



Director's REPORT

to the
Management
Advisory
Board

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

March 2011



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

The centre is also supported by the University of Saskatchewan. The university not only houses our offices but provides in-kind contributions from a number of departments and units — the School of Public Policy, Management and Marketing, and Sociology, among others — as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

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



Overview and Highlights

Concentra Honoured



Centre Review



Building Community Exhibit



Social Economy Project Update



Impact of Co-operatives Research Update



Other Research Update



Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings



Publications



Faculty/Staff/Student News



Seminars



Partners and Developments



Overview and Highlights

▲ Concentra Honoured

Concentra Financial, a loyal Centre sponsor, has once again been named as one of Canada's best-managed companies, a competition sponsored by Deloitte, the National Post, CIBC, and the Queen's University School of Business.

▲ Centre Review

In the fall of 2010, the Centre underwent a review of its programs and operations, as recommended for all similar units by the University of Saskatchewan Implementation Team for the Management of Centres. The review was intended to make a close examination of the Centre's accountability, transparency, and relevance in an evolving environment. As part of the process, we were required to develop a self-study/self-assessment report, which focussed primarily on the Centre's effectiveness in pursuing its mandate, the suitability and sustainability of the Centre's infrastructure and resources, and the Centre's vision for the future. The site visit by one internal and two external examiners, which took place 3–4 November, was preceded by several weeks of intense work preparing the terms of reference, writing and gathering voluminous amounts of material for the self-assessment, and setting up numerous interviews with a variety of Centre stakeholders for the site visit. Everyone at the Centre was involved.

We received the report from the external examiners on 10 March. It contains many positive observations about the Centre and constructive suggestions pertaining to further development of our teaching, research, and outreach programs. Once we have had a chance to review the report, it will be shared with the Management Advisory Board. We will have an opportunity to respond formally before it is finalized.

▲ Building Community Exhibit

The exhibit came down at the end of October after an extremely successful six months on display. More than sixty school groups visited as well as hundreds of members of the general public. The hundred panels are currently nestled safely in specially designed travelling crates awaiting their next engagement. We are also awaiting the results of a funding application which, if successful, will allow us to move onto the second stage of this large project — reconfiguring the exhibit into three travelling components for circulation in the area under study, Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.

▲ Social Economy Project Update

A small but dedicated group of researchers, students, and community partners gathered for the Saskatchewan Provincial Social Economy Workshop, co-ordina-

ted by our local project partner, the Community-University Institute for Social Research, on 19 November 2010 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park just outside Saskatoon. The intent was to provide a forum for participants to share practical lessons learned during the research process; to make presentations on research findings; and to review project goals and define directions for future research. The research presentations and posters provoked important reflections on what we have learned from this collaborative effort.

On the research front, we have published thirty final reports to date, about a third of the final count. Nora has an additional eight awaiting her attention.

▲ Impact of Co-operatives Research Update

Research is on-going under the new CURA headed by CCA examining the social, economic, and environmental impact of co-operatives in Canada. There are two projects at the Centre. Lou and centre colleague Jessica Gordon Nembhard are “Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Wealth Building in Communities,” and Catherine is studying “The Impact of Co-operative Housing on Household Income, Skills, and Social Capital.” The CURA is a five-year, \$1 million project involving CCA, the Centre, Saint Mary’s University, the University of Victoria, and Mount Saint Vincent University, plus more than a dozen co-operative associations, co-ops, and credit unions.

▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ we have applications out for two USTEP positions, the university’s summer employment program for undergraduate students; one is for a project titled “A Survey of Co-operative Housing Models and Programs in Saskatchewan, Canada, and Abroad”; the other is titled “Environmental Sustainability Challenges and Opportunities Facing Supply and Retail Co-operatives”; we expect to hear mid-April if we are successful
- ▲ Murray and Michael Atkinson’s (School of Public Policy) examination of executive compensation in government offices, Crown corporations, universities, and co-operatives; new
- ▲ Lou’s project on a gender analysis of the research being conducted within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships; ongoing
- ▲ Brett’s SSHRC project “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations”; ongoing
- ▲ Murray’s “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”; ongoing
- ▲ Murray’s “Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada”; ongoing
- ▲ Michael’s work with a variety of partners on “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan”; ongoing
- ▲ Michael’s “Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives, and Opportunities”; ongoing

- ▲ Catherine’s comparative analysis of co-op legislation in Canada that enables the development of social co-operatives; ongoing
 - ▲ Catherine’s work with CUISR on an evaluation of Crocus Co-op; ongoing
 - ▲ Catherine’s research on health services in Duck Lake in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region and CUISR; ongoing
- ▲ Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings
- ▲ Association of Cooperative Educators Institute, July 2010, Cleveland, Ohio
 - ▲ The Co-operators Impact! Conference on Youth Sustainability Leadership conference steering committee meetings, August 2010, Guelph
 - ▲ National Ambassadors’ Committee 2012 International Year of Co-operatives meeting, August 2010, Ottawa
 - ▲ ICA Committee on Co-operative Research Conference, September 2010, Lyon, France
 - ▲ Conférence internationale coopératives, mutuelles et territoires: Enjeux, défis, et alternatives, September 2010, Lévis, PQ
 - ▲ Identifying National Priorities for Co-operative Research, project steering committee meeting, October 2010, Ottawa
 - ▲ Regional Co-operative Policy Forum hosted by Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat, October 2010, Winnipeg
 - ▲ “A Special Kind of Business: The Co-operative Movement 1950–2010 ... and Beyond,” October 2010, Milan, Italy
 - ▲ Co-op Week, October 2010: Regina Co-op Network Luncheon; Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards, Regina; Concentra Co-op Week lunch meetings, Regina and Saskatoon; Saskatoon Co-op Network Luncheon; Manitoba Co-op Merit Awards, Winnipeg
 - ▲ Saskatchewan Economic Development Association conference, October 2010, Saskatoon
 - ▲ Federated Co-operatives Limited Leadership Development Program, October 2010, Saskatoon
 - ▲ Manitoba Provincial Social Economy Workshop and Manitoba Co-op Merit Awards banquet, October 2010, Winnipeg
 - ▲ 2010 Manitoba CD/CED Gathering, October 2010, Winnipeg
 - ▲ Saskatchewan Provincial Social Economy Workshop, November 2010 at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon
 - ▲ Institute of Co-operative Leadership, 9–11 February 2011, Toronto
 - ▲ Innovative Types of Member-Based Organizations in a Changing Institutional Landscape: Who Is Doing What, Where, and Why? Sponsored by Coady International Institute, 14–16 February 2011, International Development Research Centre offices, Delhi, India
 - ▲ Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations workshop, Banff, 9–12 March 2011

▲ Publications

- ▲ with Greg Marchildon, School of Public Policy (Regina), Catherine is working on a revised and expanded edition of Stan Rands's *Privilege and Policy: A History of the Community Clinics in Saskatchewan*, forthcoming
- ▲ *Portrait of Community Resilience of Sault Ste. Marie*, Social Economy report by Jude Ortiz and Linda Savory-Gordon; printed and posted
- ▲ *Community-Based Planning: Engagement, Collaboration, and Meaningful Participation in the Creation of Neighbourhood Plans*, Social Economy report by Karin Kliewer; printed and posted
- ▲ *Culture, Creativity, and the Arts: Achieving Community Resilience and Sustainability through the Arts in Sault Ste. Marie*, Social Economy report by Jude Ortiz and Gayle Broad; printed and posted
- ▲ *Eat Where You Live: Building a Social Economy of Local Food in Western Canada*, Social Economy report by Joel Novek and Cara Nichols; printed and posted
- ▲ *Municipal Government Support for the Social Economy Sector*, Social Economy report by Jenny Kain, Emma Sharkey, and Robyn Webb; printed and posted
- ▲ *Cypress Hills Ability Centres, Inc.: Exploring Alternatives*, Social Economy report by Maria Basualdo and Chipo Kangayi; printed and posted
- ▲ *Enhancing and Linking Ethnocultural Organizations and Communities in Rural Manitoba: A Focus on Brandon and Steinbach*, Social Economy report by Jill Bucklaschuk and Monika Sormova; printed and posted
- ▲ *Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Innovation: The Case of the Social Economy in La Ronge*, Social Economy report by Kim Brown, Isobel Findlay, and Rob Dobrohoczki; printed and posted
- ▲ *Mining and the Social Economy in Baker Lake, Nunavut*, Social Economy report by Warren Bernauer; printed and posted
- ▲ "A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form," by Roger and Jorge Sousa; centre book, in process
- ▲ "Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," Centre book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett and Nora; in process

▲ Faculty/Staff/Student News

- ▲ Michael Gertler took over the reins as acting director at the Centre 1 January 2011; he has been a Centre Fellow since 1996
- ▲ Lou stepped down as director at the end of December 2010, concluding a five-year term characterized by unprecedented amounts of research activity generated by the Social Economy project; she is on sabbatical for a year, during which time she plans to catch up on some of her own research projects
- ▲ sadly for all of us at the Centre, we lost Roger to the College of Arts and Science at the end of January, where he has taken up responsibilities as the Co-ordinator of Research and Partnerships for the Social Sciences Division; while we wish him well in his new position, he will be missed
- ▲ Catherine Leviten-Reid, a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for eighteen

months, left us in August for a position in the Shannon School of Business at Cape Breton University; she continues to be involved in research with the Centre, but is currently on maternity leave after the birth in December of her second child, a boy named Joyce Nathaniel; congratulations Catherine, Eric, and Adlie!

- ▲ Gayle Broad, our partner in the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project from Algoma University, spent a week with us in January as a visiting scholar; while here she gave a seminar, had discussions with Centre faculty, staff, and various scholars regarding mutual research interests, and had detailed discussions with Lou, Michael, and CUISR personnel about the governance structure of the Centre and CUISR in relation to the NORDIK Institute, of which she is the director
- ▲ Centre students Rochelle Smith, Kama Soles, and Zhao Jun graduated at fall convocation 2010
- ▲ and we have a new employee at the Centre for the next five months; we were successful in our application to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, which is administering funding from Service Canada for co-op internships; Bryce Donaldson joined us at the beginning of March and will work on a variety of projects, including the travelling components of the Building Community exhibit

▲ Seminars

- ▲ “The Performance of Financial Co-operatives in the Financial Crisis: The European Experience,” by Panu Kalmi, Academy Research Fellow and Adjunct Professor at the Aalto University School of Economics in Helsinki, Finland, November 2010
- ▲ “Building Respectful Relations: Community-University Research Partnerships in the Social Economy,” Gayle Broad, a professor in the Community Economic and Social Development Unit at Algoma University and director of the NORDIK Institute in Sault Ste. Marie, ON, January 2011

▲ Partners and Developments

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

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

Michael Gertler

Michael became acting director of the Centre 1 January 2011 for a one-year term.

▲ Teaching

Sociology 204.3: Rural Sociology (fall)
Sociology 206.3: The Community (winter)

▲ Graduate Supervision

Three of Michael's graduate students recently completed their studies: Rebecca Zagozewski, MA; Kama Soles, MA; and Delgerma Chuluunnbaatar, PhD. Michael has on-going supervisory duties for one PhD student in the Co-op Concentration and one PhD student in the School of Environment and Sustainability. He is also on advisory committees and acting chair for one InterD MA student and six InterD PhD students in the Co-op Concentration, as well as one PhD student in Sociology.

▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator, "Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives and Opportunities"
- ▲ principal investigator, "Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan"
- ▲ co-applicant on the centre's SSHRC project on the Social Economy and a collaborator on the National Hub being run by the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies
- ▲ co-applicant in Murray's SSHRC-funded "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"
- ▲ co-applicant (Isobel Findlay, applicant), "Learning Local Governance: Reimagining Sustainable Communities," SSHRC Community–University Research Alliance Program; awaiting results of application submitted in the fall

▲ Presentations

- ▲ "Sustainable and Sustaining Communities: What Do We Need From Governance and Governance Research?" Community Workshop on Learning Local Governance: Reimagining Sustainable Communities, Saskatoon, 28 June 2010
- ▲ with Eric Leviten-Reid and Jane Dimnik, "Houses and Communities: Learning

from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan,” Saskatchewan Provincial Social Economy Workshop. Saskatoon, 19 November 2010

▲ Administration/Professional/Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ associate member, School of Environment and Sustainability, 1 July 2008–
- ▲ management board member, Community-University Institute for Social Research, U of S
- ▲ member, Social Economy Project administrative committee for CUISR
- ▲ member, College of Graduate Studies and Research Interdisciplinary Committee, 2008–11
- ▲ member, Regional and Urban Planning Administrative Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
- ▲ chair, Department of Sociology Library Committee
- ▲ member, Department of Sociology Undergraduate Studies Committee
- ▲ member, editorial board, *Journal of Cooperatives*, January 07–
- ▲ member, Canadian Co-operative Association Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- ▲ member, “Research Needs: Cooperatives, Social Enterprises, and Rural Civil Society,” discussion group, US Department of Agriculture
- ▲ member, editorial board, Rural Studies Series, Rural Sociological Society and Penn State University Press, July 2008–11

Lou Hammond Ketilson

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

▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler, Wu Haotao, and Douglas Akhimienmhanon, InterD PhD students in the Co-op Concentration.

▲ Research

- ▲ co-applicant on CCA’s five-year CURA grant — Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada
- ▲ with Jessica Gordon Nembhard and Dwayne Pattison, partnered with Advantage and Affinity credit unions on a project titled “Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Measuring Member and Community Benefits and Asset Building from Credit Union Ownership”
- ▲ with the Canadian Women’s CED Council, a gender analysis of the research being conducted within the Canadian Social Economy Research Partnerships
- ▲ principal investigator for the centre’s Social Economy project, “Linking,

Learning, Leveraging,” jointly undertaken by the centre and the Community-University Institute for Social Research in partnership with academics and community partners in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario

- ▲ co-applicant in the Atlantic, Southern Ontario, and Northern Social Economy nodes; she is a co-investigator in a project titled “Integrating Social Economy Curriculum into Canada’s Business Schools” with the Southern Ontario node; and a co-investigator with the Northern node in a project titled “The Role of Women in Social Economy Organizations in Canada’s Far North”
- ▲ co-applicant in Murray’s SSHRC-funded “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”

▲ Presentations

- ▲ preliminary report of Issues Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship Working Group to Commitment Leaders and senior U of S administrators, Saskatoon, 14 January 2011
- ▲ moderator and facilitator of the CCA Institute of Co-operative Leadership (fourth consecutive time), Toronto, 9–11 February
- ▲ invited participant, provided synthesis of discussions in the closing session of conference titled Innovative Types of Member-Based Organizations in a Changing Institutional Landscape: Who Is Doing What, Where, and Why? Sponsored by Coady International Institute, 14–16 February 2011, International Development Research Centre offices, Delhi, India
- ▲ Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations workshop, Banff, 9–12 March 2011; participant in the general discussions and lead discussant for the closing session titled Research — What Research Exists? Where Are the Gaps?

▲ Publications

- ▲ with Kim Brown, “A Post-Merger Governance Review,” a study of the impact of amalgamation on the governance structure and effectiveness of Advantage Credit Union; this is currently in editing and will be a Centre occasional paper
- ▲ “The Role of Co-operatives in Supporting Agriculture and Rural Development in Canada,” in *Farmers’ Co-operatives*, ed. Dr. Yuan Peng, Rural Development Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing; in progress
- ▲ with Gayle Broad, “Mapping the Social Economy in Aboriginal Communities in Canada” chapter in forthcoming working paper to be published by CIRIEC International
- ▲ “First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” chapter in forthcoming centre book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies”

▲ Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings

Lou either attended or presented at all but one of the conferences, workshops, and meetings itemized in the highlights section of this report.

▲ Administration

- ▲ responsible for oversight of the Centre's Review that took place in early November, writing large sections of the self-study document and preparing the detailed financial reports for the appendices
- ▲ successfully negotiated the three-year extension of SaskCentral's participation in the Centre's contract, consistent with the other funders
- ▲ commitment leader for the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship priority of the U of S Second Integrated Plan 2008–12
- ▲ board member, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association
- ▲ member, Government of Saskatchewan's Co-operative Sector Team
- ▲ steering committee member for the next IMPACT! The Co-operators Youth Conference for Sustainability Leadership

Brett Fairbairn

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

▲ Graduate Supervision

Brett continues to supervise one PhD student: Mark McCulloch (History) "Women's Groups and Consumer Co-operatives in East Germany, 1949–71." He is also on a number of other PhD and MA advisory committees.

▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator, "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations," SSHRC funded
- ▲ co-investigator, "Coordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada," SSHRC funded
- ▲ co-investigator, "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century," SSHRC funded
- ▲ 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 author or co-author of four chapters; book is in prep for sending to UBC Press
- ▲ with Rob Dobrohoczki, "Credit Unions and the Construction of Locality: The Case of South Interlake Credit Union, Canada," article submitted to *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, UK
- ▲ "A Shift in Values: Credit Union Expansion by Conversion of Bank Branches," in *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, ed. Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa, forthcoming centre book

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

Public Policy 805.3: Economics for Public Policy Analysis (fall)

Public Policy 807.3: Political Economy (winter)

Public Policy 830.3: Decisions in Organizations (winter)

▲ Graduate Supervision

Two of Murray's PhD students in the Co-op Concentration recently defended their dissertations; a third is still in process.

▲ Research

- ▲ SSHRC standard research grant for a study on executive compensation in the public and co-op sectors, including Crowns, universities, government executive offices, and co-operatives
- ▲ principal investigator, "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"
- ▲ principal investigator, "Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada"
- ▲ co-investigator, "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations"
- ▲ co-applicant, centre's SSHRC project on the Social Economy; academic co-lead of the Governance Cluster
- ▲ "Evaluation of Market Opportunities and Supply Chain Structure for Bio-control Products in Canada"— examining the role of co-ops in this supply chain
- ▲ the role of producer associations in innovation activity, part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network
- ▲ "Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management"

▲ Presentations

- ▲ "Co-op Conversions, Failures and Restructurings: Case Studies and Lessons from U.S. and Canadian Agriculture," Crossroads: Choosing Cooperation, the 2010 Ace Institute, Cleveland Ohio, 27–30 July 2010
- ▲ with Konstatinos Giannakas, "Horizon and Free Rider Problems in Co-operatives," *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and Western Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting, Denver, CO, 27–30 July 2010
- ▲ with Nicoleta Uzea, "Increasing Returns, Patronage Payments, and Co-operative Membership," to the same conference
- ▲ with Michael Atkinson, "A Cognitive Approach to Conflict of Interest: Policy

Responses in the Canadian Sponsorship Scandal,” University of Nebraska–Lincoln, 24 September 2010, and to the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina campuses, 27 and 29 September 2010

- ▲ “Strategies for Encouraging Co-operation and Co-ordination in the Co-operative Retailing System,” to Federated Co-operatives Limited Board Training Session, 25 October 2010, Saskatoon
- ▲ “Further Thoughts on the Rail Transportation Problem in Western Canada,” Structure and Performance of Agriculture and Agri-Products Industry Workshop, 12 January 2011, Ottawa
- ▲ with Jim Marshall, Executive Training Session in Policy Analysis, 15 February 2011, Regina

▲ Publications

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

▲ Administration

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

Nora Russell

▲ Writing, Editing, Design, Print Supervision, etc.

- ▲ annual report
- ▲ centre newsletter
- ▲ prepared text and image files for the virtual version of the Building Community exhibit
- ▲ wrote article for the Co-op Week Supplement of the *StarPhoenix*
- ▲ *Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being — A Conference Reflecting on Co-operative Strategies and Experience*, conference report
- ▲ *The Impact of Retail Co-operative Amalgamations in Western Canada*, Centre occasional paper
- ▲ *Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies*, centre book in process; completed final edits; standardized citation styles; prepared manuscript according to UBC submission guidelines; awaiting revisions to one chapter prior to submission
- ▲ *Portrait of Community Resilience of Sault Ste. Marie*, Social Economy report by Jude Ortiz and Linda Savory-Gordon
- ▲ *Community-Based Planning: Engagement, Collaboration, and Meaningful Participation in the Creation of Neighbourhood Plans*, Social Economy report by Karin Kliwer
- ▲ *Culture, Creativity, and the Arts: Achieving Community Resilience and*

Sustainability through the Arts in Sault Ste. Marie, Social Economy report by Jude Ortiz and Gayle Broad

- ▲ *Eat Where You Live: Building a Social Economy of Local Food in Western Canada*, Social Economy report by Joel Novek and Cara Nichols
- ▲ *Municipal Government Support for the Social Economy Sector*, Social Economy report by Jenny Kain, Emma Sharkey, and Robyn Webb
- ▲ *Cypress Hills Ability Centres, Inc.: Exploring Alternatives*, Social Economy report by Maria Basualdo and Chipo Kangayi
- ▲ *Enhancing and Linking Ethnocultural Organizations and Communities in Rural Manitoba: A Focus on Brandon and Steinbach*, Social Economy report by Jill Bucklaschuk and Monika Sormova
- ▲ *Community Resilience, Adaptation, and Innovation: The Case of the Social Economy in La Ronge*, Social Economy report by Kim Brown, Isobel Findlay, and Rob Dobrohoczki
- ▲ *Mining and the Social Economy in Baker Lake, Nunavut*, Social Economy report by Warren Bernauer
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last advisory board meeting
- ▲ co-ordination, writing, and layout for this director's report

▲ Centre Review

- ▲ gathered initial materials for self-assessment report, including many of the appendices; co-ordinated input from Lou and Michael; edited and did layout; responsible for full production of final document
- ▲ prepared list of Centre stakeholders to solicit for letters of support; wrote letter of request; collected responses and sent out reminders

▲ Smaller Tasks

- ▲ prepared initial materials for Centre Snapshot for the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council; forwarded to Lou and others for input
- ▲ edited report on new Management of Co-operatives course at the University of Winnipeg
- ▲ collected photographs and subject and photographer release forms for Grad Studies new website
- ▲ prepared seminar series announcements
- ▲ cleaned up and reformatted ancient Word file of *Co-operative Enterprise Development in Canada*, an old Centre report, for one of the presenters at the CEDNet Gathering in Winnipeg, October 2010
- ▲ prepared Co-op Week ad for the *StarPhoenix*
- ▲ prepared Centre profile for Saskatchewan Co-operative Association media kit for Co-op Week
- ▲ prepared materials for binders for the FCL Leadership Development workshop, October
- ▲ reprints of three Centre publications
- ▲ prepared materials for a one-page spread on the Centre for the magazine *University Advancement*

- ▲ edited the English translation of the call for papers for the special edition of the *Journal of Economics and Solidarity*

▲ Professional, Outreach, and Other

Nora co-ordinated the hiring of our new co-op intern, Bryce Donaldson, which included writing a letter of intent to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association to secure funding, writing the job description and preparing the job posting, reviewing the applications, and participating in the interview process.

With Lou and Roger, Nora attended the Co-op Merit Awards banquet in Regina and was moral support for Roger at two presentations for Concentra Financial, one in Saskatoon and one in Regina. She also attended the Co-op Week Luncheon in Saskatoon. She is a member of EAC Saskatchewan, a branch of the Editors' Association of Canada; she attended a two workshops organized by the branch in November, one on advanced grammar, the other on plain language. She is also a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, which connects the centre to other publishing organizations throughout the province, and she is the centre's representative to the Saskatoon Co-op Network.

Heather Acton

▲ The Library

Materials signed out: 76

Materials returned: 91

Reference and research requests responded to: 130

Books catalogued: 142

New Borrowers Registered: 6

Online Catalogue Accesses: 172

Heather was fortunate to have the recent assistance of Alexa Ketilson and Roxanne Blackwell, who undertook the heavy job of shifting every item in the library in order to spread out the collection. They also did a shelf read to make sure the books were in proper order. Having more room on the shelves has made a considerable difference to the accessibility of our library materials.

With Karen's processing assistance, Heather has added a number of new titles to the collection. We recently received several boxes of books and papers from CCA, which are awaiting cataloguing. Once the backlog of cataloguing is complete, the shelves will be crowded once again; at that point, we will have to consider further expansion or a thorough weeding of the collection.

Heather undertook considerable work preparing for the recent Centre review, which included a specific review of the library.

▲ The Websites

Heather's largest project since the last director's report has been the development and implementation of the Centre's new website (<http://usaskstudies.coop>), with Duy's expertise on the technical end. Much of the material from the old website had to be culled or updated and reformatted. There are new areas of information on the website as well and it continues to be a work in progress, with plans to add additional material. The "news and events" section is updated regularly.

Our website has material pertaining only to the Centre, so Heather is developing, again with Duy's assistance, a blog highlighting news about co-ops from around the world that will be accessible from the Centre's website to anyone interested. She expects to make it publicly available before the end of March.

In October 2010, we launched our Building Communities Online Exhibit (<http://usaskstudies.coop/exhibit>). In preparation, Heather researched online exhibits for ideas about how to frame ours and provided technical assistance during its creation.

Heather has been regularly updating information about the Social Economy project on the Linking, Learning, Leveraging website (<http://usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy>) and does her best to keep on top of the many outcomes as they become available. Finished reports are uploaded to the LLL website after Nora has completed the editing and layout. Thirty of the expected ninety final reports are available on the website.

Heather continues to monitor news in the co-op world through RSS feeds and also maintains a twitter page (<http://twitter.com/HeatherActon>) where she tweets about news and events relating to the Centre. She also developed an "about me" page (<http://about.me/heatheracton>) that directs traffic to our websites. An increasing number of reference questions come to Heather from various parts of the world via our web presence, so she tries to ensure that the Centre's name comes up wherever someone might be looking for information about co-ops.

▲ Google Analytics

With the implementation of the new website and the online exhibit, Heather then brought Google Analytics into play, which allows us to track visits to all our websites. The tracking information has been most informative and will be helpful in the further development of these sites. Below are statistics on visits to the Centre's main website 18 October 2010 to 24 February 2011. Complete statistics are included in your board packages with other information items.

Visits: 4,529 from 109 countries

Page Views: 13,168

Pages per Visit: 2.91

Average Time on Site: 3.47 minutes

Top Visiting Countries

Canada (2,783)
United States (498)
India (145)
United Kingdom (86)
Ethiopia (74)
Philippines (63)
Nigeria (53)
Ireland (50)
Australia (35)
Iran (34)
Italy (33)
Germany (33)
Indonesia (28)
South Africa (27)
Finland (26)
Pakistan (26)
Japan (24)
China (23)
France (20)
Kenya (20)
Russia (20)

▲ Events Attended

- ▲ CUISR Brown Bag Lunch, presentation by Isobel Findlay and Mitch Diamantopoulos, 13 April 2010
- ▲ Learning Local Governance: Reimagining Sustainable Communities Workshop, White Buffalo Youth Lodge, Saskatoon, 28 June 2010
- ▲ Centre Planning Retreat, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon, 20 August 2010
- ▲ CUISR Brown Bag Lunch, presentation on South Bay Park Rangers project with Gary Tinker, Julia Bidonde, and Isobel Findlay, 8 October 2010
- ▲ Co-op Luncheon, 20 October 2010, Saskatoon
- ▲ Centre Seminar, 16 November 2010
- ▲ Saskatchewan Social Economy Regional Workshop, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon, 19 November 2010
- ▲ Library Festivus at the Murray Library at the U of S, 9 December 2010
- ▲ Co-op Luncheon, 19 January 2011
- ▲ Centre Seminar, 20 January 2011

Patty Scheidl

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

- ▲ updating and recording the revenues/expenditures associated with the centre's monthly financial statements; preparing the spreadsheet for reporting to the management advisory board
- ▲ maintaining the SSHRC project account and all other research accounts, including monitoring these accounts to ensure that the funds are expended in accordance with the requirements
- ▲ investigating errors and processing journal vouchers for incorrect charges
- ▲ ensuring that all the supporting documentation is in the files; obtaining any missing documentation from Central Registry
- ▲ updating the externally-funded research report provided at each board meeting
- ▲ helping Karen with publication purchases
- ▲ processing the transactions on the university credit card and ensuring that expenses are charged to the appropriate account
- ▲ processing all other invoices and cheques that come into the centre

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ preparing the Social Economy project Statement of Account required by SSHRC for reporting purposes — gathered all 2009–10 statements submitted by partner institutions, verified expenditures in each category, incorporated into one consolidated statement
- ▲ dealing with payroll for a number of people: Alexa Ketilson and Roxanne Blackwell, casual summer workers in the Resource Centre in July; James Popham, who assists with CASC matters; Ata-Ul Munim, who works with Lou on the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship commitment; Tsegi Chuluunbaatar, for a scholarship from the Social Economy Student Fund; and the termination of Roger's position
- ▲ reviewing and categorizing expenditures in the Social Economy project fund; preparing a spreadsheet that summarized all the expenses processed
- ▲ co-ordinating final transfer of funds from the Social Economy project to Algoma University and CUISR; dealing with the many authorized signatures on the transfer agreement letters and prepared cheque requisitions
- ▲ co-ordinating preparation of an amendment letter concerning the extension of the project with the transfer of funds to the University of Western Ontario and University of Manitoba
- ▲ dealing with payment services sorting out billing issues associated Lou's cell phone
- ▲ preparing the Centre's year-end financial statements — checked monthly financial statements to ensure that the paperwork was processed accurately; cross-checked previous months to ensure that 2009–10 expenses were cleared and allocated to the appropriate category; worked with our financial consultant, Barb Geib, to finalize statements
- ▲ processing the expenses associated with the Centre Review
- ▲ calculating dues and issuing invoices for sponsor organizations for July, October, and January; processing journal vouchers for each sponsor's funds; completing the cash report forms and making deposits upon receipt of the dues
- ▲ co-ordinating the paperwork to set up the new account for the CCA CURA

- ▲ preparing the electronic submission of the 2011–12 budget development information for the Centre’s main operating fund
- ▲ assisting faculty and staff in processing payments for purchases and travel claims

Other responsibilities this quarter include:

- ▲ co-ordinating arrangements for the Centre retreat in August at Wanuskewin
- ▲ processing the renewals of the Centre’s three .coop domain names
- ▲ making travel arrangements for Lou, including booking flights, accommodation, and dealing with conference registration
- ▲ co-ordinating meeting for Lou, Nora, Roger, and Heather with Carla Vipond and Nola Woods to discuss the Centre’s communications strategy
- ▲ co-ordinating arrangements for Centre staff meeting with Enterprise Saskatchewan’s Chris Dekker
- ▲ assisting with many logistical details around the Centre Review that took place in early November; helped with gathering and assembling the materials for the self-study document for the review team; assisted in scheduling in-person and telephone interviews; kept review team fed and watered during the two-day process
- ▲ assisting with arrangements for visiting professor Panu Kalmi
- ▲ assisting with arrangements for hiring Bryce Donaldson, our Knowledge Mobilization Intern
- ▲ co-ordinating a number of meetings, which involved the usual many phone calls and emails, booking rooms, and arranging for refreshments

On an ongoing basis, Patty is responsible for organizing the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes the many hours that go into co-ordinating a suitable date, preparing the minutes and other 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 include:

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

Special activities this quarter include:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the June and November advisory board meetings
- ▲ checking in and routing of journals; assisting with circulation for patrons; assisting with research questions; reshelving returns; placing book orders
- ▲ mail-out of centre annual report
- ▲ mail-out of centre newsletter
- ▲ mail-out of Social Economy and Centre publications to authors, community partners, and for legal deposit
- ▲ assisting with arrangements for Kama Soles's thesis defence
- ▲ helping to co-ordinate and printing documents for Federated Co-operatives Leadership Development workshop
- ▲ making arrangements for Panu Kalmi's trip to the Centre (booking flights, sending out seminar notices, booking room, etc.)
- ▲ assisted visiting scholar Gayle Broad with accommodation and office space; co-ordinating arrangements for her seminar, booking the room, sending out announcements, etc.
- ▲ assisting with arrangements for the site visit in connection with the Centre Review; printing documents for binders; preparing binders of material for the review team; delivering binders to the VP research office
- ▲ posting articles to the centre blog
- ▲ assisting with travel, accommodation, car rental, and conference arrangements; processing travel claims upon return:
 - for Lou for trips to **Lyon and Geneva** (ICA Research Conference); **Lévis** (Conférence internationale coopératives, mutuelles et territoires); **Ottawa** (Identifying National Priorities for Co-operative Research project steering committee meeting); **Milan** (A Special Kind of Business: The Co-operative Movement 1950–2010 ... and Beyond conference); **Winnipeg** (Manitoba Provincial Social Economy Workshop, Manitoba Co-op Merit Awards banquet, and Manitoba CD/CED Gathering); and **India** (Coady International Institute conference); and **Banff** (Governance Workshop)

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

The Students and Contract Researchers

Bryce Donaldson joined us at the beginning of March as a co-op intern with funds from Service Canada administered through the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association. He will be with us for the next five months. He is currently familiarizing himself with the Centre and its activities, with the co-operative sector, with the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project, and with the Building Community exhibit. We expect much of his time with us will be spent working on the travelling components of the exhibit. Bryce has an MA in English and considerable experience with co-operatives and other community-based organizations.

Monica Juarez Adeler is dealing with revisions to the first draft of her PhD dissertation, which is due to her committee at the end of April. She gave a presentation with Cindy Coker and Vera Goussaert titled “The International Co-op Movement” at the 2010 CED Gathering, 22 October 2010 in Winnipeg. As part of the requirements for her program, she gave a presentation at the 990 InterD seminar 12 December 2010 in Saskatoon. Since January she has been teaching the newly created Management of Co-operatives class to thirty-six students in the University of Winnipeg’s Business and Economics Department. And she also maintains her role as administrator for the Social Economy Project’s Manitoba partner, the Institute of Urban Studies.

Rob Dobrohoczki passed his comprehensive examinations and is working on his dissertation proposal. He is teaching a class in Co-op Law this term, as well as working part time as a lawyer. He has one publication coming up, the chapter he assisted Brett with in the forthcoming book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies.” And he is president of the Good Food Junction Co-op at Station 20 West in Saskatoon.

Mitch Diamantopoulos has a full-time job as the head of the School of Journalism at the University of Regina. He has completed his PhD dissertation on the promise and potential of worker co-operatives in Canada and will defend it this spring.

Presentations

- ▲ “Concertation: The Quebec Model of Social Innovation and Co-operative Entrepreneurship,” to Saskatoon Co-op Week Luncheon, October 2010

Publications

- ▲ “Belonging, Comfort, and Home: Globalization, Social Exclusion, and Innovations in Co-operative Housing,” chapter forthcoming in Centre book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies”
- ▲ with Len Usiskin, “A Provocative Proposition: Linking Research, Education and Action in Saskatoon’s Core Neighbourhoods,” (book chapter)
- ▲ “Education for Economic Action: The Case of the Canadian Co-operative Movement,” book chapter
- ▲ “Gimme Shelter: Case Study of an Innovative Co-operative Support Organization,” chapter forthcoming in a book from New Rochdale Press at the University of Victoria’s Centre for Co-operative and Community-Based Economy

Mike Chartier has completed the course work for his PhD. His research topic is “A Whiteheadian Approach to Ethical Decision Making: How Could It Facilitate Effective Co-operative Governance?” He attended the Process Metaphysics Summer Institute in Paris last summer, which focuses on the work of Alfred North Whitehead, whose theories are the subject of his dissertation. He has submitted a paper for the International Process Network’s Young Scholar Award. He is also preparing papers for the upcoming ANSER and CASC conferences in Fredericton. Mike continues to sit on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic as well as the Community Clinic Foundation.

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

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

Annette Johnson has completed two terms of course work for her PhD in the InterD Co-op Concentration. Her dissertation is titled “Finding a Way Out: An Investigation into the Amalgamation of Worker Co-ops and Canadian Unions.”