



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

The centre is also supported by Saskatchewan Rural Development and the University of Saskatchewan, with the CUMIS Group making an additional contribution.

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

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



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Overview and Highlights

▲ **Our New SSHRC Project on the Social Economy**

“Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities”

SSHRC’s national announcement of this project finally went out 8 November, at which time we issued our own press release. With Lou in meetings in Winnipeg that day, however, we had to postpone our formal celebration until 14 November, when we held a well-attended reception at the Faculty Club on campus.

This new project has already generated an incredible amount of activity at the centre, including preliminary meetings across the region (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, northern Ontario), several lengthy conference calls, and a wonderfully successful two-day introductory symposium for everyone involved hosted by the centre at the end of January in Saskatoon. Interest is particularly high among community organizations, several of whom have requested information about the project for their newsletters. We also took advantage of display space at three recent conferences to celebrate the award and the project as well as the centre’s other accomplishments.

▲ Social Cohesion Project Update

Even though we’ve been given a year’s extension on this project, everyone is trying to wind up their research as most of them are also involved in the new Social Economy project, preliminary preparations for which are well underway.

Chapters continue to trickle in for the book begun at the fall writers workshop, *Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion: Co-operative Community Responses to Globalization in Canada*. Once we have everything in hand we will be submitting it to a mainstream academic press.

The planned policy conference took place 3 March in Ottawa. Titled “Communities under Pressure: The Role of Co-operatives and the Social Economy,” it was sponsored by the centre, the federal government’s Policy Research Initiative, Human Resources and Social Development Canada, and

the Co-operatives Secretariat. It attracted officials from sixteen other federal agencies, academics from across the country, and representatives of community-based policy groups. The forum facilitated conversations among federal departments, researchers, and community organizations, and is a fine example of the centre providing national leadership in spurring debate on public policy issues, with the potential of influencing federal policy makers. Brett, Lou, Murray, and Cris played prominent roles, and the colleges of Arts and Science, AgEcon, and Commerce have featured the conference in newsletters and on their websites.

In spinoff projects and funding connected with both SSHRC awards, Brett has received \$5,000 from the President's SSHRC Fund to hire Dan Macfarlane, a recent U of S Masters student, as a research assistant. Dan will be looking into academic literature on the nature and definitions of democracy, democratic culture and procedures, and related topics. This work is conceptualized as bridging research from the Social Cohesion project to Brett's role in the Social Economy project.

▲ Other Research Update

In addition to the two SSHRC projects, the centre is involved in several other research activities. Cris and Carol's National Co-operative Data Centre work is still in progress, and Nora has just completed the editorial work on the comprehensive review of co-op and other business statistics collected by SSHRC student Angela Wagner.

Murray, Gary Storey, Bill Turner, Centre Scholar Dan Ish, and other colleagues continue their involvement with the "Small Farmers Adapting to Global Markets Project" funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, which is providing training to support the development of farmers' associations in rural China. Roger and Murray prepared extensive curriculum materials for delivery to trainers in China; Roger and graduate student Zhao Jun piloted the materials to a group of farmers in Wochuan County, Inner Mongolia. Nora is in the process of editing them for posting to the centre's website. Although we handed over responsibility for the administration of this project to the Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law, and the Environment, centre fellows and scholars remained actively involved.

The other Asia project is also ongoing. Titled "Enabling Co-ops in Rural China," partners include the centre, the Rural Development Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and the Canadian Co-operative Asso-

ciation. The project is in the process of conducting research and developing a basic assessment tool to aid co-op stakeholders in identifying factors that enable co-operative development in rural settings.

▲ Interdisciplinary Graduate Seminar

The graduate seminar on co-operatives and sustainable development in Mongolia and Canada wrapped up in December. A highlight was a day-long seminar during which the students presented the results of their field studies in Mongolia, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia. This class and its field-work in Canada and abroad were a unique offering at the centre, team taught by centre fellows, scholars, staff, and faculty from the College of Agriculture. The partnership among the centre, the College of Agriculture, and the Ulaanbaatar Regional Committee in Mongolia, plus the substantial grant from the CIDA/Canada Corps University Partnership Program, provided an invaluable opportunity for some of our graduate students to gain experience working abroad in co-operative development activities.

▲ Student Award News

We're very pleased to note that Mitch Diamantopoulos, an interdisciplinary PhD student at the centre, won the Dennis Lyster Leadership Bursary sponsored by Concentra Financial, one of the centre's funders. He was also the recipient of an Interdisciplinary Program Scholarship, the Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship, and the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship in Parliamentary Studies. Congratulations, Mitch!

Nancy Allan, another student associated with the centre, won the F.J.H. Fredeen Memorial Scholarship for the second year in a row.

▲ Centre Conferences

- ▲ "Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities," 27–28 January, Saskatoon, hosted by the centre; introductory working conference for the new Social Economy project; attendees came from across British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, northern Ontario, and the US; all centre personnel assisted in organizing the event and were active participants; see Lorraine's section for more details

- ▲ “Communities under Pressure: The Role of Co-operatives and the Social Economy,” policy conference in connection with Social Cohesion project, 3 March, Ottawa; see details above under Social Cohesion Project Update

▲ Publications/Communications

There has been a great deal of activity in the publications area since the last director’s report, with Nora producing the annual report, a centre newsletter, a SSHRC newsletter, one occasional paper, and ten booklets. She also completed the editorial work on Cris and Angie’s four-part, 200-page investigation of the status of data collection in the co-op sector in Canada and the US; this will be an occasional paper. Forthcoming publications include the next SSHRC book, “Imagination and Cohesion: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities,” two occasional papers, two booklets, and a number of research reports. We are also committed to a co-publication with Daniel Côté, Ian MacPherson of the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies, and Tom Webb of St. Mary’s University in Halifax. Roger and Jorge Sousa’s research for a book on co-op conversions, funded by the Co-operatives Secretariat, is underway. And we are extremely pleased to report that advisory board member Karl Baumgardner has agreed to produce a centre booklet on credit union mergers, based on his recent talk to the Co-op Net Luncheon. See Nora’s section for more details of communications and publication activities.

▲ Update on Co-operative Learning Activities

Supported by a grant from the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, Skip Kutz and a team of senior students at the Saskatchewan Urban Teacher Education Program developed a course in Co-operative Learning in the late 1980s. Co-sponsored by the university’s Department of Educational Foundations, this class was one of the first post-secondary courses in Co-operative Learning in Canada and remains today as Educational Foundations 436.3: The Theory and Practice of Co-operative Learning, a senior elective in the College of Education. In the mid-1990s, Centre Scholar Sheryl Mills assumed responsibility for the program and continues to teach it as a spring/summer course. Hundreds of students have taken this innovative offering over the years; it could well be useful for elected officials and staff in co-operatives. The course is currently compulsory for all students in SUNTEP Saskatoon’s BEd program, where Skip teaches it.

▲ Seminars

- ▲ 21 November 05: “Co-operation and Community: Fair Trade and Co-operative Enterprise,” by Nancy Allan, as part of the conditions of the Fredeen Scholarship
- ▲ 14 December 05: “Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Canada and Mongolia” and related Canadian case studies, a day-long event by the nine students in the InterD 898 seminar (Monica, Rob, Jason, Dwayne, Jun, Mitch, Warren Weir, Bianca Rolle, and Rebecca Hatten)
- ▲ 26 January 06: “The Evaluation of the Social Economy,” by Marie Bouchard, Canada Research Chair in the Social Economy, based on her work as principal investigator of CIRIEC-International's Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy

▲ Partners and Developments

This new section is intended to highlight relevant issues and developments among centre sponsors both for the record and for the information of all our partners. Although Nora contacted everyone on the board for information, it was at short notice and pickings are fairly slim. It is hoped that the quality and pithiness of the material below will encourage others to participate next time. Karl Baumgardner, representing Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, reported as follows:

- ▲ Concentra Financial is established, 1 January 2005. SaskCentral moved financial intermediation and excess liquidity management to Co-op Trust (which became Concentra) and the two companies share corporate services. This meant a reduction in the staff of SaskCentral to approximately sixty and the addition of about two hundred staff to Concentra, who remain in the SaskCentral facility in Regina.
- ▲ 2005 was a successful year. Although staff were very busy, the transition went smoothly. Financial results were strong and credit unions received a dividend of \$8.809 million (10.75 percent on share capital). These positive results reflect a trend that goes back several years.
- ▲ SaskCentral shared their “Strategic Direction for 2007 and Beyond” with the Saskatchewan Credit Union System recently.
- ▲ The “Aboriginal Business Strategy” is going forward, led by Dana Soonias.
- ▲ The Entrepreneurial Foundation and Fund will be in full operation in the second quarter.

- ▲ SaskCentral approved a new democratic structure last fall, and elections for directors in the affected districts were conducted in March. Elections were also held in districts where the director's term had expired.
- ▲ Mergers of credit unions have become a trend (the 212 credit unions in 1988 have been reduced to 88).
- ▲ The AGM will be in Regina 12 April 2006.

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

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Teaching

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada

This class, for which Lou, Michael, and Cris received a \$49,564 CIDA/Canada Corps University Partnership Program Award, concluded in December (see Highlights section for more details).

Lou is co-supervising one InterD PhD; she is a committee member for one MA in Political Studies and two InterD PhDs; and she is committee chair for two InterD MAs and three InterD PhDs. She also served as the external examiner for a PhD defence at University College Cork in Ireland.

▲ Research

Lou continues to be involved with many research initiatives.

- ▲ she is the principal investigator in our successful application to SSHRC's Social Economy Suite, submitted jointly by the centre and the Community-University Institute for Social Research in partnership with academics and community partners in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario. She has had preliminary meetings with research

partners in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, and Sault Ste. Marie, as well as several lengthy conference calls. In late January she led the organization and hosted the first regional symposium for our node.

- ▲ she continues her role as a member of the CIRIEC-International-sponsored Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy working group for a project titled “Methods and Indicators for Evaluating the Social and Co-operative Economy,” and participated in their most recent meeting in Paris in early February
- ▲ she is a co-coordinator of the Aboriginal cluster of the Social Cohesion project and is working on the analysis of her second set of interviews from Pond Inlet, Nunavut
- ▲ she is a co-applicant with Denis Harrison at CRISES (and many others) in an application to SSHRC’s Strategic Research Clusters program to create a national strategic research network on social innovation; we have just had confirmation that the application was successful; the funding will be used host two meetings of the research network — one in Montreal in the fall of 06 and one in Saskatoon sometime in 07. We are really pleased that the centre will have this formal association with Denis, Jean Marc Fontan (ARUC-ÉS), and Marie Bouchard (two other co-applicants), and that our fellows and scholars will have an opportunity to become involved in this research network.
- ▲ she is a co-applicant, with Jean Marc Fontan, director of ARUC en économie sociale et réseau québécois de recherche partenariale, Université du Québec à Montréal, in an application to SSHRC’s Fund for International Initiatives to host a seminar that would take place in Montréal in November 06 within the framework of the summit on the social economy and solidarity organized by the Chantier de l’économie sociale; it is intended to attract international participants
- ▲ she continued her research involvement with the Saskatchewan First Nations Wholesale Co-operative, writing a case study and overseeing the production of a tool-kit for Aboriginal co-op development; she is a partner in this Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) project
- ▲ she is also working with the FSIN’s First Nations Agriculture Council to develop agricultural co-ops in Saskatchewan First Nations communities, and overseeing the production of a tool-kit to support First Nations agricultural co-op development; she is a partner in their second CDI application

▲ Publications New and Forthcoming

Revisiting the Role of Co-operative Values and Principles: Do They Act to Include or Exclude? booklet, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2006

With Isobel Findlay, co-editing a special edition of *Économie et Solidarités*, the CIRIEC-Canada Journal, on the topic Social Economy, Public Economy, and Aboriginal Economic Development, forthcoming 2006; Lou will also be writing an article for this publication based on her research in Pond Inlet

In process: three case studies — on the two CDI projects mentioned above, and the Pond Inlet study for the Social Cohesion project

“First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” in process for forthcoming centre book “Imagination and Cohesion”

“Aboriginal CED: Past Successes and New Forms of Co-operative Enterprise,” in process for the proposed publication based on the recent policy conference in Ottawa

▲ Presentations

“Innovative Community-University Partnerships,” to *Weathering the Storm or Reaping the Harvest: Universities and the Innovation Agenda*, sponsored by Saskatchewan Institute for Public Policy, Saskatoon, 9–10 November 05

“Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: An Economic Development Opportunity,” presentation to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Economic Development, Ottawa, 23 November 05

“Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: Lessons from Current Research,” presentation to CRISES seminar, Montreal, 24 November 05

Presentation on the centre to Co-op Training Workshop for Saskatchewan Rural Development regional staff, Saskatoon, 24 January 05

“Aboriginal CED: Past Successes and New Forms of Co-operative Enterprise,” presentation to the policy conference *Communities under Pressure: The Role of Co-operatives and the Social Economy*, Ottawa, 3 March 06

“Strengthening the Social Economy in Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan,” presentation to *Rooting Development in Community*, a national conference on community economic development and the social economy hosted by the Canadian Community Economic Development Network and others, Vancouver, 15–17 March 06

▲ Administration/Outreach and Engagement

In addition to her responsibilities as director of the centre, Lou is also a member of the university’s Advisory Committee on Areas of Research,

Scholarly, and Artistic Pre-eminence, which is drafting a foundational document for the university. She continues as vice-chair of the ICA Research Committee, which requires her to attend executive meetings and the AGM, which recently approved Saskatoon as the venue for the ICA International Researchers' Forum in 2007, in conjunction with the university's 100th anniversary and the annual Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities.

In research administration associated with the Social Economy project, Lou has attended preliminary meetings in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario, participated in a number of conference calls, and took part in meetings of the National Hub, the central co-ordinating body for this national project, in Montreal, 12–13 January, and Vancouver, 16 March.

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (concluded in December)
History 288.3: Co-operatives in the World

Brett is supervising one InterD PhD and co-supervising another; he has one MA student in History; and he sits on advisory committees for one InterD PhD and three History MAs.

▲ Research

Brett's major research activity continues to be the Social Cohesion project, which is in its final year of activity. He was instrumental in organizing the successful conference co-sponsored with the federal government's Policy Research Initiative and others to discuss policy implications of research on co-operatives (see more information below, under Presentations).

Brett is working on his Manitoba research centred on South Interlake Credit Union, a partner in the Social Cohesion project, which will be a chapter in the planned volume on co-operatives titled "Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion: Co-operative Community Responses to Globalization in Canada," which grew out of the September writing workshop,

Brett is also a co-applicant on the Social Economy project and has hired Dan MacFarlane with an award from the President's SSHRC Fund to begin research that will help him in bridging from one project to the other.

▲ Publications

Brett has been working on revisions to a variety of submitted and in-progress publications previously reported, including several book chapters related to the histories of co-operatives in Saskatchewan and Alberta, as well as forthcoming works from the Social Cohesion project. Completed publications include:

"Canada's Co-operative Province": Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005, Reflections in Celebration of Saskatchewan's Centennial Year, occasional paper, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2005

Co-operative Heritage: Where We've Come From, Reflections on Co-op History on the Occasion of Saskatchewan's Hundredth Anniversary, booklet, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2006

Cohesion, Adhesion, and Identities in Co-operatives, booklet, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2006

▲ Presentations

"Reflections on a Century of Saskatchewan Co-ops," to Saskatoon Co-op Network, 22 November 05

"What Is the Social Economy?" keynote plenary presentation to Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities, Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan Regional Node Social Economy Symposium, Saskatoon, 27 January 06

"Your Stakeholders Are Your Strengths: Business Advantages of Co-ops," plenary presentation to Co-op Atlantic Co-operative Retail Managers' Conference, Moncton, 27 February 06

"Community Enterprise as a Response to Globalization," keynote plenary presentation to Communities Under Pressure: The Role of Co-operatives and the Social Economy, policy conference co-sponsored by the Policy Research Initiative, Privy Council Office, Government of Canada; the "Co-operative Membership and Globalization" project team; the Co-operatives Secretariat; and the Rural Secretariat, Ottawa, 3 March 06

Brett was co-organizer of this conference and worked closely with the Policy Research Initiative, in particular, to design the program and invitation list. The conference is one capstone event of the 2002–06 Co-operative Membership and Globalization project funded by SSHRC. The audience of approximately one hundred included numerous federal officials from nearly twenty different agencies, many of whom had not previously heard about co-operatives and their roles in Canadian communities. Among other things, the conference demonstrated that academics, working with SSHRC funding and conducting compelling original research, can reach federal audiences that co-operatives alone have difficulty reaching.

▲ Administration/Outreach and Engagement

In addition to his administrative work on the Social Cohesion project, being chair of the Department of History, and a member of the Planning Committee of University Council, Brett is also a member of the steering committee for the new School of International Studies and is involved in two proposals for the school concerning Small Producers and Globalization, and Global Indigeneity. He is a co-organizer and member of the provisional board of studies of the Institute of Aboriginal and Indigenous Graduate Studies and Research, a new centre being launched by the College of Arts and Science. And he was a co-author of the university's new policy paper, "The Foundational Document on Outreach and Engagement: Linking with Communities for Discovery and Learning," adopted by University Council January 06.

Brett's History 288 course, which requires students to profile the development of individual co-ops, concludes with a series of "mini-conferences" in which the students present their findings. Brett advertised these at a Co-op Network luncheon and Warren Crossman, executive director of the SCA, subsequently took an active part in one of the conferences, which gave the students an indication of an audience outside the university interested in their work. The next time he teaches this class, Brett is planning to invite a larger audience of individuals from the co-op sector to hear some of the presentations. There is also the possibility to suggest topics to the students that are built around interests of specific co-operatives.

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (concluded in December)

Agricultural Economics 342.3: Industrial Organization of Agriculture
(undergraduate)

Agricultural Economics 842.3: Industrial Organization of Agriculture
(graduate)

Murray is supervising one InterD MA and two MScs and two PhDs in Agricultural Economics. Three of these students are working on co-operative topics. He is also a committee member for several other students.

▲ Research

Murray has ongoing work on a number of research activities: his smaller SSHRC project, “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives”; the large project, “Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management”; and ongoing responsibilities in the China Project (see highlights section for more details). He is a cluster co-ordinator on the SSHRC-funded Social Cohesion project and a co-applicant on the new SSHRC research on the Social Economy.

Murray’s application for a SSHRC “Knowledge Impact in Society” grant was successful and he is extremely pleased to note that the project was rated eighth out of eighty-six, adding that eleven projects were awarded funds country-wide. Titled “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century,” the project was awarded the full \$300,000 requested. Lou, Brett, and Michael are all co-applicants.

Murray and others working on the greenhouse gas management project have a book draft in hand awaiting editorial attention.

▲ Publications

With Julie Gibbings, *Cognitive Processes and Co-operative Business Strategy*, booklet, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2006

With M. Cule, “Some Implications of the Unofficial Economy-Bureaucratic Corruption Relationship in Transition Countries,” *Economics Letters* 89 (2005): 207–11

With A. Yiannaka, “Strategic Patent Breadth and Entry Deterrence with Drastic Product Innovations,” *International Journal of Industrial Organization* 24 (2006): 177–202

With A. Weersink, D. Pannell, and A. Meyer-Aurich, “Agriculture’s Likely

Role in Meeting Canada's Kyoto Commitments," *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics* 53 (2005): 425–41

With Jason Heit and Brett Fairbairn, "Globalization and Community Response: The Rebirth of Western Canada's Co-operative Retailing System," forthcoming in centre book "Imagination and Cohesion"

▲ Presentations

"New Generation Co-operatives," to Co-op Training Workshop for Saskatchewan Rural Development regional staff, Saskatoon, 24 January 05

"Obstacles to the Development of the Biocontrol Industry," to the Biocontrol Network annual meeting, Kananaskis, 2–4 February 05

"Business Failures and Governance: Learning for the Social Economy," to Communities under Pressure: The Role of Co-operatives and the Social Economy, policy conference in Ottawa, 3 March 06

▲ Administration/Outreach and Engagement

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

Murray, Roger, and others completed the comprehensive training materials for farmer associations as part of the China Project. They are currently in editing with Nora and will soon be available on our website for use by groups in Canada.

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (concluded in December)

Michael is supervising five MA students (four in sociology and one in co-op studies); he is also a committee member for three PhDs in co-op studies and one PhD in interdisciplinary studies.

▲ Research

Michael conducted field study and co-operative case study research with five Co-op Studies graduate students in Mongolia as part of the graduate seminar InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada, October 05.

He is a co-investigator for the centre's SSHRC-funded "Co-operative Membership and Globalization" and continues to analyse the field research in connection with cluster two, Co-operative Membership and Changing Boundaries of Community.

Research is also underway with sector partner the Saskatoon Co-operative Association on the other large SSHRC project in which Michael is involved—"Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food System Performance."

He is a co-applicant on the new SSHRC project on the Social Economy, "Linking, Learning, and Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities," and a collaborator on the national hub of this project being run out of the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies.

▲ Publications

Co-operative Membership as a Complex and Dynamic Social Process, booklet, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2006

With JoAnn Jaffe, "Victual Vicissitudes: Consumer Deskilling and the (Gendered) Transformation of Food Systems," *Agriculture and Human Values*, forthcoming

With JoAnn Jaffe, "Sustainable Development in the New Economy: Risk, Vulnerability and Eco-Social Justice," in *To the Digital Divide and Back: Social Welfare, Technology and the New Economy*, edited by Steven Hick, Marion E. Jones, and John R. Graham (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming)

"Production Co-operatives and Co-operative Production: Legacy and Promise," in *The Agrarian Movement in Western Canada* (working title), edited by Murray Knuttila and Robert Stirling (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, forthcoming)

With Roger Herman and Dwayne Pattison, "Revealing Relationships:

Co-operatives, Communities, and Sustainable Development in a Northern Prairie Region,” in process for forthcoming centre book, “Imagination and Cohesion”

▲ Presentations

Paper co-authored with Roger titled “The Role of Co-operatives in Regional Development in Mongolia,” presented by others at the New Approaches for the Agricultural Industry in Mongolia Conference, Mongolia State University of Agriculture, Ulaanbataar, 1–2 December 05

“Studying Co-operatives and Sustainable Rural Development in Mongolia,” International Week Seminar, University of Saskatchewan, 6 February 06

▲ Administration/Outreach and Engagement

Michael is the academic co-lead of the Community Economic Development Module, Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), U of S, and also a CUISR board member. He is a member of the Administrative Committee, Regional and Urban Development, in the College of Arts and Science and a member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the Department of Sociology. He is also president of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation for 2005–06.

Cristine de Clercy

▲ Teaching

Political Studies 111.3: Democracy in North America

Political Studies 404.3: Issues in Canadian Federalism

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (concluded in December)

Cris has a particularly heavy teaching load this term, with 132 students altogether. She is also supervising two MAs and is a committee member for two others in the Political Studies Department, as well as one MA in the Department of History.

▲ Research

Cris is currently completing a paper about municipal politicians and co-oper-

atives based on survey research accomplished for the SSHRC-funded Social Cohesion project.

With the help of MA student Juanita Bacsu, Cris continued to work on the questionnaire that will be used in the upcoming large national survey of Canadians concerning their views on co-operation, globalization, and social cohesion associated with the SSHRC-funded Social Cohesion project. Juanita will access some of the results for her thesis research. Part of this research was presented 3 March 06 in Cris's talk to the policy conference in Ottawa titled Communities Under Pressure.

Cris is a co-applicant on the new SSHRC project on the Social Economy, "Linking, Learning, and Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities." As the academic co-lead of the Social Economy Policy research cluster, she has been working with partner organizations and academics in designing several studies to take place over the next few years. Cris is also a collaborator on the national hub of this project being run out of the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies.

▲ Publications

Leadership and Representational Diversity, booklet, Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2006

"Leadership and Uncertainty in Fiscal Restructuring: Ralph Klein and Roy Romanow," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 38, no. 1 (March 2005): 175–202

Continuity and Change in Canadian Politics: Essays in Honour of David E. Smith, edited by Hans Michelmann and Cristine de Clercy (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006)

"Conclusion," in *Continuity and Change in Canadian Politics: Essays in Honour of David E. Smith*, edited by Hans Michelmann and Cristine de Clercy (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006)

"Declining Political Survival Among Parliamentary Party Leaders, 1867–2005," in *Elections, Representation, and Leadership: Essays in Honour of John C. Courtney*, edited by Hans Michelmann, D.C. Story, and Jeffrey Steeves (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming)

"Women, Public Policy, and the Public Sphere in Saskatchewan, 1905–2005," *Prairie Forum*, forthcoming

“The Presidency and Public Uncertainty: Ford, Carter, and the 1976 Campaign,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, under review

« Les chefs des partis canadiens négligent-ils d’exercer leur leadership? Une analyse chronologique des taux de survie politique » *Politiques et sociétés*, under review

“Women’s Legislative and Political Participation in Saskatchewan, 1905–2005,” in *Perspectives of Saskatchewan, 1905–2005*, edited by Jene Porter (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming)

▲ Presentations

“Public Attitudes toward Community and Co-operation,” to the conference *Communities under Pressure: The Role of Co-operatives and the Social Economy*, Ottawa, 3 March 06

▲ Administration and Other

Cris is co-ordinator for cluster one of the centre’s Social Cohesion project and for cluster five of the Social Economy project.

Nora Russell

Nora has completed a number of large projects since the last director’s report:

- ▲ editing, layout, and print supervision for Brett’s occasional paper for Saskatchewan’s centennial, “*Canada’s Co-operative Province: Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005* (76 pp.)
- ▲ writing, layout, and print supervision for the centre’s annual report
- ▲ the same for the centre’s fall/winter newsletter
- ▲ the same for the Social Cohesion update newsletter
- ▲ editing, layout, and print supervision for Brett’s *Co-operative Heritage: Where We’ve Come From*, a new centre booklet
- ▲ layout, review, and print supervision of nine other centre booklets based on chapters in the first SSHRC book, *Co-operative Membership and Globalization* (230 pp. altogether)
 - Co-operative Membership: Issues and Challenges*, Bill Turner
 - Innovations in Co-operative Marketing and Communications*, Leslie Brown
 - Cognitive Processes and Co-operative Business Strategy*, Murray Fulton and Julie Gibbings

Co-operative Membership as a Complex and Dynamic Social Process, Michael Gertler

Cohesion, Adhesion, and Identities in Co-operatives, Brett Fairbairn

Revisiting the Role of Co-operative Values and Principles, Lou Hammond Ketilson

Co-operative Social Responsibility: A Natural Advantage? Andrea Harris

Globalization and Co-operatives, William Coleman

Leadership and Representational Diversity, Cristine de Clercy

- ▲ completed editing of co-operative and other business statistics documents, part of Cris and Carol's National Co-operative Data Centre project (200 pp.) collected by grad student Angie Wagner; awaiting design, layout, and proofreading prior to publication; this will be an occasional paper
- ▲ made all the preparations for the formal announcement of the Social Economy project (press release, invitations, agenda, supporting materials for our and Commerce's websites, and organization of the reception at the Faculty Club)
- ▲ gathered, designed, and prepared materials for the conference packages for the January Social Economy Symposium (agenda, bio material for twenty-four presenters; name tags for all participants, printouts of PowerPoint presentations, etc.); afterwards, prepared materials for posting to the centre website as a conference record
- ▲ detailed review and feedback plus preliminary edit and layout of the tool-kit for Saskatchewan First Nations Co-operative prepared by April Bourgeois (65 pp.)
- ▲ began editorial work on training materials from the China Project, which will be posted to the website for use by co-op developers
- ▲ and as usual, Nora wrote and laid out this director's report

Smaller projects over the past quarter include:

- ▲ reviewed BC Institute for Co-op Studies document on where to study co-ops in Canada; made many suggestions for improvements
- ▲ wrote two articles for the Association of Cooperative Educators newsletter, one on the Social Economy grant and another on a general centre research activity update
- ▲ wrote articles on the Social Economy project award for three other newsletters: Saskatchewan Council for Community Development; Community-University Institute for Social Research, and the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan
- ▲ prepared materials for centre display at three conferences: the Social Economy Symposium in Saskatoon; the Ottawa policy conference; and the Canadian Community Economic Development Network conference in Vancouver

- ▲ prepared ads for centre seminars
- ▲ prepared many materials for website updates
- ▲ updated student packages
- ▲ updated centre display
- ▲ edited advisory board minutes for Patty

Reprints:

- ▲ Social Economy application for giveaways at conferences
- ▲ centre's fall/winter newsletter for distribution at conferences and for information packages for centre visitors
- ▲ Will Coleman's booklet, *Globalization and Co-operatives*

Nora has a number of projects awaiting her attention:

- ▲ layout and proofreading of occasional paper *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*; editing complete and with author for approval
- ▲ editing and layout for materials from the Co-operative Research Inventory completed for the Co-operatives Secretariat
- ▲ Dan Ish's *Legislation for Farmer Co-operatives in China*, a centre booklet based on an international seminar he gave in Beijing; a companion piece to the training materials from the China Project
- ▲ editing and layout of the translation from CRISES, *The Case of the Saint-Camille Care and Services Solidarity Co-operative and Its Impact on Social Cohesion*, which will be an occasional paper
- ▲ editing and layout for a number of research reports prepared by summer researchers in connection with the SSHRC project

Nora takes part in regular meetings of the Editors' Association of Canada (EAC) and the Saskatchewan Publisher's Group (SPG), whose monthly newsletter continues to supply useful industry information and offers an opportunity for the centre to advertise new developments in its own publishing program. Our membership in the SPG also gives us the opportunity to display our books at special events. Centre books appeared or will be appearing at the following SPG-sponsored events:

- ▲ November 21–26: Canadian Western Agribition, Regina
- ▲ November 25–27: Wintergreen Handcraft Fair, Regina
- ▲ December 2–4: Sundog Craft Faire, Saskatoon
- ▲ March 31: SK Teachers of English Language Arts, Moose Jaw
- ▲ March 30–April 1: Saskatchewan Valley Teachers Conf., Saskatoon
- ▲ April 6–8: Saskatchewan School Library Assoc. Conf., Saskatoon

▲ May 4–6: Saskatchewan Library Assoc. Conf., Regina

Nora attended an EAC professional development seminar in Saskatoon in November and will be participating in another in early April. And with other centre personnel, she took part in the January Social Economy Symposium.

Roger Herman

▲ Teaching

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (concluded in December)

As mentioned above, part of this course involved a month of fieldwork in Mongolia. Roger supervised five students for the second half of the field placement during the first two weeks in November.

▲ Presentations

Paper co-authored with Michael titled “The Role of Co-operatives in Regional Development in Mongolia,” presented by others at the New Approaches for the Agricultural Industry in Mongolia Conference, Mongolia State University of Agriculture, Ulaanbataar, 1–2 December 05

With graduate students Monica, Jason, Rob, Jun, and Dwayne, a day-long workshop on co-operatives and co-operative principles in Darkhan, Mongolia, 9 November 05

A presentation on Canadian co-operatives to a group of vegetable producers in Baruunharaa, Mongolia, 10 November 05

As part of the Centre’s China Project, Roger and Murray developed curriculum/training materials for developing co-operatives for small farmers. With the assistance of grad student Zhao Jun, Roger piloted parts of the materials with a group of farmers in Wochuan County in rural Inner Mongolia, 14–15 November 05.

▲ Research and Other Activities

A number of Roger’s activities over the past few months have centred on preparations for the new Social Economy research project. As part of cluster

two, he will be conducting research on financing strategies for social-enterprise development. At the national level, he represents the centre on a social economy discussion group facilitated by the Canadian Co-operative Association. With others at the centre, he participated in the Social Economy symposium held in Saskatoon 27–28 January; he also attended the CCEDNet National Conference in Vancouver 15–18 March.

Roger continues to devote a portion of his time to research activities for cluster two of the Social Cohesion project, Co-operative Membership and Changing Boundaries of Community. Together with Michael Gertler and Dwayne Pattison, he is preparing a chapter for the centre's forthcoming book "Imagination and Cohesion." And he attended the policy conference titled Communities under Pressure in Ottawa 3 March.

Roger continues to work with Jorge Sousa (University of Toronto) on a book-length manuscript on co-operative conversions. The research findings will include a variety of case studies of organizations that have either converted from (demutualized) co-ops or converted into co-operatives. This research is funded by the Co-operatives Secretariat.

Following on the success of the centre-sponsored co-op youth conference in Saskatoon last May, Roger is co-ordinating the participation of three graduate students at the 2006 Building Co-operative Futures youth conference being held in Manchester England in May.

Roger represents the centre on a number of committees serving a variety of purposes. One is a group of community economic development organizations working to develop a regional CED umbrella organization. Another is an advisory committee of the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan planning an international community development conference for Saskatoon in 2008. And he continues as the centre's representative to the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development.

Roger serves on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic, sitting on the Operations Committee and chairing an ad hoc committee developing policy to deal with client complaints against clinic physicians. He attended FCL's annual meeting in March as the clinic's delegate. He is also on the board of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE). Part of his responsibilities include program planning for the August 2006 ACE institute to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Lorraine Salt

▲ SSHRC Project Administration

Lorraine was heavily involved in organizing the kick-off symposium for the centre's new SSHRC project on the Social Economy, "Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities." This two-day event began Friday, 27 January, at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, where about seventy-five researchers and community partner representatives met, many for the first time. Community partners gave presentations on the activities of their organizations and drew attention to the research needs within the social economy. After a full and informative day, project partners gathered at the Faculty Club for a meal and casual discussion within their research clusters. The following day was taken up with intense dedicated research cluster meetings.

Lorraine handled the co-ordination of transportation, sound systems, meals, venues, travel, accommodation, and display space with great assistance from Peter Krebs, at that time a CUISR employee. A special thank you also goes to Jason Heit and Dwayne Pattison, two centre graduate students, who spent the day at Wanuskewin monitoring the audio recording system. Once again Lorraine was able to put faces to names of researchers and community partners with whom she had been in e-mail contact for the past several months. Although the symposium was the scene of some very interesting presentations, the highlight for Lorraine was seeing the scrolling banner on the chartered bus that read Social Economy Symposium Jan. 27-28, 2006.

Lorraine and Lou spent considerable time preparing a lengthy ethics application to the university's Behavioural Research Ethics Board. Approval is expected shortly and research can then formally begin on the project.

The SSHRC project on Social Cohesion, "Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations," is in its final year. The planned policy conference, titled "Communities under Pressure: The Role of Co-operatives and the Social Economy," took place in Ottawa 3 March 06. The weeks prior to this saw Lorraine communicating with the Policy Research Initiative in Ottawa, one of the conference co-sponsors, regarding speaker and conference logistics. Much of the ground-work was done by PRI staff, while Lorraine co-ordinated travel and accommodation for our speakers, several researchers from the project. It was a suc-

cessful and productive one-day event with about ninety-five attendees in the lovely sun-filled Victoria Room of Ottawa's Old City Hall.

▲ The Website(s)

Lorraine is responsible for updating the centre's website (<http://www.usaskstudies.coop>) as well as the social cohesion website (<http://www.social-cohesion.coop>). There is also the newly created Social Economy website (<http://www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy>), currently a work-in-progress, which is expected to change and grow over time. A key element of this website is the built-in discussion forum, which we hope project participants will use as another means of communicating among each other, among clusters, and among research groups. The site will also be a place to post project news and will include links to project documents and other relevant sites and materials.

▲ Other Research

Lorraine continues to enjoy her role as reference librarian and researcher, answering questions from centre faculty, scholars, staff, graduate students, campus students, and outside parties. Lorraine is also a part of the Social Economy Data Centre committee that is currently creating a prototype database, which is intended to demonstrate the value of collecting and storing raw data from previous research for further use.

Lorraine submitted two more successful USTEP grant applications for summer research. One is for a co-operatives oral/video history researcher, who will conduct a new round of interviews to build upon the co-operative oral history collection begun in 1994. The other is for a social economy policy research assistant, who will be responsible for aiding project investigators in three main areas: researching government policies concerning the social economy at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels; helping to map the policies' jurisdictional boundaries and describe the parameters of the populations affected by these policies; and creating detailed policy profiles in key areas. We will be advertising for these positions shortly.

▲ The Library

Change has been slow within the centre's library as so much of Lorraine's time has been recently taken up with project work. One high point for

Lorraine was speaking to Brett's History 288 course, Co-operatives in the World. The purpose was to introduce the class to the centre's library and resources, to discuss basic research methods (including identifying the difference between primary and secondary sources), what constitutes scholarly research, and the need for proper citation practices. The result of this outreach has meant increased traffic in the library, with a large percentage of the students in that class now borrowing from the library, often repeatedly.

▲ Professional

Lorraine continues as the centre's representative to the Co-operative Network of Saskatoon. She is also an active participant in the local Special Libraries Network, which has recently decided to create a website of its own to foster a community of practice among special librarians. Lorraine is involved with the Saskatchewan Library Association, where she is a member of the Library Advocacy Committee. She is also a member of the Canadian Library Association and recently became a member of the North American Special Libraries Association.

Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the centre's day-to-day operations and undertakes many additional duties as they arise. Much of her time is spent maintaining the centre's monthly financial statements as well as the two SSHRC project accounts, the Mongolia account, and any other research accounts with which faculty and staff are involved. Other financial activities include helping Karen with publication purchases; dealing with quarterly invoices and deposits for centre sponsors; processing all other invoices and cheques that come into the centre for purchases and payments; and investigating the occasional errors, which this quarter were numerous. As a result of the late approval for the Mongolian and Social Economy projects, for example, she had to prepare many journal vouchers for incorrect entries originally processed through the centre's main account for expenditures that occurred prior to the establishment of these accounts.

Patty assisted Karen in processing travel claims and other invoices in connection with the large China Project study tour. The two of them also spent many frustrating hours dealing with queries about the contract between Agri-

Food Canada and the university on this same project. In late January, we handed over the administration of the China Project to the Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law, and Environment, where it actually originated with Murray and others, because of office overload here at the centre. Patty and Karen are still dealing with the fallout from this shift in responsibility.

Patty spends endless hours setting up meetings. These arrangements always involve many e-mails and phone calls to determine dates, preparing and sending out invitations, booking rooms, ordering refreshments, printing and distributing materials, and organizing conference calls. On an ongoing basis, she makes all the arrangements for the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes co-ordinating a suitable date, preparing the minutes, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch. This past few months she set up several additional meetings for Lou:

- ▲ with Lynne Pearson and Karl Baumgardner regarding payment for the director's position
- ▲ with Jim Spinney, Barrie Dubray, and Lynne Pearson regarding equipment funding for the Centre
- ▲ with CUISR officials regarding the Social Economy project

Patty looks after some conference registrations and travel and accommodation arrangements for centre personnel and others. Activities this quarter include:

- ▲ flights, accommodation, and conference registration for Lou and Roger's trip to Vancouver
- ▲ the same for several centre personnel attending the CASC meetings in May
- ▲ the same for three graduate students attending the International Co-operative Youth conference in Manchester, UK

Patty is also responsible for processing all invoices, travel claims, and professional fees, as appropriate, once people have returned or visitors have left.

This quarter's special projects included:

- ▲ assisting with the formal announcement of the new Social Economy project by printing and sending out invitations for the event
- ▲ helping with preparations for the Social Economy Symposium at the end of January, arranging for printing, helping to assemble the information packages for participants, making arrangements for meeting rooms, registering participants, and many other small tasks

- ▲ gathering information for the renewal of Centre Scholars and assisting Lou with the preparation and mailing of letters
- ▲ assisting Karen in sending out seminar announcements
- ▲ assisting faculty in the printing of course materials
- ▲ assisting Karen with sending out the annual reports, the centre newsletter, and the SSHRC newsletter
- ▲ organizing the transcription of interview tapes from Brett's Social Cohesion research in Manitoba; hiring grad student Kim Brown to edit the transcripts; and sending edited transcripts to the interviewees with a release form and ensuring that they were returned

On an ongoing basis Patty assists the centre's students with whatever needs they happen to have. This quarter involved responding to a number of inquiries regarding admission to the interdisciplinary graduate program in the Co-op Studies Concentration.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen's duties include reception, paperwork, cash reports, filing, xeroxing and printing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, keeping track of stock for reprints, as well as invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills. She is also responsible for sending out the seminar series announcements and periodic newsletters, updating various databases, whatever other mailouts are required, and helping to prepare packages for the advisory board meeting.

Special activities this quarter included:

- ▲ processing travel and expense claims and dealing with contract queries in connection with the China Project
- ▲ dealing with many expense claims from the seven people who made the trip to Mongolia
- ▲ flights, accommodation, and conference registration for Lou's trips to Victoria, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa (twice), Montreal, Cork (Ireland), and Paris (France)
- ▲ the same for Roger's trip to Ottawa
- ▲ mailing out the annual report, the centre newsletter, and the SSHRC newsletter
- ▲ helping with preparations for the Social Economy Symposium (printing, assembling conference kits and name tags, co-ordinating travel arrangements, registration, meals and refreshments, etc.)

- ▲ helping with organization, refreshments, and lunch for Wayne Thrasher's Co-operative Training Seminar held at the Diefenbaker Centre on 24 January
- ▲ helping Patty co-ordinate travel arrangements for faculty for the policy conference in Ottawa 3 March
- ▲ assisting in setting up several conference calls related to the Social Economy project
- ▲ sending out nine new booklets for legal deposit
- ▲ helping in the library with shelving and ordering books; assisting students when Lorraine is out of the office
- ▲ preparing numerous centre presentation packages for distribution to visitors and at conferences
- ▲ assisting with preparation of materials for centre displays at three recent conferences

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

Angela Wagner

Angie continues to work on her MA thesis titled "Membership Identity and Consumer Behaviour: The Case of Consumer Co-operatives"; she is scheduled to defend it in June. Nora has completed the editorial work on the sources of business statistics for co-operatives and other organizations that Angie compiled under Cris's supervision; it is awaiting design and layout and will be an addition to our occasional papers series.

Jason Heit

Jason participated in the Co-operatives and Sustainable Development InterD seminar during term one, the highlight of which was a rewarding four-week field study program in Mongolia. Upon their return, Jason and the other members of the group prepared case study reports and presented their findings as part of the Centre Seminar Series in December. Having completed his course requirements, Jason is focussing his attention on his MA thesis, which is examining how co-operative organizations are identified and selected from competing organizational forms. He attended the Social Economy Symposium in January, assisting with technical matters. He continues to serve as course council for the Interdisciplinary Program and is assisting Michael with some preparations for the upcoming CASC conference in York. On 21 March he participated in a graduate seminar, presenting a paper titled "Placing Co-

operative Organizations and Thinking in Theory and Society.” He is working with Murray and Brett on a chapter titled “Autonomy and Organizational Identity in Western Canada’s Co-operative Retailing System” for the centre’s proposed book “Imagination and Cohesion.” And the paper he wrote on website design and quality in selected co-operative organizations awaits Nora’s attention for editing as a research paper in the collection gathering around the SSHRC project.

Kim Brown

Kim is continuing to work on her MA thesis. She will be going to Vancouver in May to collect data for her study on gender and visible minority representation on credit union boards of directors. She will be conducting in-depth case studies of three credit union boards in BC’s Lower Mainland region.

Monica Juarez Adeler

Monica is finishing the second year of the course work for her interdisciplinary PhD. Her research is on e-commerce transactions and co-operative membership, comparing activity in Canada and the European Union. With other centre grad students, Monica took the InterD seminar on co-operatives and sustainable development and spent a month in Mongolia doing field research interviewing directors and members of co-operatives in the countryside to analyse the development of rural communities through co-ops. The experience gave her the opportunity to draw on her knowledge of co-ops and extend her understanding of co-operative law. Working with other students, she wrote two case studies on Mongolian co-ops, which became part of a joint final report with recommendations for the Mongolian government and the co-op sector. With other participants, she presented her findings at a centre seminar in December.

Monica has a paper accepted for presentation at the CASC conference in York — “ODKR Multipurpose Co-operative: A Case That Shows How Rural Communities Might Overcome Economic Adversity through Co-op Development” — based on empirical research done in Mongolia.

Rob Dobrohoczki

Rob is finishing up the second year of his part-time PhD studies. With other centre students, he took the InterD seminar that culminated in a month of

fieldwork in Mongolia; participated in the workshop given in Mongolia; contributed to the joint report to the government and the sector; and was one of the presenters at the Centre Seminar Series in December.

Rob is working as a sessional lecturer in the College of Commerce teaching a course titled Business and Public Policy; he is also a tutorial leader in the first-year commerce class Business Communications.

He is working with Brett on a chapter titled “Growing from the Roots: Credit-Union Identities in a Changing Rural Region” for the proposed new SSHRC book, “Imagination and Cohesion.” Other forthcoming publications include “Co-operatives as Social Policy Means for Creating Social Cohesion in Communities,” *Journal of Rural Co-operation* (Jerusalem: International Research Centre on Rural Cooperative Communities), based on the paper he presented in Ireland; and *Social Cohesion through Market Democratisation: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*, a centre occasional paper.

Upcoming presentations include three to the CASC conference in Toronto: “Building the Social Economy: A Co-operative Commonwealth for the 21st Century?”; with Zhao Jun, “Two Worlds — One Challenge: A Case Study of Darkhan Itgelt (Trust) Savings and Credit Co-operative”; and with Monica Juarez Adeler, “ODKR Multipurpose Co-op: Overcoming Economic Adversity through Co-op Development in Rural Communities.” He also has a paper titled “Co-operatives as Spaces of Resistance and Transformation,” accepted at the CUBA SIGLO XXI 3rd International Conference: The Work of Karl Marx and the challenges of the 21st Century in Havana, Cuba, 3–6 May 06.

Rob attended the Social Economy Symposium in January and participated in an InterD 990 seminar 21 March with a paper titled ““Re-engaging Citizens”: Co-operatives as Public Policy Instruments for Democratic Renewal.”

April Bourgeois

April is working on a contract basis for the centre helping to prepare the resource kit for co-operative development within First Nation communities. Nora has provided detailed feedback on the first draft and the project is nearing completion. This comprises part of Lou’s work with the Saskatchewan First Nations Co-operative.

Zhao Jun

An interdisciplinary PhD student under Murray's supervision, Jun is finishing the second year of his studies. Jun was one of the students who took the InterD seminar on co-ops and sustainable development and went to Mongolia to do field research. With the others, he took part in the workshop in Mongolia, contributed to the joint report, and presented his two case studies at the Centre Seminar Series in December. While in Mongolia, he also assisted Roger with piloting the curriculum/training materials for developing co-operatives for small farmers in Wochuan County in rural Inner Mongolia, 14–15 November 05. This built on his summer research in China preparing case studies of farmer associations as part of the centre's contribution to the China Project. Jun has a paper accepted for presentation at the upcoming CASC conference in Toronto: with Rob Dobrohoczki, "Two Worlds — One Challenge: A Case Study of Darkhan Itgelt (Trust) Savings and Credit Co-operative."

Dwayne Pattison

Dwayne is an interdisciplinary MA student and intends to examine the regionalization of co-operatives in northern Saskatchewan for his thesis. He is finishing up his first year of studies in the program. Enrolled with others in the InterD seminar on co-ops and sustainable development, he too had the opportunity to go to Mongolia for a month of fieldwork and participated in the presentations at the Centre Seminar Series. Invigorated by the success of the seminar, all of the students involved in the Mongolian project applied to give a panel presentation on their research at the CASC conference in Toronto this spring.

With Michael and Roger, Dwayne is working on a chapter titled "Revealing Relationships: Co-operatives, Communities, and Sustainable Development in a Northern Prairie Region," for the proposed centre book "Imagination and Cohesion."

Dwayne participated in the Social Economy Symposium in January, and with Jason, assisted with technical matters. He has also been working with his former co-workers at the National Agricultural Cooperative Federation in Korea on an international farmers' charter, which they hope to submit to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers this summer. After classes are finished, as part of the conditions of his SSHRC scholarship, Dwayne will be working for the centre again for the summer, during which time he will also be taking a methodologies class and working on his thesis.

Rochelle Smith

Rochelle was our first interdisciplinary PhD student, having begun her studies in 1997 and spending four years with us before returning to her duties as manager of Policy and Program Development, Business Services Branch, at Saskatchewan Industry and Resources. She returned to the centre this past fall to work on her dissertation. As part of her research, Rochelle is preparing case studies of three of the community clinics in Saskatchewan, including those in Saskatoon and Regina and Prince Albert. She is conducting key informant interviews with clinic board and administration representatives, board and administration representatives of their respective health regions, current and former MLAs, Saskatchewan Health officials, and several health-care experts. The title of her dissertation is “The Relationship of Saskatchewan’s Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Toward a New Understanding.”

Mitch Diamantopoulos

Mitch is the most recent addition to the centre’s Interdisciplinary Research Concentration in Co-op Studies program. His PhD research will concentrate on the promise and potential of worker co-operatives in Canada, examining what he is calling the “worker enterprise development gap.” In connection with his research, he attended the AGM of the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation in Montreal in November and has joined Co-op Ventures, a worker co-op that acts as a support organization and spans Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, delivering technical assistance to emerging and established worker co-ops.

Because of work commitments, Mitch was unable to go to Mongolia in October/November, but he nevertheless prepared a case study on the West Coast Development Co-op, one of English-speaking Canada’s leading co-operative service organizations. With other grad students, he presented his research at the Centre Seminar Series in December. He also participated in the Social Economy Symposium in January.

As noted in the Highlights section, Mitch a record in garnering awards this year, winning the Dennis Lyster Leadership Bursary sponsored by Concentra Financial, one of the centre’s funders, an Interdisciplinary Program Scholarship, the Alexander Fraser Laidlaw Fellowship, and the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship in Parliamentary Studies. We are very proud of him!