



Director's REPORT

to the
Management
Advisory
Board

Michael Gertler, Acting Director
Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

June 2011



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 University of Saskatchewan. The university not only houses our offices but provides in-kind contributions from a number of departments and units — the School of Public Policy, 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

Sponsors Honoured



The Building Renovations



New Communications Strategy



Centre Review



International Year of Co-operatives



Building Community Exhibit



Social Economy Project Update



Impact of Co-operatives Research Update



Other Research Update



Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation Conference



Other Conferences and Workshops



Publications



Faculty/Scholar/Staff/Student News



Seminars



Partners and Developments



Overview and Highlights

▲ Sponsors Honoured

We are pleased to acknowledge yet more important honours for Centre sponsors. Saskatchewan's Credit Union Central has been named Canada's top workplace for women, and one of the top one hundred best places to work in Canada for 2011. SaskCentral received the honour from the Great Place to Work Institute, which published its list in the *Globe and Mail* on 12 April, the day before SaskCentral's annual general meeting.

And the Co-operators has been ranked #1 among the Best 50 Corporate Citizens in Canada by Corporate Knight, an organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible business practices in Canada and the advancement of social and environmental sustainability worldwide.

▲ The Building Renovations

The Centre has been affected to varying degrees during the extensive renovations to the Diefenbaker Centre where we are housed, though for the most part, we have carried on as usual. A significant disruption occurred in May, when we all had to vacate our offices for a couple of weeks while the flooring was being replaced. Temporary accommodation elsewhere in the building kept most of us on site and no work days were lost, although the move both in and out took considerable time, effort, and planning. The next phase will involve emptying the library of its more than five thousand items, plus all the built-in shelving, in order to replace the floors in that area.

▲ A New Communications Strategy

We have been engaged for several months in discussions with University Communications on a new communications strategy for the Centre. The plan aims initially to obtain a stronger provincial profile for the Centre using the Building Community exhibit as an example of best practice in community engagement and community-based research. It is intended as a first phase in a comprehensive communication plan to promote the centre's research nationally and internationally.

▲ Centre Review

The report from the external examiners contains many positive observations about the Centre and suggestions pertaining to further development of our teaching, research, and outreach programs. Centre Fellows Michael, Lou, Brett, and Murray have discussed the content and Michael and Lou have also met with VP Research Karen Chad, whose office is ultimately responsible for the reviews of all centres on campus. Michael is in the process of drafting a response to the report, which will go to the VP Research office.

▲ International Year of Co-operatives

Planning is underway for activities at the Centre celebrating the International Year of Co-operatives in 2012. Ideas include inviting senior co-op leaders to speak on campus, erecting appropriate signage to acknowledge Centre sponsors (once the building renovations are complete), and hosting a conference focusing on the roles of co-operatives in building western Canada and USA, and public policy to support this contribution, in the fall of 2012.

▲ Building Community Exhibit

The hundred panels are currently safely stored in custom-built travelling crates awaiting their next engagement. A number of organizations and communities have expressed an interest in hosting the exhibit, and the somewhat complex logistics of doing so are being discussed and worked out. We are also awaiting the results of a Research and Knowledge Development (RKD) funding application which, if successful, would allow us to move onto the second stage of this large project — reconfiguring the exhibit into three travelling components for circulation in the areas under study — Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. The objective of RKD is to encourage research and dissemination projects that will advance the understanding of co-operatives' contributions to addressing challenges in a variety of areas. It is a component of the Co-operative Development Initiative funding administered by the federal government's Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat.

▲ Social Economy Project Update

All the regional workshops planned for this five-year venture have taken place and researchers and students are busy finishing up projects and writing final reports as this major project begins to wind down. The Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) and the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER) conferences in Fredericton in early June (held on the University of New Brunswick campus in conjunction with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities) provided an opportunity for the presentation of research results from sixteen projects. Nora has completed the editorial work and print supervision on several more reports, bringing the total to about a third of the final count. Heather is making preparations to collect the material for the final report on the overall project to the funder, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), which is due February 2012. There has been some discussion about a wrap-up conference involving all six Social Economy research nodes across the country, but no decision has been taken to date.

▲ Impact of Co-operatives Research Update

Research is on-going on Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada, spear-headed by the Canadian Co-operative

Association (CCA). The Centre is working on two projects: Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Wealth Building in Communities and The Impact of Co-operative Housing on Household Income, Skills, and Social Capital. This is a five-year, \$1 million SSHRC-funded project involving CCA, the Centre, Saint Mary's University, the University of Victoria, and Mount Saint Vincent University, plus more than a dozen co-operative associations, co-ops, and credit unions. Co-leads are John Anderson, CCA's director of government affairs and public policy, and Sonja Novkovic, professor of economics at Saint Mary's University.

▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ Murray and Michael Atkinson's (School of Public Policy) examination of executive compensation in government offices, Crown corporations, universities, and co-operatives
- ▲ Brett's SSHRC project "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations"; complete
- ▲ Murray's "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"; complete
- ▲ Murray's "Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada"; complete
- ▲ 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"
- ▲ Michael's "Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives, and Opportunities"
- ▲ Catherine's "Multistakeholder Governance in the Social Economy: Towards a New Framework for Research"
- ▲ Catherine's work with the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) on an evaluation of Crocus Co-op
- ▲ Catherine's research on health services in Duck Lake in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region and CUISR

▲ The Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) Conference

The CASC conference is the main venue for the dissemination of co-op research in Canada, in fact the only annual conference devoted exclusively to co-operative topics. This year it was held in Fredericton, 1-3 June, in conjunction with the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Canada's largest multidisciplinary academic gathering. CASC makes great efforts to include young scholars, many of whom make their first public presentations at the CASC meetings. The Centre serves as the CASC secretariat, which means we are heavily involved with the association on an ongoing basis.

This year the conference, titled Co-operation in a Changing Economy: The Role of Collective Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, attracted researchers from across Canada as well as the US, the UK, France, and Italy. The conference featured twenty-two concurrent sessions representing fifty-nine papers, in addition

to ten joint sessions with the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER), as well as a session with ERA-Can (the European Research Area and Canada), an organization that encourages and facilitates Canadian researchers and organizations to collaborate with European researchers to increase the quality of their networks and the impact of their resources and projects. The conference also included a youth-student co-op workshop and planning for the International Year of Co-operatives in 2012. Organizers were fortunate to secure Professor Carlo Borzaga from the University of Trento in Italy as the keynote speaker, who gave a presentation titled Social Innovation and New Enterprise Models and Opportunities.

▲ Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings

- ▲ United Nations Expert Group Meeting, Co-operatives in Social Development: Beyond 2012, 3–6 May 2011, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Lou chaired a session
- ▲ Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations Workshop, Banff, 9–12 March 11; Brett, Lou, and Murray participated
- ▲ Saskatchewan Community Economic Development and Co-operatives Conference, 8 April 11, Saskatoon; Lou, Michael, Nora, Heather, and Bryce, Centre Scholars Isobel Findlay and Louise Clarke, and graduate students Tsegi Chuluunbaatar and Mitch Diamantopoulos participated; the Centre was a sponsor of this conference
- ▲ Co-operation in a Changing Economy: The Role of Collective Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, annual Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) conference, 1–3 June 11, Fredericton; Lou, Michael, and Heather attended, along with centre graduate students Monica Adeler and Michael Chartier, as well as Centre Scholars Isobel Findlay and Ian MacPherson
- ▲ Building Communities: Exploring the Contributions of Nonprofits and the Social Economy, annual Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER) conference, 1–3 June 11, Fredericton; Lou, Centre Scholars Isobel Findlay, Ian MacPherson, and Jorge Sousa, and graduate students Monica Adeler and Mike Chartier participated
- ▲ Canadian Economics Association annual meeting, 3–5 June, Ottawa; Lou attended and presented

▲ Publications

- ▲ *The Management of Co-operatives: Developing a PostSecondary Course*, LLL final report, edited, designed, printed, and posted
- ▲ *Models for Effective Credit Union Governance: Maintaining Community Connections Following a Merger*, occasional paper based on the research Lou and Kim Brown did for Advantage Credit Union; with printer
- ▲ *Understanding and Promoting Effective Partnerships for CED: A Case Study of SEED Winnipeg's Partnerships*, Linking, Learning, Leveraging final report, edited and designed; with printer

- ▲ with Greg Marchildon, School of Public Policy (Regina), Catherine is working on a revised and expanded edition of Stan Rands's *Privilege and Policy: A History of the Community Clinics in Saskatchewan*, forthcoming
- ▲ "A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form," by Roger and Jorge Sousa; centre book, in process
- ▲ "Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," Centre book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett and Nora; submitted to University of British Columbia (UBC) Press

▲ Faculty/Scholar/Staff/Student News

- ▲ Centre Scholar Len Findlay was awarded an earned D. Litt. at spring convocation in recognition of his scholarly contributions to English studies
- ▲ Centre Scholar Louise Clarke is retiring from her position in the Edwards School of Business as well as from the university co-directorship of the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR)
- ▲ Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay has been appointed to Louise's former position as the university co-director of CUISR
- ▲ Michael is actively recruiting new scholars to the Centre and has encountered considerable interest from several people
- ▲ PhD student Mitch Diamantopoulos will defend his dissertation in early July
- ▲ PhD student Patricia Elliot has passed her comprehensive exams and had her dissertation proposal accepted
- ▲ PhD student Annette Johnson has been accepted into the European Summer School on the Social Economy, 18–22 July, in Bertinoro, Italy
- ▲ the 2010 Fredeen Scholarship has been awarded to Jannie Wing-sea Leung, an MSc candidate in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology; Jannie's thesis research is on fair trade coffee co-operatives in Nicaragua; she has also been involved as a volunteer with several community-based organizations both in Canada and abroad; the Fredeen Scholarship is funded by the family of the late F.J.H. Fredeen to recognize the academic achievement of students pursuing graduate studies in association with the Centre
- ▲ Roger's position has been posted and we hope to have someone in place by the beginning of August

▲ Seminars

- ▲ "Humanizing the Economy: Co-operatives in the Age of Capital," by John Restakis, executive director, British Columbia Co-operative Association, 7 April 11

▲ Partners and Developments

Mary Beckett, Karl Baumgardner, Herb Carlson, and Ken Sherwin will present verbal reports on the relevant activities of their organizations.

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

Michael Gertler

Michael is acting director of the Centre until 31 December 2011.

▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community

This class concluded in April. Michael is teaching a special topics class during the summer for MA student Tsegi Chuluunbaatar — INTD 898.3: Co-operatives and International Development.

▲ Graduate Supervision

Michael has on-going supervisory duties for one PhD student in the Co-op Concentration and one PhD student in the School of Environment and Sustainability. He is also on advisory committees and acting chair for one InterD MA student and six InterD PhD students in the Co-op Concentration, as well as one PhD student in Sociology.

▲ Research

- ▲ with Lou, Michael is embarking on a new project with Affinity Credit Union, which is interested in a study of its relationships with immigrant communities
- ▲ principal investigator, “Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives and Opportunities”
- ▲ principal investigator, “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan”
- ▲ co-applicant on the centre’s SSHRC project on the Social Economy and a collaborator on the Canadian Social Economy Hub, which acts as a facilitator to promote collaboration among the six regional Social Economy nodes across Canada

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Supply Co-ops and the Climate Change Challenge: Issues and Options,” Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) conference, 1–3 June, Fredericton; Michael also chaired three sessions

▲ Administration/Professional/Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ member, IMPACT! Steering Committee (The Co-operators Youth Leadership Conference for fall 2011)
- ▲ board member, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, 2010–2012
- ▲ advisor, Co-operative Issues Council, Enterprise Saskatchewan
- ▲ associate member, School of Environment and Sustainability, 1 July 2008–
- ▲ management board member, Community-University Institute for Social Research, U of S
- ▲ member, Social Economy Project administrative committee for CUISR
- ▲ member, College of Graduate Studies and Research Interdisciplinary Committee, 2008–11
- ▲ member, Regional and Urban Planning Administrative Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
- ▲ member, Canada-USA Relations Working Group, Division of Social Sciences, College of Arts Science
- ▲ chair, Department of Sociology Library Committee
- ▲ member, Department of Sociology Undergraduate Studies Committee
- ▲ member, editorial board, *Journal of Cooperatives*, January 07–
- ▲ member, Canadian Co-operative Association Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- ▲ member, “Research Needs: Cooperatives, Social Enterprises, and Rural Civil Society,” discussion group, US Department of Agriculture
- ▲ member, editorial board, Rural Studies Series, Rural Sociological Society and Penn State University Press, July 2008–11

Lou Hammond Ketilson

Lou is on sabbatical January–December 2011 but continues her active involvement in multiple Centre activities.

▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is supervising MA student Tsegi Chuluunbaatar and is a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler and Douglas Akhimienmhonan, InterD PhD students in the Co-op Concentration. Another PhD student, Wu Haotao, successfully defended her dissertation and graduated.

▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator on the application to the Co-operatives Secretariat for Research and Knowledge Development (RKD) for funding to reconfigure the LLL exhibit and develop workshops; awaiting a decision
- ▲ 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; this is the primary focus of Lou's sabbatical activity

- ▲ co-applicant on the Canadian Co-operative Association's five-year Community University Research Alliance (CURA) grant — Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada; academic co-lead for the Prairie Cluster
- ▲ with Jessica Gordon Nembhard, partnering with Advantage and Affinity credit unions on a project titled "Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Measuring Member and Community Benefits and Asset Building from Credit Union Ownership"; this is the secondary focus of Lou's sabbatical activity

▲ Presentations

- ▲ "Understanding Co-operatives through Research," presented to the United Nations Expert Group Meeting titled Co-operatives in Social Development: Beyond 2012, 3–6 May 2011 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- ▲ "Developing a National Co-operative Research Agenda: The View from Academia," part of the National Co-operative Research Agenda panel, CASC meetings, 1–3 June, Fredericton
- ▲ "Profiling the Social Economy in Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan," CASC meetings, 1–3 June, Fredericton
- ▲ "Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development: The Feasibility of Using Co-operative Models," ANSER conference, 1–3 June, Fredericton
- ▲ chaired the European Research panel as well as the information session on the Euro-Can program, CASC meetings, 1–3 June, Fredericton
- ▲ "Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Community," presented to the Canadian Economics Association annual meeting, 3–5 June, Ottawa

▲ Publications

- ▲ "Understanding Co-operatives through Research," paper presented to the United Nations Expert Group Meeting titled Co-operatives in Social Development: Beyond 2012, 3–6 May, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- ▲ with Kim Brown, "Models for Effective Credit Union Governance: Maintaining Community Connections following a Merger," a study done for Advantage Credit Union; with printer
- ▲ with Jessica Gordon Nembhard and Pat Thomas, first draft of "Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Communities," one of the projects for CCA's CURA
- ▲ working on the final report of the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship Working Group, which will be submitted initially to the VP Research and VP Academic, then for circulation to all faculty; Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship is one of the commitments identified in the university's *Second Integrated Plan*; Lou is the commitment leader
- ▲ with Thibault Martin, co-editing a special edition of the *Ciriec Canada* journal,

Économie et Solidarités; the topic is What Is the Future for the Cooperative and Solidarity Economy in Aboriginal Communities?

- ▲ “First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” chapter in forthcoming book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies”; with UBC Press for review

▲ Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ working with the community of Melfort and region to mount the Building Community Exhibit in Melfort during Co-op Week 2011; Lou has been to Melfort twice for meetings with the organizing committee and will go again 27 June
- ▲ working with organizers of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) on the possibility of hosting the exhibit in Winnipeg for the ACE conference, 26–29 July
- ▲ preliminary conversations with Swift Current about mounting the exhibit in early January; a conference call is planned for June
- ▲ presented workshop titled “Are We Having an Impact?” to the Consumer Co-operative Managers’ Association annual conference, 16–18 June, San Diego

▲ Administration and Meetings

- ▲ commitment leader for the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship priority of the U of S’s *Second Integrated Plan 2008–12*
- ▲ as member of the steering committee on Setting a National Co-operative Research Agenda, took part in a conference call in May
- ▲ as a member of the management board for Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network, participated in an all-day meeting in Fredericton, 31 May
- ▲ as a member of Saskatchewan’s International Year of Co-operatives 2012 Planning Committee, took part in a conference call in May
- ▲ as chair of ICA’s Committee on Co-operative Research
 - ▶ developed and submitted the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research SWOT Analysis and Strategic Plan to ICA’s Governance Committee
 - ▶ organized the steering committee for the ICA Global 300 Project; will also sit as a member
 - ▶ member of the Scientific Committee for the ICA Global Research Conference in Mikkeli, Finland; co-leader of ICA’s 2011 conference titled “Shared Leadership and Communities of Membership”
 - ▶ represented the ICA at the Government of Mongolia sponsored United Nations Expert Group Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 3–6 May; chaired a session on Developing Data Bases for Co-operative Research
 - ▶ organizing, with the assistance of the ICA Latin American Committee on Co-operative Research, a research colloquium in conjunction with the ICA General Assembly in Cancun, 17 November 2011

▲ ▲

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 one PhD student: Mark McCulloch (History)
 “Women’s Groups and Consumer Co-operatives in East Germany, 1949–71.”
 He also serves on a number of other PhD and MA student advisory committees.

▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator, “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations”; complete
- ▲ co-investigator, “Coordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada”; complete
- ▲ co-investigator, “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”; complete
- ▲ co-investigator, “Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society,” SSHRC funded

▲ Publications

- ▲ “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” Brett is the editor as well as author or co-author of 4 chapters; book sent to UBC Press
- ▲ 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

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

Public Policy 807.3: Political Economy
 Public Policy 830.3: Decisions in Organizations

Both these classes concluded in April.

▲ Graduate Supervision

Murray is supervising four PhD students, three of whom are working on co-op topics; he is also supervising three master’s students, one of whom is working on a co-op topic.

▲ Research

- ▲ executive compensation in the public and co-op sectors, including Crowns, universities, government executive offices, and co-operatives; ongoing
- ▲ “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”; complete
- ▲ “Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada”; complete
- ▲ “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations”; complete
- ▲ 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”; complete
- ▲ the role of producer associations in innovation activity, part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network; ongoing
- ▲ “Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management”; complete

▲ Publications

- ▲ with Lampros Lamprinakos, “Does a Takeover of a Co-operative Generate Greater Profits for the Buyer?” accepted by *Journal of Agricultural Economics*

▲ Administration

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

Nora Russell

▲ Writing, Editing, Design, Print Supervision

- ▲ “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” book-length manuscript; dealt with revisions to last remaining chapter; submitted to UBC Press
- ▲ *Models for Effective Credit Union Governance: Maintaining Community Connections Following a Merger*, occasional paper based on the research Lou and Kim Brown did for Advantage Credit Union; with printer
- ▲ *The Management of Co-operatives: Developing a PostSecondary Course*, LLL final report, edited, designed, printed, and posted
- ▲ *Understanding and Promoting Effective Partnerships for CED: A Case Study of SEED Winnipeg’s Partnerships*, LLL final report, edited and designed; with printer
- ▲ “Rural Youth Research Internship” (working title); LLL final report; in editing

- ▲ editing the minutes of the last advisory board meeting
- ▲ co-ordination, writing, and layout for this director's report

▲ Smaller Tasks

- ▲ prepared seminar series announcement
- ▲ prepared an announcement of Michael's acting directorship
- ▲ edited the translated version of the call for papers and editorial guidelines for the special edition of the journal *Économie et Solidarité*

▲ Professional, Outreach, and Other

With other Centre personnel, Nora attended the Saskatchewan Community Economic Development and Co-operatives Conference in April in Saskatoon, as well as two Co-op Network Luncheons and a Centre Seminar.

She is a member of EAC Saskatchewan, a branch of the Editors' Association of Canada and attended a proofreading workshop, for which she designed the poster and other promotional materials, organized by the branch in April. 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, a group that organizes lunch-time speakers on co-op topics throughout the year.

Heather Acton

▲ The Library

Materials signed out: 34
 Materials returned: 17
 Reference and research requests responded to: 18
 Books catalogued: 17
 New Borrowers Registered: 2
 Online Catalogue Accesses: 111

▲ Events and Meetings

15 March 11 — Met with Mark Brown (CUISR) for LLL project updates
 16 March 11 — Co-op Network Luncheon; Rob Jones of Affinity Credit Union spoke on *The Power of Partnership: Together, We Make Housing Accessible*
 17 March 11 — Webinar: International Development and the Co-operative Model
 7 April 11 — Centre Seminar - John Restakis
 8 April 2011 — Saskatchewan CED Conference - Saskatoon
 13 April 11 — Met with Donna Balkan (CCA Communications Manager), who toured the library; shared information about and toured websites, blogs, and newsletters online

- 14 April 11: — Webinar: Co-operative Enterprises: Their Relevance Now and in the Future
- 18 April 11 — LLL Management Board Meeting (teleconference)
- 20 April 11 — Co-op Network Luncheon; Paul Wilkinson and Janice Sanford Beck presented information on Station 20 West and the Good Food Junction Co-operative
- 24 May 11 — Social Economy Project Hub Meeting (Teleconference)
- 24 May 11 — Centres Forum (University of Saskatchewan)
- 1-3 June 11 — CASC Conference, Fredericton

▲ The Websites and LLL Project

Most of Heather's time has been dedicated to website maintenance, updating, and continued development, both on the Centre website and the LLL site. She added a separate blog to our website as a repository for relevant local, national, and international information about co-ops and credit unions.

Making preparations for the final report for the Social Economy project, due 28 February 2012. Gathering and preparing the data will require a great deal of work from a number of Centre personnel.

▲ The Library

The library is in a state of upheaval while the flooring is being replaced. The removal and replacement of the books as well as the shelving is a significant undertaking, and while the heavy work will not be done by Centre staff, Heather and Karen have been planning and overseeing the process to ensure that the move goes as smoothly as possible. We did a complete shelf-reading of the collection to make sure all the books were in order last summer and do not wish to do such an intensive job again so soon. While the library is dismantled, Facilities Management will also be making minor improvements to air circulation and heating/cooling in the library.

▲ Google Analytics

Google Analytics allows us to track visits to our websites, which will be helpful in the further development of these sites. Although we have only been tracking visits for six months, we have noticed significant increases in several categories. Monthly visits to the main website, for example, increased from 996 in November 2010 to 1,338 at the end of May 2011. And single visitors increased from 650 in November to 1,060 in May. It is also interesting to note the number of visitors from countries outside North America over the six-month period (India: 316; Ethiopia: 141; Philippines: 113; Ireland: 97).

Below are general statistics on visits to the Centre's three websites for the most recent three-month period, 1 March to 31 May 2011. Complete statistics are included in your board packages along with other information items.

Centre Website

Visits: 4,247 from 112 countries

Unique Visitors: 3,133

Page Views: 10,095

Percentage of New Visits: 75%

Top Visiting Countries

Canada (2,659)

United States (374)

India (142)

United Kingdom (88)

Ethiopia (63)

LLL Social Economy Website

Visits: 2,639 from 110 countries

Unique Visitors: 2,367

Page Views: 4,568

Percentage of New Visits: 88%

Top Visiting Countries

Canada (1,022)

United States (502)

Philippines (176)

India (64)

Australia (64)

Building Community Exhibit Website

Visits: 477 from 42 countries

Unique Visitors: 412

Page Views: 1,589

Percentage of New Visits: 84%

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 all research accounts, monitoring them to ensure that the funds are expended in accordance with the requirements for each particular account
- ▲ investigating errors and processing journal vouchers for incorrect charges
- ▲ ensuring that all the supporting documentation is in the files; obtaining 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 (which includes all Centre expenditures under \$5,000), ensuring that expenses are charged to the appropriate account and that paperwork is accurate
- ▲ processing all other invoices and cheques that come into the centre

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ reviewing the standing purchase order for the Centre’s cell phone and calculating the amount for 2011–12
- ▲ updating the spreadsheets outlining all the expenses associated with the Social Economy project, including a summary of the funds transferred to each of the clusters and the other universities that outlined the expenditures according to SSHRC’s specified categories; set up meeting with our financial advisor Barb Geib for Heather, Lou, and Patty to go over all the financial information to ensure everything is in order for the final year of the project
- ▲ preparing detailed financial information outlining the Centre’s projected expenditures to year-end (30 June); estimating outstanding expenditures; preparing chart showing actual and projected expenses and balance available
- ▲ searching the Centre’s fund for expenses associated with the new CURA and processing journal vouchers to move them into the new fund for that project
- ▲ preparing a report for Lou outlining the expenditures processed for the new CURA during the past year in order to complete the forms for SSHRC
- ▲ working with the Office of Research Services to create a new research fund for co-op intern Bryce Donaldson’s work; this is somewhat complex because the funding is coming from two sources
- ▲ ensuring that all expenses associated with Brett’s SSHRC project “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations” were processed by the project’s completion date (31 March); notifying Financial Reporting of outstanding expenses; processing journal vouchers to transfer funds from the School of Public Policy, there because of Murray’s involvement in the project
- ▲ calculating contributions and issuing invoices to sponsor organizations for the fourth quarter; processing journal vouchers for each sponsor’s funds; completing the cash report forms and making deposits upon receipt of the dues
- ▲ co-ordinating the submission of hours and payroll information for student researchers
- ▲ assisting Michael with the preparation and submission of the Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Association (ASPA) merit awards
- ▲ preparing scholarship payroll forms for Monica Adeler, a Centre PhD student

Other responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ working with Diefenbaker Centre staff to deal with the logistics of the move out of our offices while the flooring was being replaced and ensuring that essential files and equipment were accessible during the process; with Karen, co-ordinating the move back into our workspace
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last board meeting

- ▲ helping to co-ordinate a number of meetings — general staff meetings, with University Communications, for student advisory committees, etc.

On an ongoing basis, Patty is responsible for organizing the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes identifying a suitable date, preparing the minutes and other agenda materials, arranging for printing, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch. An extra responsibility this time involved co-ordinating a planning session following the board meeting to discuss centre priorities, developments, and the recommendations of the Centre Review.

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
- ▲ incidental and routine assistance for faculty, staff, scholars, and visitors

Special activities this quarter include:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the March advisory board meeting
- ▲ checking in and routing of journals; assisting with circulation for patrons; assisting with research questions; reshelving returns; placing book orders
- ▲ setting up Mike Chartier's student advisory committee meeting
- ▲ making arrangements for John Restakis's seminar — finding and booking the room, organizing the videotaping of the presentation
- ▲ mail-out of Social Economy and Centre publications to authors, community partners, and for legal deposit
- ▲ sending out applications for the Norm Bromberger Bursary and invoicing SaskCentral for expenses
- ▲ assisting Karl Baumgardner with the typing and submission of Roger's Co-op Merit Award nomination
- ▲ co-ordinating meeting of Centre Fellows to discuss Centre Review
- ▲ processing credit card payments for journals
- ▲ posting articles to the centre blog
- ▲ making travel arrangements for Centre staff; processing claims upon return:
 - travel expense claims for Brett's Cognition and Governance workshop in Banff in March for Brett, Lou, Murray, Marie Bouchard, and Nicoleta Uzea

- flights for John Restakis to come to Saskatoon in April
- visa application and flights for Lou's trip to Mongolia in May
- flight, registration, and hotel arrangements for Michael for CCA Congress in Halifax in June
- flights for Lou for Consumer Co-operative Managers' Association Institute in San Diego in June
- registration, flights, hotels, and shuttles for CASC conference in Fredericton in June for Lou, Michael, Heather, Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay, PhD student Mike Chartier, James Popham (strategic research co-ordinator at CUISR and PhD student), and Centre colleague Jessica Gordon Nembhard
- registration, travel, and hotel arrangements for Lou and Michael for ACE conference in Winnipeg in July

The Students and Contract Researchers

Bryce Donaldson, our co-op intern who will be with us until August, is working with Nora, Michael, and Lou on a variety of projects, some involving the wrap-up of the Social Economy project, some involving the ongoing arrangements for the Building Community exhibit, and some involving grant applications.

Monica Juarez Adeler has completed the second set of revisions of the first three chapters of her PhD dissertation and is working on the final chapters. During the spring term she taught the newly created Management of Co-operatives class to thirty-six students in the University of Winnipeg's Business and Economics Department; the class concluded in April. In early May, she was a guest presenter at an Urban and Inner City Studies class taught by Judith Harris at the University of Winnipeg. She presented "Enabling Policy Environments for Co-operative Development: A Comparative Experience" at the CASC conference in Fredericton, where she also became a new CASC board member. And she is running for a position on the Association of Cooperative Educators board; that nomination will be decided at the conference at the end of July. Monica also maintains her role as administrator for the Social Economy Project's Manitoba partner, the Institute of Urban Studies.

Rob Dobrohoczki is working on the proposal for his dissertation. His class in Co-op Law concluded in April; he continues to work part time as a lawyer. He has two publications forthcoming — the chapter he assisted Brett with in the forthcoming book "Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," sent to UBC Press in June, and "Credit Unions and the Construction of Locality: The Case of South Interlake Credit Union, Canada," an article submitted to the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*. Rob is president of the Good Food Junction Co-op at Station 20 West in Saskatoon.

Mitch Diamantopoulos is the head of the School of Journalism at the University of Regina. He has completed his PhD dissertation on the promise and potential of

worker co-operatives in Canada and will defend it in early July. The title of his dissertation is “Globalization, Social Innovation, and Worker Co-operatives: A Comparative Analysis of Co-operative Development in Quebec and Saskatchewan from 1980 to 2010.”

Publications

- ▲ “Rebuilding ‘Home’ in a Transient World: Globalization, Social Exclusion, and Innovations in Co-operative Housing,” chapter in Centre book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” with UBC Press for review
- ▲ with Len Usiskin, “A Provocative Proposition: Linking Research, Education and Action in Saskatoon’s Core Neighbourhoods,” a chapter in *Community-Based Research in Saskatchewan*, edited by Bonnie Zink
- ▲ “Education for Economic Action: The Case of the Canadian Co-operative Movement,” a chapter in *Free Knowledge: Global Stories of Knowledge Enslaved, Devalued, and Emancipated*, edited by Daryl Hepting and Patricia Elliott
- ▲ “Gimme Shelter: Case Study of an Innovative Co-operative Support Organization,” chapter forthcoming in a book from New Rochdale Press at the University of Victoria’s Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy

Mike Chartier has completed the course work for his PhD and is studying for his comprehensives. His research topic is “A Whiteheadian Approach to Ethical Decision Making: How Could It Facilitate Effective Co-operative Governance?” Mike participated in both the ANSER and CASC conferences in Fredericton in June, presenting “The Rhythms of Education: The Role of Foresight and Wisdom in Co-operative Practice” at a joint session. Mike continues to sit on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic as well as the Community Clinic Foundation.

Patricia Elliott has completed the course work and comprehensive exams for her InterD PhD in the Co-op Concentration. Her committee recently accepted the proposal for her dissertation, which will focus on various kinds of community and co-operative media in Saskatchewan. Patricia is director of the Community Research Unit at the University of Regina and also teaches in the School of Journalism.

Maria Basualdo is in the second year of her PhD studies in the InterD Co-op Concentration. Her research topic is “Indigenous Women’s Community Development: A Comparison of Canada and Latin America.” She is currently working on contract with CIDA in Peru, where she is also pursuing field work for her dissertation.

Annette Johnson is currently taking the last course for her PhD in the InterD Co-op Concentration and will soon be moving on to her comprehensive exams. Her dissertation is titled “Finding a Way Out: An Investigation into the Amalgamation of Worker Co-ops and Canadian Unions.” Annette is the lead sociology instructor

at the Regina SIAST campus and teaches an introductory course as well as Aboriginal awareness. She also teaches a course at the University of Regina titled Social Structure and Personality. Annette has been accepted into the European Summer School on the Social Economy, 18–22 July, in Bertinoro, Italy, an extension site for the University of Bologna. The school is sponsored by the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises, the EMES European Research Network, and the University of Bologna.

Tsegi Chuluunbaatar will finish her MA coursework this summer with a special topics reading class, INTD 898.3: Co-operatives and International Development, with Michael Gertler. She is working on her research proposal and ethics approval and in September will leave for Mongolia, where she will conduct her research — case studies on selected rural Mongolian co-ops. She plans to finish her thesis by next summer.