

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board



Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives



Lou Hammond Ketilson
Director



November 2006





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 Regional Economic and Co-operative 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, 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



Social Economy Project Update



Social Cohesion Project Update



Other Research Update



Student Awards and Internships



Conferences



Publications



Faculty/Staff/Student News



The Seminar Series



Partners and Developments

Overview and Highlights

▲ Social Economy Project Update

University researchers and community-based partner organizations have settled into the first phase of this five-year national project on the social economy. Titled “Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities,” this node of the research will describe and measure the impact of the social economy in northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. The project also aims to strengthen and expand existing capacities in the co-operative, community economic development, and Aboriginal economic development sectors, where the social economy is clearly manifest.

The centre hosted the initial planning symposium, which involved academics and community partners from across the region and abroad, in January 06. In April, the Community Economic and Social Development unit at Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie facilitated a gathering of more than thirty local community partners to discuss relevant initiatives for the northern Ontario region. The Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) in Saskatoon is planning a similar event for Saskatchewan project partners, while the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance is organizing one for Manitoba.

Two MA and two PhD scholarships were awarded this fall. Others will be available over the duration of the project, which also contributes to student training through internships, two of which are underway. One involves GIS mapping of co-operatives; the other, interviews with social economy managers in urban, rural, and northern communities.

In October, project members from across the region hosted two SSHRC representatives at the centre and the CUISR offices in Saskatoon to discuss research progress and reporting requirements. In preparation, organizers launched a major website upgrade highlighting the project (www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy). We also developed a large new centre display designed to feature the centre and its activities, the project, and many of our community partners.

A week of meetings took place mid-November at the Université du Québec à Montréal. These included a gathering of the National Hub, whose board is comprised of the principal investigators from the six regional nodes. The meeting gathered input into hub activity, which includes co-ordination on a national level and the facilitation of communication across the regions. Two National Hub committees — the public policy group and the portraiture committee — also held meetings, and the Québec node hosted a two-day conference and Social Economy Faire for their regional partners.

▲ Social Cohesion Project Update

The project ends in February 2007 and all expenditures will have been finalized in December 2006, although a number of graduate students funded by the project continue work after that date on ongoing funding provided by the centre and the university. Brett is working with Lorraine, Patty, and Nora on the final budget, administration, and publications. A final report for SSHRC, community partners, the university, and the centre will be prepared within six months of the termination of the project.

Most of the research has been completed and authors are working on various publications. The most important task still to be completed is Cris de Clercy's national survey of attitudes related to social cohesion and co-operatives, which is currently with Environics undergoing testing and should be completed by the end of November.

The chief official "project" publication remaining will be the volume co-edited by Brett and Nora, *Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion: Co-operative Community Responses to Globalization in Canada*. Most of the contents have been finalized; Brett is working on the fine-tuning. Several chapters have been earmarked for French translation for publication in Québec. Nora has also been producing numerous booklets, papers, and reprints to help make project research accessible to community partners; these have become part of the centre's publication program and distribution. Other publications by individual project researchers are anticipated in diverse forums, including peer-reviewed journals in their respective disciplines.

▲ Other Research Update

The centre is involved in several other research activities:

- ▲ the National Co-operative Data Centre overseen by Cris, Carol, and Lorraine; *Data Collection in the Co-operative Sector and Other Business Statistics in Canada and the United States*, the comprehensive statistical review by SSHRC student Angela Wagner, was published as an occasional paper in July; creation of a prototype database is underway
- ▲ Murray's SSHRC project "Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives"
- ▲ Murray's new SSHRC project titled "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"; Lou, Brett, and Michael are co-applicants
- ▲ three contracts with the Co-operatives Secretariat
Murray, Kim Sanderson, and Bill Brown are working on "A Co-operative

Business Assessment Guide,” the objective of which is to provide a detailed description of the co-operative as a business entity

Murray, Rose Olfert, Mark Partridge, and intern Chipo Kangyi are examining Co-ops Secretariat data to identify the impact of co-ops and credit unions on communities

Roger and George Sousa (University of Alberta) are working on a collection of case studies on co-op conversions

▲ Student Awards and Internships

Four centre graduate students received SSHRC scholarships under the Social Economy project: Rob Dobrohoczki, Mitch Diamantopoulos, Michael Chartier, and Kama Soles. Rebecca Hatten won the Norm Bromberger Research Bursary. And PhD students Rob Dobrohoczki and Mitch Diamantopoulos, along with Social Economy co-applicant Lori Blondeau, spent the summer working on a CUISR internship project, “Exploring the Social Economy in Saskatchewan: Urban, Rural, and Northern,” supported by the Social Economy project.

▲ Conferences

On 3 October, the centre and CUISR hosted SSHRC representatives Marc Fonda, acting director, and Eric Bastien, program officer, Strategic Programs and Joint Initiatives, at a regional meeting of Social Economy researchers and community partners from across Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario. See Social Economy Project Update (above) for more details.

In October, Lou and Roger attended the ICA International Co-operative Research Conference in Dourdan, France, titled the Co-operative Response to Civil Society’s New Expectations. Roger presented a paper on his co-op conversions project. Lou and Roger also took the opportunity to promote our upcoming joint conference in Saskatoon in May/June 07 with the ICA Research Committee, the Association of Cooperative Educators, and the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation.

▲ Publications New and Forthcoming

- ▲ *International Seminar on Legislation for Farmer Co-operatives in China: A Canadian Perspective*, a booklet and companion piece to the training materials from the China Project by Centre Scholar Dan Ish, Bill Turner, and Murray — published

- ▲ *The Status of Data Collection in the Co-operative Sector and Other Business Statistics in Canada and the United States*, an occasional paper by SSHRC student Angie Wagner and Cris — published
 - ▲ *Synergy and Strategic Advantage: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development*, a centre booklet by Michael— published
 - ▲ *Networking Diversity: Including Women and Other Under-Represented Groups in Co-operatives*, a research report by Social Cohesion summer researcher Myfanwy Van Vliet — published
 - ▲ *The Case of La Coop de solidarité en soins et services de Saint-Camille (Saint-Camille Care and Services Solidarity Co-operative) and Its Impact on Social Cohesion*, an occasional paper by Geneviève Langlois and Patrick De Bortoli — pub date December
 - ▲ *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*, an occasional paper by grad student Rob Dobrohoczki — forthcoming
 - ▲ *Consumer Identities and Co-operative Membership*, a research report by Social Cohesion summer researcher Colin Leinenweber — editing in process
 - ▲ *Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion: Co-operative Community Responses to Globalization in Canada*, centre book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett and Nora — in process
 - ▲ Daniel Côté's book on co-op management, a co-publication with the BC Institute for Co-op Studies and St. Mary's University — in process
 - ▲ Roger and Jorge Sousa's book on co-op conversions — in process
 - ▲ Karl Baumgardner's booklet on credit union mergers — in process
-
- ▲ Faculty/Staff/Student News
 - ▲ Michael was promoted to associate professor as of 1 July 06; congratulations Michael!
 - ▲ Brett is on sabbatical from the History Department and has moved back into the centre's fold to work on co-operative-based research projects.
 - ▲ We have two new graduate students, both Social Economy scholarship recipients: Michael Chartier and Kama Soles. Kama is in the Co-op Studies Concentration.
 - ▲ Three of our graduate students got married. Dwayne Pattison married Ji Yeun Kim, whom he met while working in Korea three years ago; Juanita Bacsu married Marc Viger, who is a medical resident in Saskatoon; and Michael Chartier, our most recent SSHRC scholarship winner, married Cynthia Moreno Calvillo in Mexico and brought her to Saskatoon to enjoy her first Canadian winter. Best wishes everyone!

▲ The Seminar Series

“Investigating Community Development and Change through Narrative and Film,” Jorge Sousa, Department of Educational Policy Studies, University of Alberta, 5 October 06

“Co-operative Law for Farmers in China: A Review of the Legislative Process,” Men Wei, legal analyst, Agricultural Commission, National People’s Congress of China, 22 November 06

The 2006 F.J.H. Fredeen Memorial Scholarship Seminar, presented by last year’s winner, Nancy Allan: “Co-ops, Fair Trade, and Communities: Opportunities for International Co-operation,” 1 December 06

▲ Partners and Developments

This section highlights relevant issues and developments among centre sponsors. Reports from The CUMIS Group, The Co-operators, and Federated Co-operatives Ltd. were unavailable at the time of writing.

SaskCentral (Karl Baumgardner reporting)

- ▲ Financial Reports (as of 31 July 2006): Financial results are exceeding budget, with earnings before income tax of \$11.4 million, return on investment of 10.75 percent, and return on equity of 7.7 percent.

- ▲ Strategic Issues

New Project: SaskCentral is working with other centrals across Canada to select a single provider of chip card technology for the Canadian credit union system; the migration to chip card technology is anticipated to occur in 2010.

Strategic Direction: The 2007 Strategic Direction was distributed to credit unions in April 2006. On 3–4 November, the SaskCentral board and management team met to begin the process for the 2008 strategic plan.

Democratic Structure: On 1 January 2007, mergers will reduce the number of credit unions from 88 to 77, thus rendering the democratic structure (regions based on memberships) established in 2006 unsatisfactory. SaskCentral has developed three possible models for 2007. At the Fall Delegates Meeting, the majority supported a structure that would create a north district with four directors and a south district with three directors and single credit union districts based on one twelfth of the provincial membership. The board will consider delegate feedback to develop the new model.

- ▲ Government Relations: SaskCentral continues to be active at both provincial

and federal (via CCA) levels on issues that relate to Saskatchewan credit unions. One current issue they are pursuing is permission to sell insurance from their branches.

- ▲ Co-operative Relations: The centrals of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are exploring the possibility of creating a prairie central.

Concentra Financial (gleaned from the website)

- ▲ First year of operation as Concentra Financial Services Association very successful; \$14 million in earnings and consolidated assets of \$2.8 billion; retained the title of one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies through the transition.
- ▲ Concentra established its first Repurchase and Sale Agreement Program, which provides a method of secured borrowing to accommodate short-term fluctuations in the company's balance sheet.
- ▲ Progress was made in the development of a comprehensive Trust Services strategy, which aims to improve market penetration and profitability while enhancing credit unions' value proposition to members; also plans to develop a long-term technology strategy.
- ▲ Concentra's Corporate Banking Division opened an office in Calgary during the summer; Senior Vice-President Marty Meloche commented, "Our presence in Alberta will help credit unions through increased business, increased access to products and services and an additional source of advice and market intelligence.... Partnering with Concentra Financial also allows credit unions to solicit business from high profile clients that may have been out of their reach before." Associate Vice-President Robert Vander Wees will head up the Alberta office.
- ▲ Other corporate banking highlights include expansion of the relationship between Concentra and western Canadian co-operatives, as well as new contracts within the Aboriginal business sector.
- ▲ President and CEO Myrna Bentley addressed the 2006 World Credit Union Conference in Dublin, Ireland, in July 06; spoke on the role of financial technology in Canada and its history in the Canadian credit union system; focus was on loans technology, examining the challenges, efficiencies, and benefits of technology enabling employees to focus their efforts on relationship building.
- ▲ Senior Vice-President and Chief Risk Officer Karen McBride appointed to the expert advisory panel for a national pandemic preparedness working group; has written a paper analyzing the associated risks and makes recommendations from a financial co-operative perspective; Concentra will complete and test a pandemic-specific business continuity plan by the end of 2006.

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

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Teaching

Lou is not teaching this term but has various responsibilities for a number of graduate students. She is a co-supervisor for Rochelle Smith (PhD Interdisciplinary Studies); a committee member for Kim Brown (MA Political Studies) and Kim Morrison and Monica Juarez Adeler (PhD Interdisciplinary Studies); and committee chair for Kama Soles and Dwayne Pattison (MA Interdisciplinary Studies) and Rob Dobrohoczki, Zhao Jun, and Mitch Diamantopoulos (PhD Interdisciplinary Studies). She was also the external examiner for Angela Wagner's successful MA defence of her thesis titled "Membership Identity and Consumer Behavior: The Case of Consumer Co-operatives."

▲ Research

Lou is involved in a great number of research initiatives.

- ▲ principal investigator for the centre's Social Economy project, "Linking, Learning, Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities," 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 for "Tracking Quality of Life in Saskatoon," the third in a series of surveys regarding quality of life in nine neighbourhoods in Saskatoon, which will be completed in January 07; Lou is responsible for writing two articles, one on the quality of life of Aboriginal peoples and another on the quality of life of women
- ▲ 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." The Other member of the Canadian team is Marie Bouchard, Canada Research

Chair in the Social Economy at the University of Québec at Montréal. A research assistant has been employed to conduct research on evaluation strategies in use by social economy actors in Canada outside of Québec.

- ▲ co-coordinator of the Aboriginal Cluster of the Social Cohesion project and is currently drafting a report based on interviews conducted during October 05.
- ▲ co-applicant with Denis Harrison at CRISES in a successful application to SSHRC's Strategic Research Clusters program to create a national strategic research network on social innovation; Lou will be a member of the committee that will review the papers for a conference next year
- ▲ co-applicant, with Jean Marc Fontan, director of l'Alliance de recherche universités-communautés en économie sociale et du Réseau québécois de recherche partenariale, Université du Québec à Montréal, in a SSHRC application titled "Social Economy and Social Innovation in Society, the Economy, and the Region" for a grant aimed at creating an interuniversity research network devoted to the social economy and social innovation
- ▲ co-applicant in Murray's SSHRC-funded "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"
- ▲ continued 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
- ▲ 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

- ▲ with Isobel Findlay, co-editing a special edition of *Économie et Solidarité*, the CIRIEC-Canada Journal, forthcoming 2007; also contributing an article on 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, Identity, and Cohesion*
- ▲ two papers in progress: one on the methodological issues of mapping the social economy in the northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan node of the Social Economy project; and another on the methodological issues of measuring the social economy in the same region.

▲ Presentations

“Overview of the First Year’s Activities of the Northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan Social Economy Node,” presented to members of SSHRC start-up visit committee, 3 October 06, Saskatoon

▲ Conferences/AGMs

Lou regularly attends meetings on the centre’s behalf. This quarter included the following:

- ▲ Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers annual meeting, 3–6 October, Saskatoon
- ▲ CIRIEC-International-sponsored Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy working group studying “Methods and Indicators for Evaluating the Social and Co-operative Economy,” fall meeting, 18 October, Paris
- ▲ International Co-operative Alliance Research Committee annual meeting, 19–21 October, Dourdan, France. The International Researchers Forum will be held in Saskatoon in May 07 in conjunction with the university’s hundredth anniversary and the annual meetings of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. The centre will host a joint meeting of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, the ICA, and the Association of Cooperative Educators.
- ▲ The Rural-Secretariat-sponsored Learning Event on the Social Economy, Saskatoon, 20 November

▲ Outreach and Engagement

At the end of January, Lou will facilitate the CCA-sponsored Institute for Co-operative Studies. Held every three years, the institute is attended by senior managers and elected officials from co-operatives and credit unions across Canada.

▲ Administration

Specific to the Centre

Lou spent many hours reviewing co-operative scholarship applications during the last few months. These include: the Mollard — eleven; the Bromberger — three; the Lyster— five; the Fredeen — four; and the Social Economy scholarships — six. It is notable that five centre graduate students were chosen for awards.

We are pleased to note that we have a new student in the Co-op Studies

Concentration: Kama Soles, an MA student whose proposed thesis will examine co-operative housing models for the disabled community.

Lou has responsibilities on a number of bodies related to the centre:

- ▲ 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
- ▲ vice-chair of the ICA Research Committee, which will be holding an International Researchers' Forum in Saskatoon in May 07 in conjunction with the hundredth anniversary of the university and the annual meetings of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
- ▲ member of the university's Task Force on the Management of Centres, which is considering all matters related to the management of research centres and institutes on campus and preparing draft recommendations to be approved by University Council

Research Administration re the Social Economy Project

Lou spent most of August and September preparing for the start-up visit from SSHRC representatives Marc Fonda and Eric Bastien. Community and university representatives from each of the provincial level co-ordinating organizations (the Community Economic and Social Development Unit of Algoma University College, Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance, and the Community-University Institute for Social Research), from each of the five clusters, along with students, presented an overview of the past year's accomplishments. A breakfast meeting with centre faculty, staff, and students, as well as members of the Management Advisory Board, introduced the SSHRC reps to the centre's work. Lunch was hosted at the CUISR offices, giving CUISR an opportunity to showcase their work and introduce Marc and Eric to community and academic partners as well as other members of the university community.

Keeping on top of what is happening in our region, plus participating in the conference calls and meetings organized by the National Hub and other associated committees and adhoc groups is extremely time consuming. Since July 1, Lou has participated in:

- ▲ a national facilitating committee conference call on Mapping the Social Economy
- ▲ monthly conference calls for the national hub
- ▲ a two-day meeting of the hub's executive committee, followed by a one-day meeting of the national facilitating committee on Mapping the Social Economy, both in Montreal, 13–15 November

Over the coming three months she will be:

- ▲ participating in the first meeting of the Working Group on Business Programs and the Social Economy organized by the southern Ontario node; the meeting is intended to encourage the development of a network of persons associated with business programs who are working on issues related to the social economy
- ▲ chairing a conference call meeting of the Management Board for the northern Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan regional node
- ▲ attending the provincial workshops in each of the three provinces associated with the node

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

Brett is on administrative leave and is not teaching any undergraduate students. He is currently supervising or co-supervising three PhD students and one MA student. MA student Tom Novosel is in the late stages of writing a thesis on the efforts of the CCF government (1944–64) to develop a pulp mill in Prince Albert. Interdisciplinary PhD student Warren Weir, whose topic is co-operative models for Aboriginal business, is preparing to do a comprehensive field in co-operative studies under Brett's direction. His newest PhD student, Mark McCulloch (History), has just been admitted. Mark will be working on consumer co-operatives in Communist East Germany. Currently he is doing a comprehensive field with Brett in Modern European History.

▲ Co-operative Research

During his one-year administrative leave, Brett is focussing (apart from graduate teaching) on three research projects: the completion of the Social Cohesion project and attendant publications (2002–06); the new work on the governance cluster of the Social Economy project (2005–09); and his work on German economic history and co-operatives.

For the Social Cohesion project, Brett has been finalizing his own research on South Interlake Credit Union in Manitoba (see below) and working on the forthcoming volume of project research results co-edited with Nora. He also presented an early overview of project results and findings at the Association of Cooperative Educators international institute in Puerto Rico in August.

For the Social Economy project, Brett developed, tested, and distributed Version

1.2 of his Self-Assessment of Democratic Practice in Organizations, taking advantage of the meetings of the Canadian Co-operative Association and Ontario Co-operative Association for this purpose (see below). The self-assessment questionnaire is now posted on the project website and is free for download and use by anyone interested in evaluating their own organization's democratic practices and characteristics.

Also in connection with the Social Economy project, Brett submitted an application for a SSHRC Interdisciplinary Standard Research Grant to investigate "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations." If successful, Brett and co-applicants Murray Fulton and Marie Bouchard (Canada Research Chair in the Social Economy, Université du Québec à Montréal) will develop case studies from across Canada of how governance relationships in co-operatives and the social economy contribute to business and social innovations.

▲ Other Research Projects

Co-investigator, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Knowledge Impact in Society program, "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century," principal investigator is Murray Fulton

Co-investigator, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Strategic Research Network program, "Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society," principal investigator is Denis Harrisson of UQAM.

▲ Presentations

"Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion Through Market Relations," plenary keynote address to Association of Cooperative Educators annual international conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 3 August 06

"Engaging Members: Action Research to Get and Keep Your Members Involved," workshop, Ontario Co-operative Association annual meeting, Burlington 18 October 06

"A Primer on Co-operatives and Social Enterprises in a New Political Climate," keynote plenary address to three conferences titled Community Revitalization: Co-ops and Other Social Enterprises, Saskatoon, 20 November 06, Edmonton, 21 November 06, Whitehorse, 23 November 06

▲ Publications

“Economic and Social Developments,” in *The Short Oxford History of Germany: Germany 1871–1918*, ed. James Retallack. Oxford: Oxford University Press (peer reviewed), forthcoming

“A Shift in Values: Credit Union Expansion by Conversion of Bank Branches,” ed. Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa. Research report to Co-operatives Secretariat, Government of Canada, forthcoming

“From Farm to Community: Co-operatives in Alberta and Saskatchewan, 1905–2005,” in *The Prairie West as Promised Land*, ed. Doug Francis and Chris Kitzen. Ottawa: Canadian Museum of Civilization (peer-reviewed), forthcoming

“‘Canada’s Co-operative Province’: Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005,” *Perspectives of Saskatchewan: 1905–2005*, ed. Jene Porter. Toronto: University of Toronto Press (peer-reviewed), forthcoming

“Final Report: Research at South Interlake Credit Union,” research report to partner organization in project “Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion Through Market Relations,” August 06

▲ Administration

Although Brett is on administrative leave, he continues to have administrative duties regarding the winding up of the Social Cohesion project and has been working with Lorraine, Patty, and Nora for this purpose. The grant ends in February and all expenditures are expected to have been finalized in December.

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

Economics 231.3: Co-operatives (enrollment — forty students)

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

▲ Research

“Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives,” funded by SSHRC

With Kim Sanderson and Bill Brown, “Co-operative Business Assessment Guide,” funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; objective of the work is to provide a detailed description of the co-operative as a business entity

With Rose Olfert and Mark Partridge, examining the role of co-operatives in Canada as a factor in population growth; funding from the Co-operatives Secretariat; research is part of the Social Economy project

“Evaluation of Market Opportunities and Supply Chain Structure for Biocontrol Products in Canada,” examining the role of co-operatives in providing co-ordination in this particular supply chain

Project examining the role of producer associations in innovation activity as part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network

“Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management,” SSHRC funded

The China Project, CIDA funded

▲ Presentations

“Knowledge Impact in Society: A Dialogue for Sustainability,” presentation to Towards a Sustainable Bioeconomy, Second National Conference of BIOCAP Canada, Ottawa, 1 November 06

With Kathy Lang, “Declining Economic Linkage: The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Share Conversion,” NCERA-194 annual meeting, Minneapolis, 2 November 06

“The Canadian Wheat Board in an Open Market: The Impact of Removing the Single-Desk Selling Powers — The Last Straw,” forum presented by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy and the Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century project, Saskatoon, 14 November 06; available at project website at www.kis.usask.ca

▲ Administration

Murray is a member of the Interdisciplinary Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research and is the lead person in the working group examining the formation of the School of Public Policy on campus.

Michael Gertler

We are extremely pleased to acknowledge Michael's promotion to associate professor on 1 July 2006.

▲ Teaching

Sociology 204.3: Rural Sociology

Michael is supervising six MA students (four in sociology and two in co-op studies) and is a member of four interdisciplinary PhD advisory committees, three of which are in co-operative studies.

▲ Research

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

Co-investigator with sector partner the Saskatoon Co-operative Association on SSHRC-funded "Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food System Performance"

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"

▲ Publications

Review of Michael Mayerfeld Bell, Susan Jarnagin, Gregory Peter, and Donna Bauer, *Farming for Us All: Practical Agriculture and the Cultivation of Sustainability* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), forthcoming in *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*

With Nancy Allan, "Remaking the Links: Fair Trade for Local and Global Community Development" (Saskatoon: Community-University Institute for Social Research, 2006)

Synergy and Strategic Advantage: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development, centre booklet, 2006

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, Identity, and Cohesion”

▲ Presentations

With Bob Stirling, “Apprehending a Prairie Farm Meltdown: Probing (Deeper) Causes, Pondering (Less) Desperate Measures,” presentation at the Rural Sociological Society annual meeting, August 2006, Louisville, KY

“Learning from Anne: The Saskatoon Anne Frank Committee and the Ann Frank in the World Exhibition as a Community Building Project,” presentation to the Annual Congress of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, Saskatoon, 21 October 06

▲ Administration/Outreach and Engagement

Michael is academic co-lead of the Community Economic Development Module, Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) and also a CUISR board member. He is past president of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation; a member of the Administrative Committee, Regional and Urban Development, and of the Equity Committee in the College of Arts and Science; a member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Library Committee and chair of the Employment and Education Equity Committee in the Department of Sociology; and a member of the Local Arrangements Committee, Canadian Association for Food Studies, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Saskatoon.

Nora Russell

Large Projects

- ▲ *Data Collection in the Co-operative Sector and Other Business Statistics in Canada and the United States*, occasional paper by SSHRC student Angie Wagner under Cris’s direction, part of the Co-op Data Centre research; published in July 06
- ▲ *An International Seminar on Legislation for Farmer Co-operatives in China*, centre booklet by Dan Ish, Bill Turner, and Murray Fulton; published in July; available on the website and from the resource centre
- ▲ *Networking Diversity: Including Women and Other Under-Represented Groups in Co-operatives*, research report by summer researcher Myfanwy

Van Vliet; published in July; available from the centre's library

- ▲ edited three papers for Roger and Jorge Sousa's project on co-operative conversions; also co-ordinated the work of a freelance editor for the rest of the papers, dealing with all queries and comments on their return
- ▲ *Synergy and Strategic Advantage: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development*, centre booklet by Michael Gertler, published in October
- ▲ *The Case of La Coop de solidarité en soins et services de Saint-Camille (the Saint-Camille Care and Services Solidarity Co-operative) and Its Impact on Social Cohesion*, occasional paper by Geneviève Langlois and Patrick De Bortoli, colleagues from Université du Québec à Montréal; ready for printer except for CIP data; publication date December
- ▲ *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*, occasional paper by Rob Dobrohoczki; editing complete and with author for approval
- ▲ *Consumer Identities and Co-operative Membership*, research report by summer researcher Colin Leinenweber; editing in process
- ▲ photo research, permissions, art direction, and co-ordination of production of new centre banner stand
- ▲ designed and prepared centre display materials for Centennial Dialogue I — Aboriginal Peoples: Research and Community, the launch event for the College of Arts and Science's Institute for Aboriginal and Indigenous Graduate Studies and Research in October
- ▲ writing and layout for this director's report

Small Projects

- ▲ prepared materials for submitting four centre books to the Saskatchewan Publishers Group catalogue
- ▲ prepared summary of actuals and estimates for all publication/printing costs for the four years of the Social Cohesion project for Brett and Lorraine
- ▲ prepared ads for the seminar series
- ▲ updated presentation package materials
- ▲ wrote 1,000-word article on co-ops in Saskatchewan for the *StarPhoenix's* Co-op Week Supplement; it also appeared in the *Leader Post*
- ▲ prepared an ad for *Planet S* magazine for Co-op Week
- ▲ edited advisory board minutes for Patty
- ▲ prepared powerpoint presentations with a common signature look for five presenters at the SSHRC site visit in October; produced other materials for the event, assisted with planning and co-ordination, and was a participant
- ▲ prepared materials for Lou and Roger's trip to France for the ICA Research Conference in October

- ▲ translated some French materials for Lou and drafted letter of support for Jean Marc Fontan's most recent SSHRC application
- ▲ wrote articles on the Social Economy project for various newsletters; it will be a front-page feature in CUISR's forthcoming issue

Reprints

- ▲ *The Meaning of Rochdale*, occasional paper, Brett Fairbairn
- ▲ "Canada's Co-operative Province": *Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society 1905–2005*, occasional paper, Brett Fairbairn
- ▲ *Co-operative Membership as a Complex and Dynamic Social Process*, Michael Gertler
- ▲ *Data Collection in the Co-operative Sector and Other Business Statistics in Canada and the United States*, occasional paper, Angie Wagner

Other

Nora is on the executive of the local branch of the Editors' Association of Canada and during the fall co-organized a successful two-day proofreading workshop that was widely attended by university employees and others in the community.

She represented the centre at the Co-op Merit Awards in Regina 16 October.

She is also part of the task force considering the feasibility of establishing a University of Saskatchewan Press, for which she recently wrote a report outlining possibilities for an internal consortium.

As a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, centre books have appeared or will appear at the following events: 14–15 October — Northern Lights Display in Melfort; 26–29 October — Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils Display in Prince Albert; 17–18 November — Prairie Peddler Display in Humboldt; 17–19 November — Wintergreen Craft Market in Regina; 20–25 November — Canadian Western Agribition Display in Regina; 1–3 December — Sundog Display in Saskatoon.

Roger Herman

▲ Research and Other Activities

Roger participated in the Social Economy project start-up meetings with SSHRC representatives in October. He is a member of the Finance Cluster and is conducting research on the social economy with Lou and Juanita, and in conjunction with the Canadian Co-operative Association, regarding levels of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian credit unions.

He continues to devote a portion of his time to research activities for the Co-op Membership and Changing Boundaries of Community cluster of the Social Cohesion project. Together with Michael Gertler and Dwayne Pattison, he is preparing a chapter for the forthcoming centre book *Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion*.

Roger's work with Jorge Sousa (University of Alberta) on co-operative conversions is still in progress. Intended for academics, policy makers, and co-op practitioners, the research findings include twelve case studies of organizations that have either converted from co-ops (demutualized) or converted into co-operatives. The work will analyze the rationale for conversion and individual outcomes. The project is funded by the Co-operatives Secretariat. Roger presented a paper based on this research at the ICA Research Forum in Dourdan, France, in October.

Roger is co-ordinating a conference hosted by the centre 28 May – 1 June 07. Titled Co-operative Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy, it is a joint gathering of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, the International Co-operative Alliance Research Committee, and the Association of Co-operative Educators. Roger and Lou promoted the event at the ICA Research Committee Forum in Dourdan, France, in October.

Roger and Lou are on the university's Congress 2007 planning committee. This event will welcome approximately five thousand conference participants to the University of Saskatchewan over a two-week period next spring. One of the three designated theme days for this event has been assigned to the topic of the Social Economy. The Co-operative Innovation conference mentioned above is a part of the larger Congress event.

Roger is responsible for co-ordinating visiting scholars at the centre, managing the centre's seminar series, and liaising with the centre's graduate students. On 13 September, he met with a delegation of officials from South Africa who are interested in co-operatives as community economic development vehicles. On 13 November, he and grad student Dwayne Pattison hosted a group of visitors from NACF, the Korean Agricultural Co-operative Federation. They provided the group with information on the centre and on trends in co-operatives, and discussed the centre's research approach as well as current research trends.

Roger continues to respond to inquiries regarding New Generation Co-operatives as well as co-ops in general.

He is a board member for the Saskatoon Community Clinic, sitting on the

Operations Committee and chairing an ad hoc committee developing policy to deal with complaints against clinic physicians

He is vice-president of the board of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE), and was on the program committee and a participant in the August 2006 ACE Institute in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Roger is the centre's representative on a number of organizations:

- ▲ an advisory committee of the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan planning an international community development conference for Saskatoon in 2008; he attended the CDSS annual meeting and conference in Regina in November
- ▲ a committee of community economic development organizations developing a Saskatchewan regional CED umbrella organization
- ▲ a national Social Economy discussion group facilitated by the Canadian Co-operative Association
- ▲ the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development

Lorraine Salt

▲ SSHRC Project Administration

Project activities since the last report included working out logistical and budgetary matters for the new internships begun in June. Although Maria Basualdo at CUISR is managing the student internships throughout the project, Lorraine is called upon for assistance from time to time.

The SSHRC site visit on 3 October caused a flurry of excitement with planning meetings, website upgrades, invitation lists, meal arrangements, and many organizational activities. Eric Bastien and Marc Fonda from SSHRC's Strategic Programs and Joint Initiatives joined us for an intense morning of sharing of our research goals and beginnings. In turn, Eric and Marc explained SSHRC's new reporting expectations and requested input on a draft of the Milestone Report. We are awaiting the final version of this document so that it can be completed by the February 2007 deadline.

Following the SSHRC site visit, Lorraine and Lou spoke with Anita Friesen, the Manitoba project manager at the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance, to sort out some project matters. Anita and Lorraine then attended an impromptu meeting of academic project partners, during which the idea of a common regional

workshop arose; our second all-project-member symposium is planned for Winnipeg sometime in 2007.

Lorraine has also been attending meetings of the CED Module, which is planning the first Saskatchewan local project workshop in early December. Although CUISR is responsible for this event, many of the procedures used in organizing the January Symposium were explored and Lorraine is in constant contact with our community liaison, Maria Basualdo.

Lorraine sits in on the regular conference calls of the National Hub management committee and attended the in-person meeting in Montreal in November.

The Social Cohesion project is continuing to wind down; Brett and Lorraine are in the process of finalizing budgetary matters and in-kind contributions in preparation for meeting SSHRC's reporting requirements.

▲ The Website(s)

September saw the beginnings of a major upgrade to the Social Economy project website. University Archivist and Lorraine's partner, Tim Hutchinson, assisted some time ago in the creation of a project website using the open source software Drupal. The site has been expanded with the further assistance of Alicia Hanwell, a U of S student working on the new U of S Library catalogue using Drupal. The new website was launched in conjunction with the October 2006 SSHRC site visit. (www.usaskstudies.coop/socialeconomy) It will change and grow over the next several years as research continues, expands, and results evolve. There are plans to add profiles of our community partners, internship research, and project graduate students, as well as descriptions of research and important social economy papers. The website also includes a private team site for project partners to discuss research directions and eventually share draft papers in a secure online space.

Alicia's role in our new web face has been taken over by former centre library intern Luke Sather, whose web design and web development skills will be invaluable as we embark on a major upgrade to the centre's main website. Luke has met with faculty and staff to ascertain the centre's website needs and will also be involved in the development of a web presence for the CASC/ICA/ACE 2007 conference held in conjunction with next year's Congress at the U of S. Finally, Luke has been taking new photos of faculty and staff for the centre's website.

▲ Other Research

To facilitate project research, Lorraine has been working on some necessary collection development: identifying and ordering new books for the library on the topics

of the social economy, social enterprises, social capital, governance, microfinance, and non-profit/charitable organizations. She is also collecting electronic articles relating to project research, some of which will be posted on the project website once permissions have been received.

▲ The Library

Rarely the case at the centre, this past summer was a slow time for new project or library initiatives, which allowed Lorraine to focus on some much-needed backlog cataloguing. For five weeks straight, Karen and Lorraine catalogued, input, processed, labeled, and shelved over a hundred items. While this was enormously satisfying, there are still some items waiting to be catalogued, the majority of which are French and other foreign language materials. All new materials are given priority, however, and are added to the catalogue as they are received.

The long-term library inventory is nearing an end. Karen has completed her scan of the shelves and the corrections to the database are still underway. Renaissance man Luke Sather will be reloading the library database software in order to clean up some bugs that have been an annoyance for some time. By the New Year, a cleaner and updated library catalogue will replace the current online version. The online library catalogue can be accessed from a link on our library webpage at www.usaskstudies.coop.

Lorraine continues to enjoy her role as reference librarian and researcher, answering questions from the centre's faculty, scholars, staff, graduate students, campus students, and outside parties.

▲ Professional

Lorraine continues as the centre's representative to the Co-operative Network of Saskatoon. She was involved in planning the recent Co-op Week Luncheon, where participants were brought up to date on the progress of the Station 20 West and Good Food Junction Co-operative projects. Lorraine is an active participant in the local Special Libraries Network and recently toured another member's workplace, the Regional Psychiatric Centre and its library. Lorraine is also involved with the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) and is currently co-chair of the SLA Conference 2007 Social Committee and a member of the Program Committee. As a member of SLA's Advocacy Committee, Lorraine is pleased to report the organization of a preconference advocacy workshop.

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 and other research accounts. Other financial activities include helping Karen with publication purchases; preparing the monthly credit card statements; processing all other invoices and cheques that come into the centre for purchases and payments; and investigating errors.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ calculating the dues for the centre's sponsoring organizations and preparing the documentation that outlines the breakdown and is sent to each sponsor, along with the 2006-07 budget approved at the 29 June board meeting; she prepared and sent out the July and October quarterly invoices to the sponsors and completed the requisite cash report forms and made deposits upon receipt of the dues
- ▲ dealing with the paperwork and payroll issues that wrapped up the summer student employment contracts
- ▲ co-ordinating the work hours and payroll arrangements of our current research assistants Juanita Bacsu and Dan Macfarlane as well as Alicia Hanwell and Luke Sather who are assisting with the centre's new website design
- ▲ assisting Lorraine with the detailed financial information for the Social Cohesion project as it winds down, obtaining totals for various expenditure categories and confirming information on outstanding expenses; she processed a number of reimbursement cheques for Brett and continues to make financial arrangements for others associated with the project

The majority of Patty's time in September and October was devoted to the centre's year-end financial statements. This involved checking the centre's monthly financial statements ensuring that all the paperwork was processed accurately and making sure that the expenses relating to the 2005-06 financial year were included on the statement provided to the advisory board. It also involved many phone calls to clear up the errors and omissions. The final step was meeting with Barb Geib, our financial consultant, to ensure that our numbers in each budget line balanced. This step also involved many phone calls and e-mails and resulted in a number of revisions.

Patty makes all the arrangements for the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes the many hours that go into 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.

Patty has a number of responsibilities involved with centre students. This past quarter she assisted in gathering the applications for the Social Economy scholarships, which involved answering many inquiries; she made arrangements for Brett, Murray, Michael, and Lou to review the applications, which involved co-ordinating a date and booking the board room; she co-ordinated the completion and multiple signings of the scholarship contracts and organized the preparation of payroll forms for the successful applicants, ensuring they were processed by the deadline. She organized work stations for the new graduate students in the fall, ensuring that everyone had a computer and other necessities. And then she co-ordinated the purchase of new ergonomic chairs for all graduate student and research assistant work stations, patiently negotiating the sometimes bumpy path of the university's purchasing rules and regulations.

Patty assisted in the preparation of two new contracts for projects in which the centre is involved. One is a fifteen-month internship that has hired Chipo Kangayi to work on mapping the presence of co-ops and credit unions in Canada, under the direction of Rose Olfert, Mark Partridge, and Murray. The second is with Murray, Bill Brown, and Kim Sanderson. Kim is working on a Co-op Business Assessment Guide. Once the contracts were approved, Patty also prepared the payroll forms.

Like everyone at the centre, Patty assisted with the many arrangements for the SSHRC site visit in October. She helped Nora obtain the various sponsor logos for the centre's new banner stand, dealt with room arrangements and caterers, and other miscellaneous tasks. She also assisted Nora in preparing Lou's CV and attachments for submission to SSHRC in association with Jean-Marc Fontan's most recent application. And she assisted Karen with the dissemination of the seminar announcements.

Both Patty and Karen spend a great deal of time helping both Lou and Lorraine with various administrative tasks associated with the Social Cohesion and Social Economy projects.

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.

Other special activities this quarter include:

- ▲ transcribing minutes of the 29 June advisory board meeting
- ▲ gathering missing information, co-ordinating the printing of applications and distribution to committee members for the Mollard, Fredeen, Lyster, Bromberger, and Social Economy scholarships
- ▲ assisting with the SSHRC site visit, making name tags and helping to prepare information folders for participants; made arrangements for breakfast and coffee break; arranged for printing of materials, and helped co-ordinate the room set up; processed travel expense claims from centre staff and members of the Social Economy project who attended the site visit
- ▲ making travel arrangements for Lou, Lorraine, and Michael to go to the Social Economy meetings and Co-op Summit in Montreal mid-November
- ▲ assisting Lorraine with the library inventory as well as with circulation, cataloguing new books, shelving, checking in and routing journals to staff, and copying as required; helped patrons with research questions and locating books and materials in the library when Lorraine was away
- ▲ arranging conference calls for the Social Economy project and Congress 2007
- ▲ helping Brett co-ordinate his new SSHRC application by arranging for the printing of CVs and obtaining original signatures; assisted Brett with another SSHRC application on which he is a co-applicant
- ▲ helping with payroll forms, cheque requisitions, expense claims, and other duties as required; ordered Christmas Cards and printed labels
- ▲ helping co-ordinate Jorge Sousa's seminar presentation as well as the printing and distribution of notices for two upcoming seminars in November and December
- ▲ assisting Lorraine with updating the Social Economy project list serves

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

The Students

Angie Wagner successfully defended her MA thesis and is our second Social Cohesion scholarship winner to complete her program. She is currently in Ghana

on a CCA internship as a reproductive health officer, collecting baseline data on rural male and female artisans.

Jason Heit is working on his MA thesis. He attended a co-op conference in Helsinki in August to present some of his research results. 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 Social Cohesion project.

Kim Brown is also working on her MA thesis. In September she left for Kenya on a CCA internship to work for the Swedish Co-operative Centre on a project entitled "Community Empowerment and Enterprise Development through Co-operatives," which targets agricultural co-operatives and producer groups in rural Kenya with the goal of addressing issues of poverty and social injustice.

Monica Juarez Adeler is into the third year of her interdisciplinary PhD. She spent part of the summer in Argentina interviewing members of co-ops created since the economic crash in 2002 and other members of the co-op movement. Her research findings were incorporated into one of the papers submitted for her successful comprehensive examinations in September, which included two papers and an oral defence. Monica's summer research project was titled "Building Alliances for Indigenous Women's Community Development," directed by Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay; she also transcribed the interview tapes from Isobel's recent research trip to Nunavut. Monica attended the Association of Cooperative Educators conference titled "Jobs, Community, Cohesion: Understanding the Value of Co-operatives in the Global Market" in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2-5 August 06. And she presented a paper at the Law and Technology — LawTech 2006 conference organized by the International Association for Science and Technology for Development at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 9-11 October. Having finished the course work for her PhD, Monica is preparing the formal proposal for her dissertation.

Rob Dobrohoczki is a recipient of one of the new Social Economy scholarships. He has finished the course work for his PhD and is studying for his comprehensives. He spent the summer working on a CUISR internship project titled "Exploring the Social Economy in Saskatchewan: Urban, Rural, and Northern," supported by the Social Economy project. He presented a poster based on their summer research with Mitch Diamantopoulos and Lori Blondeau at the Centennial Dialogue I — Aboriginal People: Research and Community at the College of Arts and Science launch of the Institute for Aboriginal and Indigenous Graduate Studies and Research on 16 October.

Rob has a number of publications forthcoming:

- ▲ “Growing from the Roots: Credit-Union Identities in a Changing Rural Region” for the forthcoming centre book, *Imagination, Identity, and Cohesion*, with Brett Fairbairn
- ▲ “Co-operatives as Social Policy Means for Creating Social Cohesion in Communities,” *Journal of Rural Co-operation* 34(2) 2006
- ▲ *Social Cohesion through Market Democratisation: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*, a centre occasional paper

Zhao Jun has finished the second year of his PhD studies and is working towards his comprehensive exams, which he is scheduled to write in January 07. During this past summer, he worked on a contract for the World Bank in China reviewing and translating a report titled “China’s Farmers’ Association: Review and Policy Recommendations.”

Dwayne Pattison is into the second year of his Interdisciplinary MA program and is well into the literature review for his thesis. He will soon begin conducting interviews and collecting data on the regionalization of consumer co-operatives in North Central Saskatchewan under Michael’s direction. During the early summer he had the opportunity to attend the International Co-operative Youth Conference in Manchester, England. The highlight for him was visiting Toad Lane and seeing the original store of the Rochdale Pioneers, although the entire experience of seeing so many young people interested in the co-operative movement and hearing about their work was uplifting. Dwayne worked for the centre during the summer, spending some time conducting interviews in and around Prince Albert as part of the continuing research on the Social Cohesion project. He was also a staffer at the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association Youth Camp, which he attended himself as a camper. Most of his free time went into the preparations for his wedding on 5 August to Ji Yeun Kim, whom he met while working in Korea three years ago.

Rochelle Smith has returned to her day job in Regina but continues to work on her PhD dissertation titled “The Relationship of Saskatchewan’s Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Toward a New Understanding.” She hopes to complete it within the next few months.

Mitch Diamantopoulos has one class to complete in the course work for his PhD program and received a Social Economy scholarship this fall. He worked for the summer on a CUISR internship with Rob and Lori Blondeau, interviewing about twenty social entrepreneurs in La Ronge and Saskatoon’s core neighbourhoods. Other summer projects included a movement-to-movement dialogue between the

prairie labour and worker co-op movements that resulted in the formation of a bi-partite working group centred on building the capacity to rescue at-risk but viable plants with co-operative solutions. It also focussed on retirement successions, a major issue as 50 percent of businesses will change hands in the next ten to fifteen years and vulnerable communities could lose jobs, services, and economic activity if managers can't put orderly succession plans in place. Mitch also participated in a five-day co-op study tour hosted by the Québec government and organized by the US network Co-operation Works. They toured many innovative co-ops and met with key players in the regional development co-operatives network, the government, and *caisse*, solidarity finance, and co-op movements. He participated in the annual Co-ops Week sector presentation to provincial cabinet and also took part in the Rural-Secretariat-sponsored Learning Event on the Social Economy in Saskatoon, 20 November. Mitch is currently working on the core case resulting from his internship summer research and studying research methods as he gears up for his own thesis work.

Juanita Bacsu continues to work on her MA thesis, which is examining citizens' attitudes toward globalization and is based on the Social Cohesion project. She spent this past summer preparing a literature review on public policy and the social economy for the Social Economy project. She is currently working on creating a survey instrument that examines credit union support for co-operative and social enterprise development. Like Dwayne, Juanita spent most of her spare time this summer dealing with wedding plans. She married Marc Viger, a medical resident at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, on the Labour Day weekend in September and reports that she is glad life has returned to normal after all the excitement surrounding the event.

Dan Macfarlane worked this past summer on an oral/video history through interviews with individuals who have made significant contributions to the co-operative community in Saskatchewan. The interviewees are drawn from a diverse range of backgrounds, including some from major organizations such as the Wheat Pool, FCL, and Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, and others from locally based, independent co-operatives in both urban and rural locations. The collection of interviews will be housed in the centre's library and will comprise a valuable resource for future researchers. Selected highlights, complemented by written biographical and organizational history, will be edited into documentary programs for use in university courses. About fifteen of these interviews are now available on dvd from the centre's library. Dan continues to work on this important project.

Mike Chartier is one of two new MA students to join us this September and a

recipient of one of the new Social Economy scholarships. His thesis will be based on the radical communitarian pedagogy of Watson Thomson, a controversial and relatively unknown figure in Saskatchewan educational and co-operative history. In addition to course work and his thesis, Mike is presently working on a project that will provide a historical overview of Saskatchewan co-operative development policy. He is the third of our graduate students to get married within the past few months. On November 4, he and his fiancée, Cynthia Moreno Calvillo, were married in her hometown of Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico. Cynthia has previously worked as a banker and will be seeking similar work here in Saskatoon once her visa is approved.

Kama Soles is also an MA Social Economy scholarship winner. She is our most recent addition to the Co-op Concentration program. Kama is a longtime community activist for the disabled and has worked for several years for the Community-University Institute for Social Research. Her thesis research will examine co-operative housing models for the disabled community.