



# Director's Report to the Management Advisory Board

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

June 2013

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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 as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

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



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# Overview and Highlights

## ▲ Awards for Sponsors

According to a new global ranking by *Corporate Knights* magazine, The Co-operators is the world's most sustainable co-op. The award is based on a variety of criteria related to social and environmental business leadership, including energy productivity, resource usage, sustainability mandate, and board diversity.

*Saskatchewan Business* magazine has named Scott Banda, CEO of Federated Co-operatives Limited, one of Saskatchewan's ten most influential business leaders. The magazine's profile of Scott notes that he "comes from a family with deep roots in the co-op movement" and highlights FCL's multibillion-dollar expansion of the Co-op Refinery complex in Regina.

And the refinery itself received the 2013 Exceptional Engineering/Geoscience Award at the 83rd meeting of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists in early May. The award recognizes the accomplishments of a project team made up of engineers and geoscientists predominantly from Saskatchewan.

## ▲ Director Lou Hammond Ketilson Receives Major University Award

We are thrilled to announce that our director, Lou Hammond Ketilson, has received the University of Saskatchewan's Award for Distinction in Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship at Spring Convocation this year. Lou has been a leading scholar, researcher, advocate, and mentor for co-operative businesses and organizations for her entire career. Her skills in reaching out to and building strong relationships with a diverse range of individuals, groups, organizations, and institutions around the world have helped build many successful co-operatives and enhanced the university's reputation.

The award notes that Lou is recognized nationally and internationally for her research and publications on a broad range of co-op topics. Her work has a strong policy focus, specifically the role that co-operatives play in achieving sustainable economic and social development, and she is a frequently invited speaker or workshop leader for provincial, national, and international policy events.

The award acknowledges that one of Lou's greatest asset is her ability to bridge the gap between the academic world, the co-op sector, other social economy organizations, and governments. Perhaps more significant is the fact that her work is held in high regard in all these constituencies and has been applied in the field by both academics and practitioners.

Her research activities have enriched the environment of everyone she has worked with, not only nationally and internationally but also here at home, where faculty, staff, students, and hundreds of people in community-based organizations have

benefited in tangible ways from her experience. She is committed both to enhancing existing partnerships and to creating new ones at every opportunity. Her leadership of the recent Social Economy project created dozens of new partnerships with community groups, researchers, and institutions, as well as experiential learning opportunities in community-based research for more than ninety students. Lou has made exceptional and sustained contributions to the university, the community, and beyond. Her outreach and engagement clearly have substantive impact and long-term significance for the University of Saskatchewan.

#### ▲ New IDRC Project in Africa

“Examining Success Factors for Sustainable Rural Development through the Integrated Co-operative Model” is a new project in partnership with the Canadian Co-operative Association, which secured the funding and will have an ongoing management role. As principle investigator, Lou travelled to Kampala, Uganda, in early May for the project’s inception meeting. Funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the project also includes partners in Rwanda and Tanzania. Lou presented on the overall research objectives as well as the roles and responsibilities of individuals and organizations, ensuring that everyone has a shared understanding of the research objectives and how individual pieces will contribute to the overarching goals of the research. She also led discussions on ethics and participatory and collaborative research. Centre Scholar JoAnn Jaffe also attended the meetings, bringing her expertise in rural development and gender analysis in Africa to the project. JoAnn presented on data collection tools, communications strategy, and the plan to disseminate the project’s research.

Lou and JoAnn also travelled to Mukono to visit a training centre that was partnered with the Association of Cooperative Educators. This left them with valuable personal connections as well as a sense of the context in which Ugandan co-operatives operate.

#### ▲ Indonesian International Workshop on Co-operatives

Lou attended the International Workshop on Co-operatives hosted by the Indonesian government 13–14 May in Jakarta. Her participation in the meetings was part of her duties as chair of the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research, which acts as a bridge between academic research and the co-operative world. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss ways to improve the World Co-operative Monitor (which ranks co-ops worldwide) methodology as well as to evaluate current research tools. Discussions also focussed on the possibility of establishing a Regional Co-operative Monitor under the auspices of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. While in Jakarta, Lou also met with the Indonesian umbrella organization, Co-operation Council Indonesia.

#### ▲ The Digitization Project

Our application for USTEP funding was successful and we have hired Jaime Nicklas to carry on the work begun earlier this year. Our goal is to increase access

to our collection as widely and quickly as possible. Jaime's duties include digital scanning of photographs and slides, conversion of audio and video materials, the creation of standardized descriptive data linked to the files, and additional historical research. Once digitized and uploaded, these relatively unknown treasures of co-operative history will be freely accessible via the Internet (see the section on new research assistants, below, for more details).

### ▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ "The Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities," (part of national study, Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada, spearheaded by CCA), Lou and Jessica Gordon Nembhard's partnership with Advantage and Affinity credit unions; survey complete and shared with credit unions; PhD student Maria Basualdo is in the process of conducting interviews and focus groups with credit unions
- ▲ second project under this umbrella, "The Impact of Co-operative Housing on Household Income, Skills, and Social Capital," by former Centre postdoc Catherine Leviten-Reid and Karla Skoutajan of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, ongoing
- ▲ "Examining Success Factors for Sustainable Rural Development through the Integrated Co-operative Model," Lou's project in partnership with the Canadian Co-operative Association and universities in Tanzania and Uganda funded by the International Development Research Centre, inception meeting in early May; research underway (see more details above)
- ▲ Canadian Co-operatives and Film Research Project; ongoing; George Melnyk, our partner in the project, will be at the Centre as a visiting scholar in January 2014
- ▲ agricultural policy project funded by the US Department of Agriculture, Murray's work in partnership with colleagues at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln — ongoing
- ▲ "Co-operatives in Saskatchewan 2012: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Expectations in the International Year of Co-operatives," Lou and Michael's project — survey has been conducted; results were shared at the Co-operating to Build a Better West Conference; results are being written up
- ▲ examination of executive compensation in government offices, Crown corporations, universities, and co-operatives, Murray and Michael Atkinson's (School of Public Policy) project; ongoing
- ▲ the role of producer associations in innovation activity, Murray's work with the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network; ongoing
- ▲ "Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan," Michael's work with a variety of partners; ongoing
- ▲ "Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives, and Opportunities," Michael's project — ongoing

▲ The Centre Hosts Delegates from iCOOP Korea

In one short week in May, a group from iCOOP Korea absorbed as much as they could about co-ops in Saskatchewan, visiting numerous sites, including the Saskatoon Farmer’s Market, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Station 20 West, the Saskatoon Community Clinic, Affinity Credit Union, Karen Timoschuk’s farm at Harris, Rainbow Housing Co-op, Steep-Hill Food Co-op, co-operatives at Lake Lenore and Meacham, and Champêtre County, near St. Denis. The group also spent a full day at Federated Co-operatives Limited, attended lectures by Fred Khonje of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and the Centre’s Michael Gertler, met with local co-op historian and author Harold Chapman, and also with Lou and Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay. The visit resulted in many fruitful exchanges, with Centre personnel particularly appreciating the wonderful dinner hosted by the delegation at S’eoul Korean Restaurant.

▲ The Young Credit Union Leaders Conference

In late May, Credit Union Central (CUC) of Canada’s National Young Leaders Committee (NYLC) hosted a three-day Leadership Intensive at the University of Saskatchewan’s St. Thomas More College. The conference grew out of recent NYLC research, which suggested that the next generation of credit union leaders needed short bursts of intensive leadership training. As a result, the NYLC, together with CUC staff and the Centre, organized the first CU NextGen Leadership Intensive.

The group centred on three core objectives.

- ▲ strategic thinking: using those skills to generate ideas on where the credit union system can go and how it can get there
- ▲ leaders as individuals: learning about individual strengths and weaknesses and how these skill sets can be leveraged in the workplace
- ▲ networking: building relationships with other young and emerging leaders in the credit union system

To kick off networking activities, the NYLC hosted a “Build a Bike” event during which eight teams each built a bike; the finished bikes were all donated to the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op in Saskatoon. The sixty-five participants expressed their excitement at meeting people from other credit unions across the country. The event provided them with the opportunity to expand their knowledge about the credit union system as a whole, as well as a chance to learn more about themselves and their personal leadership style.

Michael provided introductory remarks to the conference, while Lou presented as part of the panel on leadership.

▲ Global Food Security Roundtable

On 28 May, at the U of S, the Centre was among invited participants in a Global Food Security Roundtable titled “Learning from Western Canada: Agricultural

System Lessons and Partnerships with Potential to Improve Production and Food Security in Small Scale Farming Systems.” Centre Fellow Michael Gertler spoke on the “The Role of Farmer Co-operatives.”

The roundtable presented an opportunity to engage with some twenty-five agricultural scientists, administrators, and international development practitioners from the university, government, research organizations, commodity groups, agribusiness firms, and international development NGOs. The event was convened by World Vision, with the purpose of sharing insights and starting a deeper dialogue about possible partnerships between NGOs and multinational agribusiness firms. The initiative was modeled on earlier Canadian dialogues between NGOs and the mining industry.

The Centre was pleased that the past and future roles of agricultural co-operatives were a featured part of the discussion. Organizers noted the potential of co-operative-to-co-operative mentoring and exchanges, and the possibility of further contributions from the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives regarding co-op models and governance processes.

#### ▲ Visiting Scholars

##### **Carolin Schröder**

The Centre was pleased to host Visiting Professor Dr. Carolin Schröder from mid-April to mid-June. Caroline is a postdoctoral researcher at the Technical University of Berlin. With a background in urban planning, she has been focusing her research on participation and co-operation in urban and regional planning as well as urban governance and management forms. Her work is dedicated to the problems and opportunities offered by interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, a recurring subject in her publications. Over the last decade, she has coordinated a number of research projects, has taught at several universities, and is currently responsible for the broad research area “participation” at the Centre for Technology and Society, Technical University of Berlin. During her visit, Carolin presented a seminar titled Co-operatives as Sustainable Actors in early May. And she completed a paper on the same subject that will be published in the Centre’s Occasional Paper Series. Carolin left us mid-June for a camping trip through the Rockies prior to returning to Germany in July.

##### **Cristina Cano Ortega**

Cristina is a PhD student at the University of Almería in Spain. She will be with us as a visiting scholar from mid-June to mid-September, supported by a fellowship from the Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme. While here, she will be comparing the organizational, governance, legal, policy, and environmental challenges of the Almería agricultural co-operative system with those in Canada’s agricultural co-ops to see how both positive and negative aspects of the Canadian experience might relate to the Spanish situation. She will be looking at competition laws, co-operative legislation, vertical and horizontal integration

processes, new organizational structures, co-operative finance, membership loyalty, and co-op culture. Cristina has a law degree from the University of Almería and a master's in private law from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Last summer she spent three months as a visiting scholar at the Centre for Co-operative Studies at University College Cork, Ireland. We are looking forward to having her with us this summer.

#### ▲ Two New Research Assistants

PhD student **Sugandhi Wickremarachchi** has joined us to assist with the production of an electronic publication that summarizes the presentations from the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference held in November 2012, which brought more than three hundred co-operators together in Saskatoon in celebration of the International Year of Co-operatives. You can view the program and some of the presentations on our website at [usaskstudies.coop/?page\\_id=2914](http://usaskstudies.coop/?page_id=2914).

Sugandhi graduated from McGill University with a BA in International Development Studies and Women's Studies in 2002. Prior to returning to academia in 2010, she worked with government and nonprofit organizations in the field of HIV and hepatitis C. She is currently pursuing a PhD in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan, with a focus on food environments and health outcomes, and serves as a board member of the Canadian Women's Health Network.

**Jaime Nicklas** has joined us as a summer researcher from May through August. She will be assisting with the digitization of our many historical co-op-related photos, slides, pamphlets, and other memorabilia, all of which will be available for viewing online at the Co-op History Collection of Saskatchewan History Online. In addition to our own holdings, we recently received a large collection of photographic items from long-time co-operators Arthur and Helma Dahlman of Calgary; Jaime will have her hands full.

Jaime is currently working towards her English honours degree at the University of Saskatchewan. She also has some experience as a writer and editor. Her position with the Centre is particularly exciting for her, given her love of history and penchant for sorting through old photographs and other memorabilia.

#### ▲ Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings

- ▲ "Taking Stock: Aboriginal Symposium," College of Education, U of S, 15 March 2013; Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay attended and presented
- ▲ Engaged Scholar Day, U of S, 30 April 2013; Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay attended and presented
- ▲ Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. AGM in Winnipeg, 1-2 May; Lou and Centre Scholar Jessica Gordon Nembhard attended
- ▲ "Examining Success Factors for Sustainable Rural Development through the Integrated Co-operative Model" — inception meeting took place in Kampala,

Uganda, in early May; Lou and Centre Scholar JoAnn Jaffe attended and presented

- ▲ “International Workshop on Co-operatives,” Jakarta, Indonesia, 13–14 May; Lou attended
- ▲ “CU NextGen Leadership Intensive,” Saskatoon, 26–28 May, Lou and Michael attended and presented; Audra attended
- ▲ “Learning from Western Canada: Agricultural System Lessons and Partnerships with Potential to Improve Production and Food Security in Small Scale Farming Systems,” Saskatoon, 28 May; Michael attended and presented
- ▲ “Co-operating @ the (Cutting) Edge: Innovating for Social Inclusion, Sustainability, and Solidarity,” CASC conference, Victoria, 4–6 June 2013; Michael, Audra, Centre Scholars Isobel Findlay, Len Findlay, Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Ian MacPherson, Jorge Sousa, Gayle Broad, Catherine Leviten-Reid, Mitch Diamantopoulos, and students Maria Basualdo, Marion Hewitt Pollock, and Scott Kim attended; Michael, Audra, Gayle, Catherine, Scott, Mitch, Jessica, Isobel, Maria, Jorge, and Ian presented
- ▲ Lou made a site visit to University College Cork, Ireland, in her role as external examiner with oversight of the undergraduate and graduate co-op programs
- ▲ “Co-operatives during Crisis and Post-Crisis Period,” ICA Global Research Conference, 12–15 June 2013, Nicosia, Cyprus; Lou attended and presented, as well as Centre Scholars Isobel Findlay, Len Findlay, and Mitch Diamantopoulos

#### ▲ Seminar Series

Our final presentation in the Dean’s Speaker Series in partnership with the Edwards School of Business took place 26 March, with Ken Kosolofski, president and CEO of Concentra Financial, discussing “Concentra and the Resurgence of the Financial Co-operative Model”

On 6 May, Visiting Professor Carolyn Schröder from the Center for Technology and Society, Technical University of Berlin, presented a seminar titled “Co-operatives as Sustainable Actors”

#### ▲ Publications

- ▲ *Through the Eyes of Women: What a Co-operative Can Mean in Supporting Women During Confinement and Integration*, LLL report, edited, typeset, printed, and posted
- ▲ “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” book-length manuscript; revisions accepted; strongly recommended for publication by peer reviewers; awaiting final decision by UBC Press advisory board end of June
- ▲ “A Retrospective on the De-localization of a Cooperative: How Language Was Used to Pry Durum from Local Control: 2002–2010,” Centre occasional paper, edited, with authors for revisions

- ▲ “Engaging Youth in Community Futures: The Rural Youth Research Internship Project,” LLL report, editing complete, with authors for revisions
- ▲ “Understanding Co-operatives through Research,” Centre booklet, edited, with author for revisions
- ▲ “Building Resilient Communities: The Economic Impact of Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires in Canada,” Centre occasional paper, edited, with author for revisions
- ▲ eleven Social Economy reports await Nora’s attention

#### ▲ Faculty/Scholar/Staff/Student News

- ▲ Centre PhD candidate Monica Juarez Adeler successfully defended her dissertation and graduated at spring convocation, although she was unable to be present in person as she and her partner, Brendan Reimer, also welcomed a new young co-operator into the world the week before — Morgan Phoenix was born 29 May, a baby sister for Adrian, born exactly a year ago
- ▲ Sugandhi Wickremarachchi joined us as a research assistant to help with the production of an electronic publication that summarizes the presentations from the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference held in November 2012; she is also assisting Lou and Michael with the first draft of the report on the Perception of Co-ops Survey
- ▲ Jaime Nicklas joined us as a summer researcher on a USTEP grant to assist with the digitization project
- ▲ we have hired Cornelius Christian, a researcher who has worked for us before, to work on developing indicators for the Impact of Co-operatives project with CCA; he will be with us July to October
- ▲ Carolin Schröder, from the Technische Universität in Berlin, spent two months with us as a visiting professor April to June; she left the Centre 12 June
- ▲ Christina Cano, a PhD student from the University of Almería in Spain, arrived at the Centre 12 June and will spend three months with us as a visiting scholar

#### ▲ Partners and Developments

Loretta Elford, Ken Sherwin, Herb Carlson, and Barbara Turley-McIntyre will provide verbal reports on their organizations.

# Teaching/Research/Publications/ Presentations/Administration/Outreach

## Lou Hammond Ketilson

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is supervising MA student Tsegi Chuluunbaatar (InterD Co-op Concentration) and is a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler (InterD PhD, Co-op Concentration) and Zahra Rahmani Nooshabadi (MA, School of Public Policy). Lou is also committee chair for Rob Dobrohoczki, Maria Basualdo, Mike Chartier, and Patricia Elliot, all Centre PhD students in the Co-op Concentration. Monica successfully defended her dissertation in April and graduated at spring convocation. Tsegi has returned from her fieldwork in Mongolia but her status is uncertain, and Annette Johnson, a PhD student, has regrettably withdrawn from the program for personal reasons.

### ▲ Research

- ▲ new project to develop courses in co-operative education funded with \$250,000 from CHS Inc., a leading US agribusiness co-op; we are still working out the details of the project; should be finalized in August
- ▲ “Examining Success Factors for Sustainable Rural Development through the Integrated Co-operative Model,” in partnership with the Canadian Co-operative Association and funded by the International Development Research Centre’s Canadian Partnerships Program; Lou is project co-ordinator; the first meeting of project partners was in Kampala, Uganda, 6–11 May
- ▲ “Co-operatives in Saskatchewan 2012: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Expectations in the International Year of Co-operatives” — survey completed and results shared at the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference in November; we have hired Sugandhi Wickremarachchi, who is also working on the publication from the conference, to prepare a first draft of the report
- ▲ co-applicant on the Canadian Co-operative Association’s five-year Community University Research Alliance grant — Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada; academic lead for the Prairie Cluster; PhD student Maria Basualdo will be conducting interviews and focus groups with members and elected district council representatives in July and August; Cornelius Christian, a researcher who has worked for us before, will work on developing indicators July to October.

### ▲ Presentations

- ▲ participant, Leadership Panel, CU NextGen Leadership Intensive, Saskatoon, 27 May 2013
- ▲ “Exploring an Integrated Model of Co-operative Development and Finance. The Solidarity Economy at Work in Africa and Canada,” presented to the

Committee on Co-operative Research Global Conference, Cypress,  
13 June 2013

▲ Publications (\* peer reviewed)

**Published**

- ▲ with Jessica Gordon Nembhard, “Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Their Communities: Lessons from the Literature and for Developing New Research Methodologies,” and “Measuring and Reporting Co-op Differences: Purpose and Tools of the Credit Union Research,” based on panel presentations at the joint research conference in Montreal, June 2012, “MCDRN Interim Publication: Preliminary Findings on the Co-operative Difference in Canada,” April 2013, available at <http://www.cooperativedifference.coop/en>

**Accepted**

- ▲ “Understanding Co-operatives through Research,” *Review of International Co-operation* 101, no. 1 (2012); due to be published in 2013
- ▲ \* “First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” chapter in “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” UBC Press, revisions accepted, goes to UBC Press board for final approval at the end of June
- ▲ \* “Partnering to Finance Enterprise Development within the Aboriginal Social Economy,” submitted to special edition of journal *Canadian Public Policy: Strengthening Communities through Government and Social Economy Partnerships*, edited by Jorge Sousa and Mike Toye (accepted with revisions; Lou is working on the revisions)

**In Progress**

- ▲ \* with Jessica Gordon Nembhard and Pat Thomas, “Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Communities” (for submission to the *Annals of Public and Co-operative Economy*)
- ▲ with Nora and Maria, *Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being: A Practical Guidebook for Hosting the Exhibit* (in revision)
- ▲ “Building Resilient Communities: The Economic Impact of Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires in Canada,” Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Occasional Paper Series (in revision)
- ▲ “Understanding Co-operatives through Research,” paper first presented to the United Nations Expert Group Meeting titled Co-operatives in Social Development: Beyond 2012, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Centre booklet (in revision)

▲ Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ Lou was presented with the University’s Award for Distinction in in Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship at Spring Convocation (see more details in Highlights section)

▲ Administration and Meetings

*As Centre Director*

- ▲ attended SaskCentral's AGM, Regina, 10 April
- ▲ attended faculty meeting for Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy regarding proposed affiliation of Centre with JS GS, 18 April
- ▲ attended Arctic Co-operatives Limited's AGM, Winnipeg, 1–2 May

*As Member of Management Board for Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network*

- ▲ monthly conference calls

*As Member of Steering Committee for Impact! The Co-operators Youth and Sustainability Programme*

- ▲ monthly conference calls; next event is planned for 2014
- ▲ Lou is also on the Program Committee

*As member of Steering Committee for the International Co-operative Alliance World Co-operative Monitor*

- ▲ provided feedback on revisions to survey instrument
- ▲ attended meetings in Jakarta hosted by the Ministry of Co-operatives, Government of Indonesia (more details in Centre newsletter online at <http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=4e8e1e0383&cid=ce0f422a72>)

*As Chair of International Co-operative Alliance's Committee on Co-operative Research*

- ▲ member of the Scientific Committee for the Global Research Conference of the Committee on Co-operative Research, Cyprus; meetings 12–15 June 2013
- ▲ chaired executive committee meeting 14 June
- ▲ chaired biennial membership meeting 15 June
- ▲ stepped down as chair 15 June after six years
- ▲ Lou has agreed to chair the committee that will organize the research conference at the 2014 International Summit on Co-operatives in Quebec City

*As External Examiner with Oversight of Co-operatives and Other Democratic Organizations in the Department of Food Business and Development, University College Cork, Ireland*

- ▲ approved summer exams for three courses: Microcredit Strategies for Development, Understanding Mutual Organizations, and The Ethos and Values of Mutual Businesses
- ▲ reviewed samples of grading for courses in three programs: BSc Mutual and Credit Union Business, MSoc Sc Voluntary and Community Sector Management, and MBS in Co-operative and Social Enterprise)
- ▲ attended student presentations of minor thesis proposals and data collection

## Michael Gertler

### ▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community (this class concluded in April 2013)

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Michael has on-going supervisory duties for one PhD student in the School of Environment and Sustainability. He is also on advisory committees for one InterD MA student and three InterD PhD students in the Co-op Concentration, one PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies, and one MA student in Sociology. In addition, Michael is the external examiner for an MSc student in co-operative studies at the National University of Ireland.

### ▲ Research

- ▲ with Lou and the Social Sciences Research Laboratories, College of Arts and Science, “Co-operatives in Saskatchewan 2012: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Expectations in the International Year of Co-operatives”; in process of being written up
- ▲ principal investigator, “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan”
- ▲ principal investigator, “Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives, and Opportunities”

### ▲ Presentations

- ▲ “The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and Credit Union Research,” 2013 CU NextGen Leadership Intensive, Saskatoon, 26 May
- ▲ “The Role of Farmer Co-operatives,” Global Food Security Roundtable, Learning from Western Canada: Agricultural System Lessons and Partnerships with Potential to Improve Production and Food Security in Small Scale Farming Systems, hosted by World Vision Canada, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Sustainable Food Lab, Saskatoon, 28 May
- ▲ “Co-operatives in Canada,” presentation to iCOOP KOREA visiting delegation. Saskatoon, 29 May
- ▲ “Introduction to Co-operative Research in Canada and Internationally (Researchers, Themes, Methodologies),” presented at Student Workshop, Researching the Role of Co-ops in Community Development, CASC, Victoria, 3 June
- ▲ “Cutting Edge or Cutting Table: Co-operative Futures in Food and Agriculture,” presented at joint session of Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC) and Canadian Association for Food Studies, Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences, Victoria, 4 June

### ▲ Administration/Professional/Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ acting head, Department of Sociology, April-May 2013

- ▲ graduate co-ordinator, Interdisciplinary Studies Concentration in Co-operatives Studies, the Centre, 1 January 2012–
- ▲ University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association Representative for the Department of Sociology, January 2012–
- ▲ board member, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association as well as a member of the Co-operative Development Committee, 2010–2013
- ▲ associate member, School of Environment and Sustainability, 1 July 2008–
- ▲ management board member, Community-University Institute for Social Research, U of S
- ▲ advisor to the Saskatchewan Public Housing Rental Program Evaluation, R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd., a contract with CUISR
- ▲ 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
- ▲ member, Department of Sociology Undergraduate Committee and Nominations, Awards and Public Relations Committee, 2012–13
- ▲ 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, *Journal of Co-operatives*, 2009–
- ▲ review of a book proposal for Zed books, May 2013

## Brett Fairbairn

Most of Brett’s time is devoted to his administrative responsibilities as University Provost and VP Academic, though 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

- ▲ 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 four chapters in this book for UBC Press; revisions accepted; strongly recommended for publication; awaiting final decision from UBC Press board end of June 2013

## Murray Fulton

### ▲ Teaching

JSGS 862.3: Political Economy

JSGS 898.3: Industrial Organization: Theory, Practice and Policy  
(these classes concluded in April)

### ▲ Graduate Supervision

Murray is supervising three graduate students working on co-op topics: Zahra Nooshabadi, Kathy Johnson, and Nesrine Tarchoun.

### ▲ Research

- ▲ participant in a University of Nebraska–Lincoln agricultural policy project funded by the US Department of Agriculture
- ▲ with Michael Atkinson, executive compensation in the public and co-op sectors, including Crowns, universities, government executive offices, and co-operatives; ongoing
- ▲ the role of producer associations in innovation activity, part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network; ongoing

### ▲ Presentations

- ▲ presentation on the lessons learned from the demise of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool to the board of directors of CHS Inc., a leading global agribusiness owned by farmers, ranchers, and co-ops across the US, St. Paul, MN, 5 June

### ▲ Publications

- ▲ with Konstantinos Giannakas, “The Future of Agricultural Cooperatives,” accepted for publication by the *Annual Review of Resource Economics*
- ▲ “Understanding Public Sector Ethics: Beyond Agency Theory in Canada's Sponsorship Scandal,” accepted for publication by the *International Public Management Journal*

### ▲ 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

- ▲ researched, wrote, and designed the Centre’s annual report; also co-ordinated and supervised printing
- ▲ *Through the Eyes of Women: What a Co-operative Can Mean in Supporting Women During Confinement and Integration*, LLL report, edited, design, printed, and posted
- ▲ “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” Centre

book under review with UBC Press; responded to second review and composed final letter on peer-review process to project editor; revisions accepted; strongly recommended for publication; final decision by UBC Press board end of June

- ▲ “A Retrospective on the De-localization of a Cooperative: How Language Was Used to Pry Durum from Local Control: 2002–2010,” Centre occasional paper by Tom Gray et al. of the US Department of Agriculture; editing complete, with author for revisions
- ▲ prepared final seminar announcement for the Dean’s Speaker Series we sponsored this past year in partnership with the Edwards School of Business
- ▲ wrote and designed announcement re Visiting Professor Carolin Schröder to send to stakeholders; wrote and designed invitation to reception for her, as well as the announcement for her seminar
- ▲ wrote and designed announcement for Visiting Scholar Cristina Cano Ortega to send to stakeholders
- ▲ wrote an article on news from the Centre for the CASC spring newsletter
- ▲ provided text and images for several Centre newsletter items
- ▲ proofread text for the Diefenbaker Canada Centre’s exhibit on the Avro Arrow
- ▲ “Engaging Youth in Community Futures: The Rural Youth Research Internship Project”: LLL report, editing complete; with authors for revisions
- ▲ “Labour Market Study: A Community-Based Research Report for Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council, Naadmaadwuiik, and Saulteaux Enterprises, Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement Local Delivery Mechanisms,” LLL final report; with authors for revisions
- ▲ “Understanding Co-operatives through Research,” Centre booklet; edited, with Lou for revisions
- ▲ “Building Resilient Communities: The Economic Impact of Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires in Canada,” Centre occasional paper, edited, with Lou for revisions
- ▲ with Maria and Lou, putting final touches on production of *Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being: A Practical Guidebook for Hosting the Exhibit*
- ▲ final edits on minutes of March advisory board meeting
- ▲ co-ordinated, wrote, and did layout for this director’s report

#### ▲ Professional, Outreach, and Other

Like other Centre staff, Nora attends all Centre seminars and Co-op Week Luncheons. As a member of EAC Saskatchewan, a branch of the Editors’ Association of Canada, she designed the posters and other promotional material for two spring workshops and attended them as well. She also attended the annual general meeting of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group and took part in its spring professional development workshops. In addition, Nora 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: 42  
 Materials returned: 28  
 Reference and research requests responded to: 29  
 Books catalogued: 4  
 New Borrowers Registered: 4  
 Online Catalogue Accesses: 72  
 Centre PDF Downloads: 147  
 Social Economy Report Downloads: 201

### ▲ Digitization Statistics (Items Scanned)

Slides: 844  
 Photos: 110  
 Pamphlets/Booklets: 2

### ▲ Events and Meetings

- ▲ 9 March — Screening of *Shift Change* (a documentary about worker co-operatives) at the Broadway Theatre
- ▲ 20 March — Co-operative Network Luncheon
- ▲ 20 March — Centre Seminar / Ian MacPherson and Scott Kim
- ▲ 26 March — Centre Seminar / Ken Kosolofski
- ▲ 19 April — Tour of the Main Library and the Processing Space
- ▲ 6 May — Centre Seminar / Carolin Schröder
- ▲ 28 May — SCA's AGM

### ▲ Other Matters

As part of our evolving communications plan, the Centre launched its first e-newsletter in May. A second one was sent in June. We see it as an excellent means for sharing information about the Centre and our activities and we're happy with the results we're seeing from it. Measurable results include inquiries, visits to our websites, and downloads of our pdfs.

Thanks to Duy's persistence and technical skills, we are now able to track pdf downloads on both of our websites.

We hired Jaime Nicklas as a summer student this year with support of a USTEP grant from the university. Jaime has been making excellent progress with the digitization of slides, photos, and historically significant brochures in our library. As she completes the metadata for each item, it is then made available in our Co-op Collection on the Sask History Online website at [saskhistoryonline.ca/fedora/repository/coopcentre%3A00001/-/collection](http://saskhistoryonline.ca/fedora/repository/coopcentre%3A00001/-/collection).

Heather has spent much time developing a sensible and sustainable organizational

and procedural plan for the digitization, which we are testing and tweaking with this first project. Decisions have had to be made about handling, archival storage, identification numbering systems, organization, labelling, and detailed, authority-controlled metadata.

We've had more than the usual number of visitors to the Centre, which has meant touring people through our resources and helping them find materials suitable to their particular needs.

Heather also spends a lot of time keeping our websites and social networks current and fresh.

Discussions are still taking place regarding the future of the Centre's library.

Below are general website statistics for the three-month period 1 March to 31 May 2013: The usual top five countries of Canada, the US, the UK, India, and the Philippines were joined this quarter by Australia, Japan, and France. Of particular interest this reporting period is the remarkable number of new visits: 66 percent to the Centre's main website; 79 percent to the Social Economy website; and 89 percent to the Building Community Exhibit website. And there continues to be a steady increase in access to the Centre's websites from mobile devices — 362 this time as opposed to 135 during the same period last year, an increase of 168 percent!

- ▲ Centre website: 4,683 from 114 countries
- ▲ Social Economy website: 1,293 from 82 countries
- ▲ Building Community Exhibit website: 434 from 34 countries

## Audra Krueger

### ▲ Saskatoon CarShare Co-operative

- ▲ the co-op was awarded \$10,000 from Affinity Credit Union to hire consultants to undertake a business plan for the organization
- ▲ was also awarded \$10,000 from The Co-operators Development Program; the money will be used to fund website development and community outreach
- ▲ hired a business plan consultant

### ▲ Liaison and Outreach Activities

- ▲ hosted and co-ordinated two public presentations with Ian MacPherson as keynote
- ▲ organized Dean's Speaker Series in partnership with the Edwards School of Business with Concentra CEO Ken Kosolofski as the speaker
- ▲ continue to work one day a week out of the Outreach and Engagement office at Station 20 West
- ▲ attended the NextGen Leadership Intensive (co-organized with Credit Union Central of Canada), Saskatoon, 26–29 May

- ▲ in partnership with the School of Environment and Sustainability, organized a seminar for visiting scholar Carolin Schröder
  - ▲ organized meeting for Carolin Schröder with community leaders, as well as researchers working in her area
  - ▲ attended the Engaged Scholar Day Symposium on campus
  - ▲ attended the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association sponsored movie *Shift Change* at the Broadway Theatre in Saskatoon
  - ▲ hosted Jennifer Williams, CEO of La Siembra Co-operative (an Ottawa-based co-op dealing in fair trade and organic food products), for a public meeting as well as a meeting with Centre researchers on possible research topics involving La Siembra
  - ▲ hosted Korean delegation from iCOOP
  - ▲ presented on the Share Economy and the Saskatoon CarShare at CASC in Victoria; also moderated a session
- ▲ Educational Program Development
- ▲ awarded support from the Curriculum Innovation Fund from the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness. The GMCTE will offer support at both the program and course level, including assistance in getting approvals through committees. The project includes development assistance for a new master's-level course on co-operatives as well as a program development for a Certificate in Co-operative Studies offered in partnership with the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
  - ▲ met with William Nelson of Cenex Harvest States Inc. regarding the development of the above-mentioned new course
  - ▲ in response to William's suggestions, wrote draft proposal for the creation of a partnership that would see postsecondary institutions across North America develop case studies on co-operatives and social enterprises as well as offer graduate courses on co-operative studies

## Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the Centre's day-to-day operations and all financial matters including monitoring the main operating fund, maintaining the monthly financial statements and all research accounts, dealing with incorrect entries and missing documentation, and processing all transactions on the university credit card.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ calculating contributions, issuing invoices, processing journal vouchers, and depositing sponsor dues for the past quarter
- ▲ preparing all Centre accounts for the university's year end
- ▲ carrying out a monthly review of the Centre's operating and research funds, gathering invoices, tagging and filing them under appropriate account codes, reconciling various charges, etc.

- ▲ reviewing and verifying the expenditures processed thru the CCA CURA, “Measuring the Co-operative Difference,” from April 2012 to March 2013; submitted SSHRC’s Form 300 to Financial Reporting in May 2013
- ▲ preparing financial information on projected expenditures to 30 June, our year-end, to assist Lou with next year’s budget; this involved estimating numerous outstanding expenses associated with upcoming conferences; prepared a spreadsheet outlining expenses in each category to date, projected expenses for each category, and the balance of funds in each category until year-end
- ▲ gathering financial figures and contact information for all Centre sponsors from 1982 to the present to assist Audra in her discussions with University Advancement regarding the preparation of a plaque acknowledging the contributions of Centre sponsors over the years
- ▲ processing paperwork for the appointment of Sugandhi Wickremaratchi, hired to prepare the report on the IYC conference in November
- ▲ calculating and submitting hours monthly for contract researchers (Sughandi, Jaime Nicklas, and Marion Hewitt Pollock)
- ▲ preparing financial spreadsheet for the advisory board meeting as well as updating externally funded research report
- ▲ assisting Lou with preparation of ASPA merit forms and submitting to HR
- ▲ assisting Lou in processing approval of vacation days submitted online

Other responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ editing the minutes of the last board meeting
- ▲ co-ordinating several staff meetings
- ▲ co-ordinating meetings for Lou
  - ✦ with Vicki Williamson, dean, University Library, and Board Chair Mary Buhr to discuss the Centre’s library proposal
  - ✦ with Karen Chad and Mary Buhr to discuss the Centre’s governance
  - ✦ with Mary Buhr to discuss advisory board matters

On an ongoing basis, Patty is responsible for organizing the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes co-ordinating 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.

## Karen Neufeldt

Karen’s regular duties as clerical assistant include the traditional activities of that position as well as extra activities as required.

Other activities this quarter included:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the March advisory board meeting
- ▲ sending the March director’s report to sponsoring organizations, department heads, etc.

- ▲ checking in and routing journals; assisting with circulation and research questions for library patrons; reshelving returns; placing book orders
- ▲ mailing out completed Social Economy reports and Centre publications to authors, community partners, and for legal deposit; processing payments through daily cash reports and depositing payments
- ▲ processing journal vouchers for xerox billing and paper to other departments
- ▲ posting articles to the Centre blog; routing articles from email to faculty, staff, students, and scholars
- ▲ assisting Patty with the preparation and mailout of the Management Advisory Board packages
- ▲ sending announcements to Centre stakeholders about Visiting Professor Carolin Schröder's arrival; circulating announcements for her seminar and arranging for a welcome reception for her at the University Club
- ▲ sending application forms to Canadian universities, SaskCentral, and Saskatchewan Co-operative Association for the Norm Bromberger Bursary; invoicing SaskCentral for reimbursement of bursary expenses
- ▲ submitting payroll forms for USTEP student Jaime Nicklas
- ▲ processing cheque requisitions and submitting other payroll forms as necessary
- ▲ assisting with setting up the email list for Mail Chimp in connection with our new online newsletter
- ▲ assisting Audra with many arrangements for the CU NextGen Leadership Intensive conference 26–29 May in Saskatoon
- ▲ assisting with the paperwork for Visiting Scholar Cristina Cano de Ortega; assisting Cristina with accommodations, Internet access, and responding to her requests in preparation for her visit
- ▲ making travel, accommodation, meeting, and conference registration arrangements for Centre faculty, staff, students, scholars, and other Centre associates; processing claims upon return:
  - for Lou and Jessica Gordon Nembhart to attend Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. AGM in Winnipeg, 1–2 May
  - for Lou to go to Kampala, Uganda, and Jakarta, Indonesia, 6–17 May for inception meetings for CCA/IDRC Sustainable Rural Development project in Africa and the International Workshop on Co-operatives hosted by the Indonesian government
  - for Audra, Michael, Marion Hewitt Pollock, Maria Basualdo, Scott Kim, and Jessica Gordon Nembhard to attend the CASC meetings in Victoria, 3–7 June
  - for Lou to do a site visit at University College Cork, Ireland, where she is external examiner for their co-op programs, and to attend the World Co-operative Monitor meetings in Nicosia, Cypress, 7–18 June

## Scott (Hong Soek) Kim

Visiting Researcher Scott Kim completed his case study on the leadership and

organizational culture of co-operatives in Saskatchewan and successfully defended his MA thesis on conflict transformation at the Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia, US. He was instrumental in hosting the delegation from iCOOP KOREA in May, acting as organizer, translator, and full-time host for the entire week of their visit. Scott made a presentation titled “Understanding and Leveraging Organizational Peace Building in Co-operative Organizations” at the CASC meetings in Victoria, 4–6 June. And he is in the process of applying for the InterD PhD program in the Co-op Concentration at the U of S.

## The Students

**Maria Basualdo**, a Centre PhD student, has been working part time for the Centre as the Building Community Exhibit Co-ordinator. She is also working part time with Lou and Jessica on the Impact of Co-operatives research project, for which she is currently conducting interviews and focus groups with credit unions for their “Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.”

Maria has completed the course work for her PhD and is studying for her comprehensives. She has two publications in process:

- ▲ with Isobel Findlay and Clifford Ray, “The Ethics of Engagement: Learning with Aboriginal Co-operatives in Saskatchewan,” in *Journeys in Community-Based Research*, ed. Bonnie Jeffery, Isobel Findlay, Diane Martz, and Louise Clarke, forthcoming from University of Regina Press
- ▲ with Nicola Chopin and David McDine, “Community-Based Research Partnerships: Students, Community, and Faculty Coproducing Knowledge by Building Trust and Developing Lasting Relationships,” in the same book

Maria attended a meeting of the Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network, 3 June 2013, in Victoria; the purpose of the meeting was to provide updates about new developments in research projects and to devise plans to move the group closer to research and dissemination goals.

Maria also made two presentations at the CASC meetings in Victoria, 4–6 June: one to the student workshop 3 June titled “Researching the Role of Co-ops in Community Development,” and another titled “Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association Co-operative: Mentoring a Youth Artisans’ Co-operative,” a project that brings together young artists and Elders in an exchange of skills and hopes to provide an opportunity to recover traditional practices

**Monica Juarez Adeler** successfully defended her PhD dissertation and graduated at spring convocation. Since she had a baby just the week before, she did not attend in person. She will be on mat leave for the next few months and then will resume her work at the University of Winnipeg. Monica is an active member of two Co-op Vision Strategy working groups in Manitoba and serves as a board member for

the Association of Cooperative Educators and the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation.

**Rob Dobrohoczki** is working on his PhD dissertation titled “Co-operatives in Times of Crisis: Building Resilient Economies through Democratic Transformation.” He has one publication forthcoming: with Brett Fairbairn, “I felt that I had lost myself”: Credit Unions, Economies, and the Construction of Locality” in Centre book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” under review with UBC Press. Rob serves on the board of the Good Food Junction and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

**Mike Chartier** has completed the course work for his PhD and is studying for his comprehensive examinations. His research topic is “A Whiteheadian Approach to Ethical Decision Making: How Could It Facilitate Effective Co-operative Governance?” Mike teaches full time in the Saskatoon Public School system and continues to sit on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic as well as the Community Clinic Foundation.

**Patricia Elliott** is working on her dissertation titled “Independent Voices: Third-Sector Media Development and Local Governance.” It will look at how third-sector media contributes to citizen participation and social change, and will examine how the co-operative sector and other social movement organizations can best support its development and sustainability. In addition to working on her PhD, Patricia is director of the Community Research Unit at the University of Regina and also teaches in the School of Journalism.

**Annette Johnson** finished the coursework for her PhD in the InterD Co-op Concentration and was studying for her comprehensive exams, but has regrettably withdrawn from the program for personal reasons.

**Tsegi Chuluunbaatar** has returned from Mongolia, where she was conducting field research on selected rural Mongolian co-ops. Though she is back, her status as a student is uncertain.