is titled “Co-operative Response to Globalization of the Food Chain: Implications for the Emergence of a Sustainable Food System.” Her work last summer compiling information on governance issues in social enterprises was launched on a website this spring. It can be viewed at www.socialeconomygovernance.org. Karlah has worked for the past year with Kama Soles co-ordinating the Centre Seminar Series. She has taken a position with the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority for the summer.

Patricia Elliott has completed her first year of course work in the InterD PhD. Her dissertation will study the social economy of community media, looking specifically at the impact of grassroots community radio across a broad range of social networks, points of tension, and ultimately, social change.

Maria Basualdo, whom we have worked with for many years as the Community-University Institute for Social Research liaison, has been accepted into the InterD Co-op Concentration to do a PhD. Her research topic is “Indigenous Women’s Community Development: A Comparison of Canada and Latin America.” We’re very happy to continue our association with Maria in a new and creative way.