



Director's REPORT

to the
Management
Advisory
Board

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

November 2007



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.

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



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Overview and Highlights

▲ Social Economy Project Update

Research continues apace on this large undertaking, with most summer internships complete, although a few have extended into the fall. So far, there are forty projects at various stages. Nine are finished, though spin-off activities are keeping participants involved at other levels. The overall project is currently providing some level of support to thirty-five students, both graduate and undergraduate. And researchers to date have made a total of fifty-three presentations at workshops, conferences, and symposia.

In early October, Lou submitted the (very detailed) annual report on project activities to SSHRC officials. And we are in the planning stages for the annual Saskatchewan Social Economy Workshop, to be held in Swift Current in late November.

Other activities include regular conference calls involving our Social Economy node and the Canadian Social Economy Hub and many administrative duties that keep centre personnel occupied on a regular basis.

▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ Lou has a new contract with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to write a position paper on using co-operative models to finance Aboriginal economic development
- ▲ Brett has a new project underway titled “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations,” funded by SSHRC’s Standard Research Grant program
- ▲ Michael is involved in a new project titled “Co-operative Marketing Options for Organic Agriculture,” funded by the centre and by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan Program
- ▲ in a contract with the Co-operatives Secretariat, 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 across Canada
- ▲ Murray is working on a SSHRC-funded project titled “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives”
- ▲ he has another SSHRC project titled “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”
- ▲ and yet another titled “Coordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada”

▲ Co-op Related Conferences and Workshops

- ▲ Canadian Co-operative Association Youth Experience International training program, University of Saskatchewan, 24 August 07
- ▲ Canada-China Legislative Co-operation Project study tour, University of Saskatchewan, 16 October 07
- ▲ International Co-operative Alliance General Assembly, “Innovation in Co-operative Business,” Singapore, 14–19 October 07
- ▲ Federated Co-operatives Ltd. Leadership Program, Saskatoon, 22 October 07
- ▲ CIRIEC International Research Conference on the Social Economy, “Building and Strengthening Communities: The Social Economy in a Changing World,” Victoria, 22–25 October 07
- ▲ CRISES 2nd International Conference, “Creating and Diffusing Social Innovation: From Initiative to Institutionalization,” Université du Québec à Montréal, 8–9 November 07

▲ A New Promotional Package

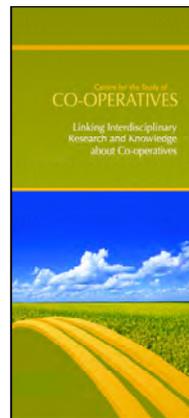
The centre’s new promotional package, the production of which occupied much of Nora’s time over the past few months, was delivered in late September. We are extremely pleased with the outcome and plan to use the design elements to create a signature look on all centre materials, including the website. A sample is included with this package.



Presentation folder front



Brochure back



Brochure front



Graduate program insert

▲ Awards

- ▲ Centre Advisory Board Member Bob Effa was honoured with a Co-operative Achievement Award at the recent Saskatchewan Co-op Merit Awards
- ▲ Centre Fellow Murray Fulton received the Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award at the university's 2007 Fall Convocation
- ▲ Centre Scholar Len Findlay was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the nation's highest body of distinguished scientists and scholars
- ▲ former centre MA student Juanita Bacsu was awarded a Social Economy scholarship to pursue PhD studies at the University of Western Ontario under the direction of Cris de Clercy
- ▲ MA student Michael Chartier received a History of Education Research Award from the College of Education
- ▲ MA student Kama Soles was awarded the Norm Bromberger Research Bursary for 2007; she also received a Graduate Students' Association Research Bursary, and her paper titled "The Fragmentation of Citizenship and Community: Disability Rights, Economic (In)Security, and Social Policy" placed first in the 2006–07 Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy student essay contest

Congratulations everyone!

▲ Co-op Week Activities

As has always been our custom, Nora placed an ad about the centre in the *StarPhoenix's* Co-op Week Supplement. Then she and Heather, our new librarian, attended the Co-op Merit Awards in Regina on the centre's behalf. But this year was a little more special as one of our former graduate students, SSHCR scholarship winner Angela Wagner, gave a presentation at the annual Co-op Week Luncheon in Saskatoon. As part of the Canadian Co-operative Association's Youth Experience International program, Angie spent the past year in Ghana, where she served as a reproductive health officer for the Social Enterprise Development Foundation of West Africa, which works through co-ops and credit unions to provide members with reproductive health and HIV/AIDS education. Angie discussed her role in the foundation's activities and also shared many stories about living and working in rural Ghana and being immersed in a different culture. Her enthusiasm for the experience shone through, making it easy to understand the ambivalence she said she felt when she got on the plane to come home. Angie will be giving another presentation on the subject in the Centre Seminar Series. Watch for the ad!

▲ Publications Forthcoming

- ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, centre book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett and Nora — in process

- ▲ *The Social Economy in Quebec: Lessons and Challenges for Internationalizing Co-operation*, by Marguerite Mendell — editing complete, with author for revisions
 - ▲ *Consumer Identities and Co-operative Membership*, a research report by Colin Leinenweber — editing in process
 - ▲ *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, by Roger and Jorge Sousa — centre book, in process
 - ▲ *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*, an occasional paper by grad student Rob Dobrohoczki — designed and proofread, forthcoming soon
 - ▲ *Between Solidarity and Profit: The Agricultural Transformation Societies in Spain (1940–2000)*, by visiting fellow Cándido Cervantes — occasional paper, in progress
 - ▲ *The Agriculture of the Middle Initiative, Pre-Mobilizing Considerations, and Formal Co-operative Structure*, by Thomas Gray, a rural sociologist with the United States Department of Agriculture — occasional paper, in progress
- ▲ Staff/Student News
- ▲ we are very pleased to have Dr. Cándido Román-Cervantes with us for a six-month term as a visiting scholar from the University of La Laguna in Spain; the title of his research project at the centre is Economic Globalization and Co-operativism in Spain: A Historic Study; he also took time to travel to Ottawa in early October to run a marathon
 - ▲ Brett moved out of the centre at the end of his sabbatical and has resumed his duties as head of the History Department and chair of University Council
 - ▲ Michael began his sabbatical year in July but will remain at the centre for most of the time, carrying on with a variety of research projects
 - ▲ MA student Jason Heit successfully defended his thesis in August and is working with Michael on a project examining initiatives by Prairie organic producers to use co-ops to market their products
 - ▲ MA student Kim Brown successfully defended her thesis in September and is working with Lou on a project for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada assessing the relevance of the credit union model to Aboriginal financial institutions
 - ▲ The centre bid farewell to librarian/project manager Lorraine Salt, who took up her dream job with the Saskatoon Public Library system, and welcomed her replacement, Heather Acton, who has many years experience in a specialized library at a local law firm as well as project management experience in another research setting on campus
- ▲ The Seminar Series
- ▲ “Building a Database of Social Economy Organizations: Definition and Qualification Criteria,” Marie Bouchard, 28 September 07

- ▲ “Towards a Mixed Co-operative Model: The Agricultural Transformation Societies in Spain,” Cándido Cervantes, 31 October 07

▲ Visitors

On 20 August, Roger and Lou had discussions with two representatives from the Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre, a non-profit NGO in South Africa, who were interested in researching co-operatives and co-op studies, but also in developing a formal relationship with the centre. On 21 August, Roger hosted a senior official from the Chinese Department of Agriculture, who was in Saskatoon for English language training, but was also interested in learning more about Canadian co-operatives and about the centre. On 24 August the centre provided the kick-off day of activities for the CCA-sponsored Youth Experience International Training Session, during which Lou, Brett, Murray, and Roger made presentations to this year’s co-op interns. And 29 October we had meetings with two representatives from the International and Higher Education Centre at the Co-operative College of Malaysia.

▲ Partners and Developments

This section highlights relevant issues and developments among centre sponsors. The report from FCL was not available at time of writing.

SaskCentral (Karl Baumgardner reporting)

Operations

Senior Management Staffing Changes: Sid Bildfell will be retiring in January 08. SaskCentral’s board is currently involved in a CEO search and will announce the name of the new CEO soon.

Strategic Planning: The board and management held their annual planning session on 1 November to begin the 2009 business plan.

Financial Update (31 July): Net earnings were \$26.1 million. This included the gain of the sale of CUMIS (\$13.3 m) and Mastercard shares (\$2.2 m). Earnings (net of tax) before the gain of these securities were \$10.6 m, which exceeded budget by \$5.7 m. Assets were \$1.4 billion, which was \$67 m above plan.

Credit Union Mergers: a) Cornerstone, Gateway, and Tisdale; b) Advantage and Northgate; and c) Affinity, FirstSask, and Nokomis (pending member approval)

Sale of CUETS: SaskCentral and Credit Union Central of Alberta have an agreement with MBNA Canada to sell CUETS.

Strategic Issues

Prairie Central Initiative: The centrals of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have ceased active discussions to form a single Prairie Central, but will continue to pursue partnering.

Chip-Card Technology: Sask and other centrals are exploring a single provider for the switch to chip-card technology.

Democratic Structure: The 2007 structure will be moderated slightly for 2008.

Government Relations: Delegates will be providing candidates in the current provincial election with the SaskCentral position on several issues.

Other

Market Disruption: Saskatchewan credit unions are well positioned to weather the current market disruptions. Nationally, all centrals have pledged additional security to the Bank of Canada.

Fall Delegates Meeting: This meeting will be held in Regina on 15 November.

The Co-operators (Karl Baumgardner reporting)

Financial

Financial results (31 August): Pre-tax profit was \$136.3 million, which is \$12.2 m behind plan. Summer storm losses are \$39 m compared to \$21.5 m for 2006.

Co-op Life: The life company ranked #16 among the top 100 companies in Saskatchewan

Growth

Agency Growth: The four-year plan calls for an aggressive expansion of the agency distribution system by 2010.

Quebec Operations: The company is launching the Quebec strategy, which includes increased sales through the broker network, the introduction of Co-operators Insurance agents, and new products and services. The TIC Travel Insurance Company opened its first office in Quebec in September.

Clients

Multi-Product Clients: There has been a steady increase in multi-product clients.

C. Engagement Scores: Client satisfaction results indicate scores well above the 2005 benchmark.

Intellect Product Launch: Sovereign General (Calgary) offers the Intellect product, which offers comprehensive solutions for the technology industry.

Co-operatives

New Dairy Co-op: Gay Lea and Agropur announced that the two co-ops have initiated discussions to create a new dairy co-op via their merger.

Three New Member-Owners: Keystone Agriculture (Manitoba), Alberta Federation

of Rural Electrification, and Ontario Natural Foods Co-op were provided with an orientation at Guelph on 24 October.

Potential Members: Discussions are being held with the following co-ops: Quebec University Student Co-op, Ontario Student Co-op, BC Tree Fruit Co-ops, and Amalgamated Dairy Farmers of PEI.

CUIS: Ken Lalonde, CEO of CUIS, will provide an update on the CUIS joint ventures at the November board meeting.

Co-op Atlantic: They are exploring the merits of moving their Group Life and Disability to The Co-operators.

Sask Wheat Pool and Agricore United: After the SWP purchase of Agricore and the renaming to Viterra, discussions are continuing on the issue of Viterra remaining an active member and client of The Co-operators.

Central 1: CUCO has requested permission to transfer their shares in The Co-operators to CUCBC.

Human Resources

Innovation Initiative: An online Internet innovation centre has been approved to capture innovative ideas from across the organization.

Employee Engagement Survey: This was completed in June. Six of the eight business units showed an improvement over 2006.

Restructuring of Actuarial Department (Life Co.): This restructuring will facilitate faster reaction and adjustment to market changes.

Trust and Reputation

Government Relations: The Co-operators continues an active “issuer consultation” with the provincial and federal governments.

Wiserider Day: More than five thousand people attended and six hundred children participated in this rodeo last June in Regina.

The Co-operators continue to promote a wide range of community initiatives.

Concentra Financial (Karl Baumgardner reporting)

Operations

Financial Update (30 June): Net income is less than budget but higher than results for 2006. Lower income was due to lower interest margins, lower non-interest income, and higher non-interest expenses. These were consequences of the rising interest rates in the January to June 2007 period.

Growth: There is steady growth of 6.5%, which exceeds the budget of 3.1%.

Sale of CUETS: The centrals of Alberta and Saskatchewan have agreed to sell their

interests in CUETS to MBNA of Canada. Concentra is in the process of selling the Concentra card business.

Strategic Planning

The credit union system continues to change due to mergers among credit unions and the formation of Central 1 (1 January 2008).

In August the board received presentations on an international co-operative financial institution, Rabobank, and the Canada Deposit Guarantee Corporation. Henk Adams, who has had a long distinguished career with Rabobank, described the origin, evolution, and current operation of this co-operative from the Netherlands. The governance and operations of Rabobank and its success internationally provide an interesting model for Tier 3 co-ops.

Thomas Vice, vice-president of C.D.I.C., explained the structure and role of the national deposit guarantee corporation. He also outlined new trends in the financial industry, the roles and operations of the Canadian regulatory agencies, as well as the challenges and opportunities in the financial services industry over the next five to ten years.

Market

Asset-Backed Commercial Paper: Concentra is able to manage through this issue. The company has a total investment portfolio of more than \$1 billion. As of August 2007, Concentra has approximately \$125 m in C. Paper outstanding. The Concentra notes are well secured with AAA rating assets for \$22 m and \$6 m backed by AA and A rated underlying assets.

The Board Received Updates on

- 2008 Business Plan Guidelines
- Corporate Risk
- Compliance to Balance Sheet Policy
- Compliance to the Basel Accord
- Balanced Scorecard Methodology

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

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Teaching

As chair of the Co-op Studies Concentration, Lou facilitated the successful admission of Laura Field to the program. She participated in thesis defences for two masters students, chairing Jason Heit's defence and serving as a member of the examining committee for Kim Brown. Lou is co-supervisor for Rochelle Smith (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies), who is very close to defending her dissertation.

In addition, Lou is a committee member for Kim Morrison and Monica Juarez Adeler, both PhD students in Interdisciplinary Studies. And she is committee chair for Kama Soles and Dwayne Pattison, both MA students in Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as Rob Dobrohoczki, Zhao Jun, and Mitch Diamantopoulos, all PhD students in Interdisciplinary Studies.

▲ Research

Lou is a participant in many research initiatives.

- ▲ just recently contracted by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to write a position paper on using co-operative models to finance Aboriginal economic development; study will examine the appropriateness of transforming Aboriginal Capital Corporations to the credit union model
- ▲ 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
- ▲ part of the Finance Cluster of the Social Economy project and, with Roger and in conjunction with CCA, is conducting research on the level and types of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian co-ops and credit unions.
- ▲ co-applicant in the Atlantic, Southern Ontario, and Northern Social Economy regional nodes
- ▲ 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; the survey was 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”; other member of the Canadian team is Marie Bouchard, Canada Research Chair in the Social Economy; a research assistant is gathering information on evaluation strategies used by social economy actors in Canada outside of Québec
- ▲ co-coordinator of the Aboriginal Cluster of the Social Cohesion project; drafting report based on interviews conducted October 05
- ▲ member of the Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation led by Denis Harrisson at CRISES, University of Quebec at Montreal; attended the second meeting, 18 August 07
- ▲ co-applicant with Jean Marc Fontan, Université du Québec à Montréal, in a SSHRC application 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 and Related Activities

- ▲ with Gayle Broad, drafted a paper on “Mapping the Social Economy in Aboriginal Communities in Canada” for a book to be published by CIRIEC’s Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy working group, Methods and Indicators for Evaluating the Social and Co-operative Economy
- ▲ drafting a paper on Social Innovation and Culture for presentation at the CRISES conference in Montreal, 8 November 07
- ▲ with Isobel Findlay, co-editing a special edition of *Économie et Solidarité*, the CIRIEC-Canada Journal, forthcoming 2008; 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,” chapter in forthcoming centre book *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Gender and Diversity: Co-operative Innovation and Missed Opportunities,” presented to the Co-operatives and Innovation Symposium sponsored by the International Co-operative Alliance’s Committee on Co-operative Research, Singapore, 17 October 07
- ▲ with Gayle Broad, “Mapping the Social Economy in Aboriginal Communities in Canada,” presented to the CIRIEC International Research Conference on the Social Economy, Building and Strengthening Communities: The Social Economy in a Changing World, Victoria, 22–25 October 07

▲ Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ “More Contemporary Issues and Opportunities,” presentation to the CCA-sponsored Youth Experience International Training Program, University of Saskatchewan, 24 August 07
- ▲ prepared the outline for the October session of the Leadership Development Program for FCL’s Board of Directors for approval by the Training Subcommittee, FCL Board of Directors
- ▲ overall facilitator for the Leadership Development Program for FCL’s board of directors, plus lead person on one session, 22 October 07

▲ Conferences/AGMs

- ▲ Co-operatives and Innovation Symposium sponsored by the ICA’s Committee on Co-operative Research, Singapore, 14–19 October 07; provided opening remarks and chaired two sessions
- ▲ Gender and Diversity Committee Symposium, Singapore, 17 October 07
- ▲ ICA General Assembly in Singapore, 18–19 October 07

▲ Administration

Specific to the Centre

- ▲ drafted and submitted the centre’s five-year plan to Office of the Vice-President Research, 28 August 07
- ▲ drafted and submitted information related to the centre’s five-year plan to affiliated colleges
- ▲ as a board member of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, participated in two conference call meetings of the board; developed a framework for evaluating a trial relocation of the executive director to Yorkton
- ▲ member of advisory group for the Advanced Co-op Developer Training Program to be developed by Devco (FWC Development Co-operative), led by Melanie Conn and Marty Frost, with funding under the CDI Innovations and Research Program

- ▲ member of the search committee for Centennial Chair in Public Policy; reviewed applications and participated in one meeting to develop short list
- ▲ chaired one student advisory committee meeting
- ▲ advertised, interviewed, and hired replacement for library position
- ▲ prepared for October management advisory board meeting
- ▲ finalized letter of appointment for new Centre Scholar
- ▲ participated in committees to decide Bromberger Scholarship, Dennis Lyster Leadership award, and Mollard scholarships
- ▲ 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 recommendations for University Council; made presentation on our centre to the group 25 September

Specific the Social Economy Project

- ▲ participated in the conference calls and meetings organized by the National Hub and other associated committees and adhoc groups; since 1 July, participated in two monthly conference calls for the national hub and one for the portraiture committee
- ▲ with the assistance of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging management board, Nora, and Lorraine, wrote and submitted the project's 2006–07 Annual Report, which provides an overview of activities for 2006–07.
- ▲ chaired conference call meeting of Management Board for LLL, 11 October

As Chair of ICA Committee on Co-operative Research

- ▲ chaired executive committee meeting to select location for next International Conference on Co-operative Research
- ▲ meeting with Gary Cronan regarding the Co-ops 300 project and future contributions of the Committee on Co-operative Research

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

History 861.3: Studies in Western Canadian History: History of Co-operatives and the Social Economy

Brett is teaching this graduate course on the history of co-operatives to three MA students, one of whom (Kama Soles) is in the centre's Co-op Concentration. The other students are from History and Interdisciplinary/International Studies.

Brett continues to supervise or co-supervise three PhD students:

- ▲ Mark McCulloch (History) “Women’s Groups and Consumer Co-operatives in East Germany, 1949–71,” supervisor
- ▲ Warren Weir (Interdisciplinary) “A Co-operative Model for Community Economic and Political Development in First Nations Communities in Saskatchewan,” supervisor
- ▲ Rochelle Smith (Interdisciplinary) “Co-operative Health Centres,” co-supervisor and on committee

Brett is also co-supervising Mark McCulloch’s PhD field in Modern European History, which involved teaching him a course (History 830.6: Themes in Modern European History) that was completed in August 07, and supervising Mark’s comprehensive examinations in October–November 07.

Brett is on a number of other PhD and MA advisory committees.

▲ Research

- ▲ new project titled “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations,” funded by a \$123,930 SSHRC Standard Research Grant, has started up with an initial meeting of the project team in Saskatoon on 27 September 07; co-investigators are Murray Fulton and Marie Bouchard (Université du Québec à Montréal)
- ▲ continuing work on the Governance Cluster of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging social-economy project (to which the above grant is related)
- ▲ co-investigator, “Coordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada,” SSHRC Standard Research Grant; principal investigator is Murray Fulton
- ▲ co-investigator, “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century,” SSHRC Knowledge Impact in Society program; principal investigator is Murray Fulton
- ▲ co-investigator, “Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society,” SSHRC Strategic Research Network program; principal investigator is Denis Harrisson of UQAM

▲ Publications Final and in Process

- ▲ Review of Cornelius Torp, *Die Herausforderung der Globalisierung: Wirtschaft und Politik in Deutschland 1860–1914* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2005), *American Historical Review* (June 2007): 941–42.
- ▲ “From Farm to Community: Co-operatives in Alberta and Saskatchewan, 1905–2005,” in *The Prairie West as Promised Land*, ed. Doug Francis and Chris Kitzan. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2007, pp. 405–32
- ▲ “A Century of Prairie and Saskatchewan Farm Co-operatives: Philosophy, Organization, and History,” in *The Prairie Agrarian Movement Revisited*, ed. Murray Knuttila and Bob Stirling. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, 2007, pp. 93–106.

- ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, full-length book, with Nora for editorial comment; will be submitted to a scholarly press after review and revisions
- ▲ 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
- ▲ “Economic and Social Developments,” in *Imperial Germany 1871–1918: The Short Oxford History of Germany*, ed. James Retallack. Oxford: Oxford University Press (peer reviewed), forthcoming 2008
- ▲ “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
- ▲ “Canada’s Co-operative Province’: Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005,” *Perspectives of Saskatchewan: 1905–2005*, ed. Jene Porter. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, forthcoming

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Co-operatives: All you ever wanted to know, but were afraid to ask,” to Canadian Co-operative Association Youth Experience International training program, University of Saskatchewan, 24 August 07
- ▲ “Globalization, Locality, and Innovation in a Manitoba Credit Union,” History Department Research Workshop, University of Saskatchewan, 28 September 07
- ▲ “Engagement in Rural Development: Case Studies of Co-operatives and Their Stakeholders,” to Canada-China Legislative Co-operation Project study tour, University of Saskatchewan, 16 October 07
- ▲ “Evolution of Consumer Co-operatives and Federated Systems,” presentation to Federated Co-operatives Ltd. Leadership Program, Saskatoon, 22 October 07
- ▲ “A Rose by Any Name: The Thorny Question of Social-Economy Discourse in Canada,” to First International CIRIEC Research Conference on the Social Economy, Victoria, 24 October 07
- ▲ “The Interplay of Cognition and Governance in Producing Innovation in the Social Economy: Models and Case Studies,” CRISES 2nd International Conference, Creating and Diffusing Social Innovation: From Initiative to Institutionalization, Université du Québec à Montréal, 8–9 November 07

▲ Outreach and Engagement

Brett is a member of CCA’s Committee on Good Governance, 06–07, a committee established this past year with a mandate to (a) develop an index of good governance in co-operatives, and (b) develop a program of governance awards for co-operatives. His participation is connected with his work as co-lead of the Governance Cluster of the Social Economy project.

▲ Professional Practice

Brett is on the editorial board of the *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*, on the management committee of CIRIEC-Canada, and has been an external evaluator for presses, research granting agencies, and scholarly journals, most recently for UBC Press.

▲ Administration

On 1 July, following his year on sabbatical, Brett resumed his duties as head of the Department of History. He has also become much more heavily involved in university-level governance and administration, and on 1 July officially joined University Council as its chair, in which role he also serves on a number of other University of Saskatchewan committees.

Murray Fulton

▲ Award

Murray received the Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award at the university's 2007 Fall Convocation. Congratulations, Murray!

▲ Teaching

Economics 231.3: Economics of Co-operatives
Agricultural Economics 898.3: Collective Action and the Management
of Natural Resources

Murray is supervising six MA and PhD students working on co-operative topics and is a committee member for a number of others. His MA student Jason Heit, one of the centre's SSHRC scholarship winners, successfully defended his thesis titled "Organizational Choice and Behaviour: A Framework for Analyzing Decision-Making in Co-operative Organizations." His PhD student Lampros Laprinakis is working on three papers with co-op content: one on the impact of Saputo's acquisition of Dairyworld; another on the role of cognitive dissonance in determining member commitment to co-operatives; and a third on the impact of decision framing on the strategic decisions taken by co-operatives.

▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator, SSHRC-funded Knowledge Impact in Society project, "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"; Brett, Lou, and Michael are co-investigators

- ▲ principal investigator, “Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada,” SSHRC Standard Research Grant; Brett is a co-investigator
 - ▲ principal investigator, “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives,” funded by SSHRC
 - ▲ co-investigator, “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations”; Brett is principal investigator
 - ▲ 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 Bio-control 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
- ▲ Presentations
- ▲ With Lampros Laprinakis, “Cognitive Dissonance and Customer Allegiance,” American Agricultural Economics Association/Canadian Agricultural Economics Society Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon, July 07
 - ▲ With Amalia Yiannaka, “Strategic Licensing of Product Innovations,” AAEE/CAES Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon, July 07
 - ▲ “The Economics of Co-operation: Play Nice Now!” to Canadian Co-operative Association Youth Experience International training program, University of Saskatchewan, 24 August 07
 - ▲ Presentation to Bioenergy Scenario Building Workshop, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, October 07

▲ Administration

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

Michael Gertler

Michael is on sabbatical from 1 July 07 until 30 June 08, but nevertheless continues his centre-based activities.

▲ Graduate Supervision

Michael is supervising five MA students (four in sociology and one in co-op studies); he is a member of one Interdisciplinary MA advisory committee (co-operative studies); and is a member of four interdisciplinary PhD advisory committees, three of which are in co-operative studies.

▲ Research

- ▲ Michael is involved in a new project titled “Co-operative Marketing Options for Organic Agriculture,” funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan Program
- ▲ 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 C. Henry, J. Jaffe, K. Archibald, C. Merritt, T. Zagozewski, and L. Evert, “Investigating Essential Skills in Food Sector Commercial and Community Settings: The Thought for Food Project,” in *Essential Skills Workshop 2006, Looking Back, Moving Forward, Final Report*, ed. C. Ouellet and P. Bélanger. Montreal: Faculté des sciences de l’éducation, Université du Québec à Montréal, pp. 22–30

▲ Presentations

- ▲ with JoAnn Jaffe, “Incorporating Relations of Production, Trade, and Consumption: Towards a Political Ecology of Food System Performance,” presented to the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Santa Clara, CA, August 07
- ▲ with JoAnn Jaffe, “Feeding Expectations: Three Generations in the Family Kitchen,” presented to the same meeting, August 07
- ▲ “Space, Time, and Community: Co-operative Social Enterprise and Sustainable Regions,” to the First International CIRIEC Research Conference on the Social Economy, Victoria, 22–25 October 07

▲ 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 Rural Sociological Society Membership Committee; and a member of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network Local Planning Committee for the 2008 National CED Conference in Saskatoon, 21–24 May 08.

He has also recently become a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Cooperatives*, and is reviewing manuscripts for the journal *Agriculture and Human Values*.

Nora Russell

Once again, Nora was preoccupied much of this past quarter preparing communications and promotional materials for a variety of centre activities. The most significant of these was planning, providing content and direction, co-ordinating, and supervising the production of a major promotional package for the centre, including a professionally designed tri-fold presentation folder, a brochure, and three inserts detailing the centre's history and program, our Interdisciplinary Graduate program, and our publications. All items are designed to also be stand-alone pieces, and Nora has adapted the general design elements for a number of other materials in order to create a signature look for the centre. Her next project in this area is a new look for the centre's website.

Other large projects this quarter include:

- ▲ preparing the first newsletter for the Social Economy project
- ▲ preparing a generic PowerPoint presentation on the centre, incorporating the design elements from the centre's new promotional package; Lou made use of this in her presentation to the Task Force on the Management of Centres
- ▲ designing, preparing, and co-ordinating the production of many workshop materials for Lou, Brett, and Murray's Leadership Program for FCL's board of directors, including a professional-standard binder and contents based on the design of our new promotional package
- ▲ design and layout of Mitch Diamantopoulos's research report on Saskatoon's Core Neighbourhoods, prepared during a CUISR internship with the Social Economy project; this is out for proofreading
- ▲ design and layout of Rob Dobrohoczki's occasional paper *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization*; this has been proofread and is awaiting Nora's attention for entering corrections and final formatting prior to publication

- ▲ preparing a draft of a common-look cover for publications arising out of all units connected to the Social Economy project
- ▲ editing and layout for the annual report to SSHRC on the Social Economy project

Other activities this quarter included:

- ▲ revising the article she wrote on the centre for the UK *Journal of Co-operatives*
- ▲ preparing seminar series ads
- ▲ preparing an ad for the *StarPhoenix's* Co-op Week Supplement
- ▲ assisting Lou with the preparation of her PowerPoint presentation for the Singapore meetings
- ▲ co-ordinating the production of a cover design for Roger and Jorge Sousa's book, *A Co-operative Dilemma*
- ▲ preparing a promotional piece for the book for Roger to distribute at the ICA Research Conference in Singapore and the CIRIEC conference in Vancouver, and for Jorge to distribute to his contacts
- ▲ serving as part of the interview team for applicants for our librarian/project manager position
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last advisory board meeting
- ▲ organization, writing, and layout for this director's report

Nora also has a number of editorial projects in various stages. Roger and Jorge's book *A Co-operative Dilemma* was edited by a freelancer but requires more attention before being designed and proofread. Brett's book, with a new working title, *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, based on the Social Cohesion research, is with Nora for editorial comment prior to being sent to a scholarly press. Nora has begun editorial work on two occasional papers, one by Visiting Scholar Cándido Cervantes, and another by Thomas Gray, a rural sociologist with the United States Department of Agriculture; both papers take a fresh look at co-operative organizations.

Professional

Nora is on the executive of the Saskatoon branch of the Editors' Association of Canada. With a colleague, she is currently organizing the annual fall workshop. Nora 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 new representative to the Saskatoon Co-op Network, which organizes monthly lunches and speakers of interest to local co-op organizations. Her first duty was to act as chair of the Co-op Week Luncheon, which featured former centre graduate student Angela Wagner, who spoke on her experience as a reproductive health officer in Ghana, West Africa, during her year abroad with Youth Experience International. Finally, Nora was one of the centre's representatives at the Saskatchewan Co-op Merit Awards in Regina.

Roger Herman

Roger spent considerable time dealing with post-conference details following the May-June “Co-operative Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy” event, including evaluation, preparing reports for various sponsors, final accounting, and organizing further dissemination of the various presentations. He is in the process of arranging to have all presentations posted on the reworked conference website and, with Lou, is in the early stages of co-ordinating the publication of select presentations.

Roger is part of the Finance Cluster of the Social Economy project and, with Lou and in conjunction with the Canadian Co-operative Association, is conducting research on the level and types of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian co-ops and credit unions.

His work with Jorge Sousa (University of Alberta) on co-operative conversions, undertaken on contract with the Co-operatives Secretariat, has been edited and is awaiting design, layout, and proofreading prior to publication; cover design is complete. A promotional flyer for the book, titled *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, is included elsewhere in this package. Given the considerable interest in the topic, Roger has presented this research at various events, including the “Co-operatives and Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy” conference in Saskatoon, the ICA Research Forum in Singapore, and the CIRIEC conference in Victoria.

Roger has been involved in many other activities this past quarter.

- ▲ He is president of the board of directors of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) and attended a board meeting and strategic planning session in Minneapolis in September. This afforded an opportunity to represent the centre and ACE in joint gatherings with the boards of the National Cooperative Business Association and the Cooperative Foundation, which were meeting in Minneapolis at the same time.
- ▲ He was part of the centre committee that interviewed candidates for and ultimately selected Heather Acton for the librarian/research officer position.
- ▲ He is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of visitors to the centre, and on 20 August, with Lou, he hosted two visitors from South Africa researching co-operatives and co-op studies, but also interested in developing a formal relationship with the centre. The next day he had discussions with a senior official from the Chinese Department of Agriculture, in Saskatoon for English language training, but also interested in learning more about Canadian co-operatives and about the centre. On 24 August, he designed and co-ordinated a day-long workshop for youth interns preparing for placements at international projects, all in Africa, as part of the CCA Youth Experience International program. Workshop facilitators were Roger, Lou, Murray, and Brett.

- ▲ He represented the centre at a meeting between CIDA officials and University of Saskatchewan groups involved in various international development projects.
- ▲ He continues to respond to inquiries regarding New Generation Co-operatives as well as co-ops in general. He also manages the centre's seminar series and is the liaison with the centre's graduate students.

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, 25–28 June 08; see the *Call for Papers* for this event elsewhere in this meeting package
- ▲ 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 Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan (formerly Saskatchewan Council for Community Development)
- ▲ and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association

Heather Acton

We are extremely pleased to welcome Heather as our new librarian/research officer. She comes to us with many years of experience in a special library setting and also as a project administrator in another research area on campus. Although she's only been with us since 17 September, she has quickly familiarized herself with the library, the Social Economy project, and noted a number of areas where improvements in efficiency can be made.

Early days were spent getting acquainted with her new office mates and getting the general lay of the land in terms of the work. She has already made improvements in the library workspace, been through relevant files, set up e-mail filters, and is educating herself about the centre's Mac environment. Lorraine spent a day with her in orientation activities, and she has found that Karen and Patty have a wealth of information to share, which they feed her at a digestible rate.

One thing Heather's given immediate thought to is the way people at the centre communicate with each other. She was initially overwhelmed with the amount of non-urgent e-mail as well as the frequent duplication of information. To rectify that she set up a number of e-mail filters in order to avoid non-urgent interruptions. More importantly, in order not to contribute to the glut of e-mail, she has designed an internal blog (currently in beta at <http://heatheracton.wordpress.com>) and invited centre staff to have a look at it. Her plan is to have a meeting where she can talk about the blog and demonstrate its purpose and use.

She has talked with Duy Hoang, our new IT person, about migrating from LibraryWorld, the current software for the library catalogue, to an open-source library software. In addition, there are new developments in open-source software applications that might enhance our Linking, Learning, Leveraging website and make it more interactive and vital. She and Duy are having ongoing discussions about possibilities.

She has made contact with Nigel Long of the Online Computer Library Centre, which is the worldwide library co-operative that produces and maintains WorldCat, the global catalogue of library collections. Becoming a contributing member of this co-operative would increase the visibility of the centre's resource collection at the international level; it would also give the centre access to a wide range of services and databases. Heather hopes to meet with Nigel in November to discuss the particulars.

Heather has also had discussions with Donna Brockmeyer, the librarian at St. Thomas More College. The STM library catalogue is now available through the university's catalogue and is no longer a separate entity. Although this would be beneficial for our library in terms of increased exposure, there are some obstacles to consider. Heather is investigating the STM experience to see if it's viable for our catalogue.

In terms of hands-on library activities, Karen has done the data entry and processing for approximately ninety titles that were catalogued just before Lorraine's departure.

Heather has been thrown into the deep end in terms of meetings and events, though this has given her the opportunity to meet people in the sector, on the advisory board, and associated with the Social Economy project. During the month of October, she attended the LLL Management Board meeting/conference call, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards, the Co-op Week luncheon, and the First International CIRIEC Research Conference on the Social Economy in Victoria. She has also attended two meetings of the Special Libraries Network and one with the university librarians.

Welcome to our world, Heather!

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 SSHRC project account and other research accounts. This involves ensuring that all the support-

ing documentation is in the files and contacting the Central Registry to obtain the appropriate paperwork if it is missing. It also involves updating the externally-funded research report provided at each board meeting. Other financial activities include 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 for purchases and payments; and investigating errors.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ calculating dues for sponsor organizations; preparing and sending out the July and October quarterly invoices to the sponsors; completing the cash report forms and making deposits upon receipt of the dues
- ▲ preparing and circulating the 2007–08 budget approved at the June board meeting to sponsor organizations, the government, and the university
- ▲ preparing the centre’s year-end financial statements, a huge job that consumed most of Patty’s time in September and October, involving checking and cross-checking mountains of paperwork and hundreds of transactions to ensure accuracy
- ▲ processing numerous conference-related expenses associated with Congress in May/June, which involved monitoring a number of different funds created for the event and ensuring that the money was expended in accordance with the requirements of each fund
- ▲ following-up with other organizations (Co-ops Secretariat, CASC, ACE, CIDA) who promised financial support for Congress; processing payments when received
- ▲ assisting Roger with reporting on the funding provided by CIDA, which supported the international delegates attending Congress
- ▲ monitoring the payroll and other expenses associated with the “Mapping the Presence of the Co-op’s and Credit Unions in Canada” project; co-ordinating the paperwork required for extending the deadline for completion
- ▲ reviewing and providing a plan of action in response to the Cash Audit Report, which confirms the procedures for processing and handling payments the centre receives
- ▲ assisting Michael in monitoring the expenses associated with the Organic Farmers’ Project
- ▲ dealing with paperwork at conclusion of summer student employment
- ▲ handling payroll forms and scholarship contract for Haotao Wu, the most recent Social Economy scholarship recipient
- ▲ co-ordinating the transfer of funds to Cris de Clercy at the University of Western Ontario for her cluster of the Social Economy project; assisting Cris with the scholarship contract and payroll issues for grad student Juanita Bacsu

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 materials, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch.

Patty also co-ordinated several other meetings this quarter:

- ▲ two individual meetings between Lou and scholarship students Kama Soles and Rob Dobrohoczki to discuss scholarship renewal; involved preparation and processing of payroll forms and contracts
- ▲ between Lou, Bryan Bilokreli, and Trevor Robertson to discuss the centre's needs with regard to space allocation
- ▲ for Marie Bouchard's seminar
- ▲ for Jason Heit's thesis defence
- ▲ for two visitors from the Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre in South Africa
- ▲ for fifteen delegates from China meeting with Murray, Brett, and Rose Olfert

Other responsibilities this quarter include:

- ▲ making travel, hotel, and conference arrangements for Lou and Roger's trip to the ICA Research Conference in Singapore; for Lou, Roger, and Brett to attend the CIRIEC conference in Victoria; and for Brett and Lou to attend the Conference on Social Innovation in Montreal
- ▲ gathering and compiling detailed information regarding publications, presentations, graduate teaching and supervision, etc., from all Centre Fellows and Scholars (approx. seventeen people) over the past five years for inclusion in the centre's Integrated Plan, submitted to VP Research
- ▲ dealing with Human Resources regarding posting the Research Officer/ Librarian position; gathering applications; scheduling and making arrangements for interviews (in-person, conference call, and video-conference); assisting Karen with informing the unsuccessful applicants; dealing with Heather's personnel and payroll forms, e-mail connection, and otherwise assisting in settling her into her new position

Karen Neufeldt

Karen's regular 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 the minutes of the June advisory board meeting
- ▲ assisting Patty with cheque requisitions, cash reports, and deposits
- ▲ mailing out the inaugural Social Economy project newsletter
- ▲ co-ordinating room arrangements, catering, audio-visual, etc., for the CCA Youth Experience International Training Session in August
- ▲ co-ordinating room arrangements, printing, and mail-out of announcements and reminders for centre seminars
- ▲ assisting Lou and Nora with co-ordination of materials for the FCL Leadership Program in October
- ▲ assisting in the library with cataloguing information sheets and data input of catalogue records (ninety this quarter); assisting with circulation, routing journals, shelving returns, etc., as well as helping patrons
- ▲ sending out notices for the Norm Bromberger, F.J.H. Fredeen, and Dennis Lyster scholarships; collecting applications; following up with applicants on missing information; copying and sending applications to committee members
- ▲ assisting with travel and accommodation arrangements for centre personnel:
 - Brett and Lou to go to Montreal to the UQAM Conference on Social Innovation in early November
 - Brett to go to Minneapolis to present a paper at the Wisconsin/Minnesota Co-operatives Association Conference in mid-November
 - Candido to present a paper at the Latino/American Economic History Congress in Uruguay in December
- ▲ compiling dozens of new centre promotional packages for a variety of meetings, conferences, and workshops

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

The Students

Kim Brown successfully defended her MA thesis in September titled “Co-operative Democracy: Board Diversity and the Representation of Women.” She is currently working with Lou on a project for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada assessing the relevance of the credit union model to Aboriginal financial institutions (AFI), and exploring the potential barriers and opportunities in the transformation of existing AFIs to credit unions. Like Angie, she has recently completed a CCA internship in Africa, working in Kenya for the Swedish Co-operative Centre on a project targeting agricultural co-operatives and producer groups, addressing issues of poverty and social injustice. She will be giving a presentation in the Centre Seminar Series on her experiences within the next few months.

Angie Wagner was the featured speaker at the annual Co-op Week Luncheon, describing with great animation her recent CCA internship in Ghana, West Africa, as a reproductive health officer. She will be presenting in the Centre Seminar Series on the same topic



Angie Wagner presenting an award to the woman whose food dishes containing soybeans won first prize in a competition celebrating World Food Day, 16 October 06, in Kpandai, Ghana.

Monica Juarez Adeler is working on the formal proposal for her dissertation. She is currently working in Winnipeg on a contract associated with the Social Economy project for the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance.

Rob Dobrohoczki is studying for his PhD comprehensives as well as teaching as a sessional lecturer in the College of Law and the Edwards School of Business. He has two publications forthcoming, one a chapter co-authored with Brett Fairbairn in the centre book *The Self-Help Solution*, the other an occasional paper titled *Social Cohesion through Market Democratisation*. The latter has been proofread and is awaiting Nora's attention for entering corrections prior to publication.

Jason Heit successfully defended his master's thesis in late August titled "Organizational Choice and Behaviour: A Framework for Analyzing Decision Making in Co-operative Organizations." He is currently working with Michael on a project examining past and current initiatives by organic producers in Saskatchewan and



across the Prairies to use co-operatives to market their grains, oilseeds, and pulse crops. As part of the Social Economy project, he has also just begun a CUISR internship that will identify and map social capital in a community development network. The research will be conducted at the South West Centre for Entrepreneurial Development in Swift Current.

Jason has other interests beyond the centre. He is shown here on a recent trip to the Rockies on a route called “Repining Porcuclimb” located above Porcupine Creek between Canmore and Kanaskis.

Zhao Jun spent an incredibly busy and productive summer. With the support of the Freedon Scholarship, he returned to China and was involved in a number of activities associated with farmers’ co-operatives. His work included

- ▲ giving a presentation on farmers’ co-operative law at an international workshop sponsored by the All China Marketing and Supply Co-op
- ▲ spending a week in a Tibetan community studying conditions that determine whether the people decide to co-operate or not; semi-structured interviews helped assess the social and power structure, the local economy, and culture and religion, and assisted in identifying the key factors shaping the possible co-operation of the Tibetan people; also delivered training on farmers’ co-ops and circulated ideas of self-help to the local people

- ▲ going to Jilin Province to do case studies on women's participation in co-operatives; interviews were aimed at discovering the key determinants of women's participation in local organizations and the legal constraints preventing them from effective and full participation; drafted and submitted a report to the Canadian International Development Agency, which partly funded the study
- ▲ joining FAO and World Bank missions as a national specialist on farmers' co-operatives, travelling to Xin Jiang, Gansu, Jiangxi, Chongqing, and Shaan Xi; delivered training on farmers' co-ops to government officials in each province; contributed information on the role of farmers' co-ops in these rural and agricultural development projects to the aid memo of each mission
- ▲ delivering one-week training sessions to staff of Plan International, an American NGO, on how to facilitate the development of farmers' co-operatives; did hands-on training in communities; undertook feasibility study and developed business plans for a variety of farmers' groups

Jun is now back in Canada doing revisions to the proposal for his dissertation.

Dwayne Pattison is in the final stages of his CUISR internship, which is examining collaborative governance models. His portion of the research is on the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association, which recently converted into a co-operative. He is also in the early stages of a first draft of his MA thesis titled "Membership, Governance, and Community: Developing a Regional Consumer Co-operative in the Context of Rural and Retail Restructuring." His research is based on the Prince Albert Co-operative Association.

Rochelle Smith is in the final stages of writing her PhD dissertation titled "The Relationship of Saskatchewan's Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Toward a New Understanding." Her defence will probably be sometime in the early New Year.

Mitch Diamantopoulos has completed the course work for his PhD and in the time stolen from his new job as head of the University of Regina's School of Journalism and Communications, he is attempting to study for his comprehensives.

Juanita Bacsu successfully defended her MA thesis during the summer, which examined citizens' attitudes toward globalization. She has moved on to the University of Western Ontario, where she is pursuing a PhD in political studies under the supervision of Cris de Clercy, a former Centre Fellow and cluster leader in the Social Economy project. Juanita has been awarded one of the Social Economy scholarships.

Mike Chartier is in the final stages of a CUISR internship, working with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and Co-operative Ventures Worker

Co-op. The research is attempting to identify specific development needs of co-operative organizations operating in emerging, under-represented, and/or struggling sectors. He is also teaching a class in the College of Education and is the Industrial Arts teacher at Ecole Victoria School. Michael continues to work on his MA thesis on the Communitarian Pedagogy of Watson Thomson and hopes to finish by the end of December 07. He received a History of Education Research Award from the College of Education this fall.

Kama Soles's Interdisciplinary MA thesis, "Empowerment through Co-operation: Disability Solidarity in the Social Economy," is investigating the potential of the co-operative model for empowering people with disabilities, and will identify barriers to inclusion in the social economy and the formation of co-operatives. Kama is still working on her coursework, having completed a sociology policy seminar and an educational research methodology course, and is currently taking a class on the history of co-operatives and the social economy with Brett. Kama's paper titled "The Fragmentation of Citizenship and Community: Disability Rights, Economic (In)Security, and Social Policy" placed first in the graduate competition of the 2006–07 Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy student essay contest. Her other awards this year include a Graduate Students' Association Research Bursary and the Norm Bromberger Research Bursary.