



Director's REPORT

to the
Management
Advisory
Board

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

November 2008



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

The centre is also supported by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation 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.



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Overview and Highlights

▲ Social Economy Project Update

We're pleased to announce that as a result of the July meeting and conference call with the adjudication committee for the project, we have been awarded our final two years of funding.

Our partners WIRA and CESD have several new projects underway; CUISR has no new projects but has extended funding to current projects where second stages in research seemed useful. To date, the Social Economy project has provided funding to fifty-three students across the node in the form of either scholarships or research stipends. We are extremely proud of the role this project is playing in supporting and mentoring these young researchers.

For a glimpse of the kind of exciting research this project is supporting, check out the blog (<http://farmtoforkresearch.com/>) of Colin Anderson and Dave Vasey, students at the University of Manitoba, who recently undertook a trek across western Canada interviewing farmers, farm leaders, and community activists engaged in alternative ways of moving food from farm to fork. This video/action research project will result in a documentary about grassroots solutions to the farm/food crisis.

Another exciting spin-off activity is a proposed exhibition of research results in co-operation with the Diefenbaker Canada Centre. To this end we are planning to collect audio and video clips plus lively photographs of researchers engaged in work with community partners that can be combined with the posters we have already created. It will be an excellent showcase of the work supported by the Social Economy project and show first-hand the community-university partnerships that form the basis for the research.

Final reports are beginning to be completed. Over the past few months Nora has prepared thirteen final reports for printing and posting to the website. She has designed a common cover so all the reports are clearly identifiable as Social Economy projects. The reports are available for circulation through the centre's library. We will monitor demand to determine if any of them should be printed for sale.

In dissemination activity, the centre partnered with the Community Health Co-operative Federation in organizing a conference on The Role of Co-operatives in Health Care, which was held 30 October in Saskatoon and attracted regional, national, and international participants (see more below).

▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ the centre has partnered with CCA, St. Mary's University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and the BC Institute of Co-operative Studies in a Letter of Intent to SSHRC for a CURA (Community-University Research Alliance) project that proposes to measure the impact of co-operatives in Canada
- ▲ the centre has partnered with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association to produce a history of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program on the occasion of its eightieth anniversary; this project is nearing completion
- ▲ Lou and Kim Brown's work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada researching the use of co-op models to finance Aboriginal economic development is complete and with INAC for their comments
- ▲ Lou and Kim have a new project examining representation and governance issues for Advantage Credit Union in northeastern Saskatchewan
- ▲ Lou, Roger, and Dwayne have a new project examining amalgamations and mergers in the retail co-op sector
- ▲ Brett's SSHRC project "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations"; ongoing
- ▲ Murray's "Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives"; ongoing
- ▲ Murray's "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"; ongoing
- ▲ Murray's "Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada"; ongoing
- ▲ Michael's work with sector partner the Saskatoon Co-operative Association on the SSHRC-funded "Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food System Performance" (complete)
- ▲ Michael's work with a variety of partners on "Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan," a study of the Quint housing co-ops; ongoing

▲ Conferences and Workshops

- ▲ ACE Institute — The Sustainable Co-operative — 29 July –1 August, Ottawa; Roger attended and chaired, as president of ACE; Dwayne also attended
- ▲ V Latin American Co-operative Research Conference — The Co-operative Movement, Transnationalisation, and Co-operative Identity in Latin America — 6–8 August, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Lou provided a keynote address
- ▲ ICA Research Conference — The Role of Co-operatives in Sustaining Development and Fostering Social Responsibility — 15–18 October, Trento, Italy; two centre faculty, two graduate students, and five Centre Scholars attended and presented papers
- ▲ FCL Leadership Development Program, 27 October, Saskatoon (second of three modules); Lou, Roger, Michael, and Dwayne developed content and made presentations
- ▲ The Role of Co-operatives in Health Care: National and International Per-

spectives — sponsored by the centre and the Community Health Co-operative Federation, 30 October, Saskatoon; Roger co-ordinated; Lou chaired; Catherine and Brett made presentations; Nora, Heather, Michael, Dwayne, and students Tsegi and Rob attended; Karen handled registration

▲ The Role of Co-operatives in Health Care Conference

This conference addressed a major issue worldwide and was a significant undertaking for the centre this fall. Together with the Community Health Co-operative Federation, we hosted representatives of the International Health Co-operative Organization from Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Spain, and across Canada for a one-day symposium on the role of co-ops in health care delivery.

While Saskatchewan experiences health co-operatives as comprehensive primary care clinics governed by their members, co-operatives internationally own hospitals, manufacture pharmaceuticals, and operate long-term care facilities. What do these co-operatives look like? How did they develop? In what kinds of public policy contexts do they operate, and what are the outcomes? How do our own co-ops compare? What opportunities exist and what kinds of public policies are required to realize the full potential of this model? Presentations from Canadians and international participants will attempt to answer some of these questions.

The involvement of Greg Marchildon from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (Regina Campus) and also a co-applicant and researcher in the centre's Social Economy project, was a nice cross-pollination of two entities and, we anticipate, the first of many collaborative initiatives with this new school.

▲ Publications

- ▲ thirteen final reports from the Social Economy project printed for circulation in library and posted to website
- ▲ *The Agriculture of the Middle Initiative, Pre-Mobilizing Considerations, and Formal Co-operative Structure*, occasional paper by Thomas Gray, a rural sociologist with the United States Department of Agriculture — typeset, proofread, in prepress stage
- ▲ *The Social Economy in Quebec: Lessons and Challenges for Internationalizing Co-operation*, centre booklet by Marguerite Mendell — typeset, proofread, in prepress stage
- ▲ *Co-operative Youth Education in Saskatchewan: Co-op Schools and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program*, history of SCYP on its eightieth anniversary, prepared in collaboration with Saskatchewan Co-operative Association; editing and layout complete; awaiting cover design and final changes from SCA prior to publication
- ▲ *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, by Roger and Jorge Sousa — centre book, in revision, majority of editing complete
- ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, centre

book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett and Nora — Nora completed editorial commentary, with Brett for his response

- ▲ plus reprints of six titles

▲ Faculty/Staff/Student News

- ▲ our IT expert Duy Hoang and his wife, Li, are thrilled to announce the arrival of Miki, their first child; congratulations Duy and Li!
- ▲ Kim Brown, former MA student at the centre, has been hired on a contract basis to work on a couple of Social Economy projects and
- ▲ Dwayne Pattison, former MA student at the centre, has also been hired on a contract basis to do research on mergers in the co-op sector
- ▲ Jessica Gordon Nembhart, from the University of Maryland, College Park, has joined us as a visiting scholar for 08–09; due to family responsibilities, she is unable to be at the centre full time but spends extended periods with us on a periodic basis
- ▲ Michael is back full time at the centre after his 07–08 sabbatical
- ▲ Murray begins a sabbatical year with two months at the University of California, Davis
- ▲ summer researcher Chen Bi left the centre at the end of June to pursue studies at McGill
- ▲ summer researcher Zunyi Lin completed his work on the new design and reorganization of the centre's website and returned to his studies at the U of S in September
- ▲ we have a new PhD student in the InterD Co-op Concentration — Patricia Elliot is working on the social economy of community media
- ▲ Patricia Thomas, another PhD student, is working as a research assistant to Jessica and Lou

▲ Scholars Update

- ▲ As has been the case in the past, Isobel Findlay tops the list of Centre Scholars involved in centre-related activities. She was on the advisory committee of two successfully defended MAs in the past year, on one PhD committee, and is supervising four other PhDs. She is the academic co-director and principal investigator for nine Social Economy research projects at CUISR. She has published three reports on co-op topics, made two presentations at co-op-related conferences, and chaired and/or facilitated sessions at five conferences related to co-operatives and/or the social economy. In addition, she uses co-op case studies in her Business Communications class.
- ▲ Louise Clarke is on committees for two Co-op Concentration students and she is a regular participant in meetings and project adjudication for the Social Economy project. She participated in the grad student seminar program with a specific session on sustainable work practices in co-operatives and made a presentation on an LLL panel at the CCEDNet conference, 23 May 08 in Saskatoon.

- ▲ As University of Manitoba Agribusiness Chair in Co-operatives and Marketing, Brian Oleson is principal investigator in a project titled “The Viability of a Producer-Controlled Saskatoon Marketing Association: An Integrated Approach.” He is a participant in a group working on “A Strategy for Developing and Maintaining Manitoba’s Co-operative Community.” He is also giving a lot of thought to developing a general course on co-ops at the intro level to attract students in sociology, agriculture, economics, social work, business, etc.
- ▲ Isobel, Louise, Brian, Morris Altman, Ellen Goddard, and Ian MacPherson are co-applicants in the Social Economy project.
- ▲ Len Findlay is on committees for two PhD students working on co-op topics.
- ▲ Morris, Louise, Ian, Len, and Isobel made presentations at the ICA Research Conference in Italy in October 08.
- ▲ Sheryl Mills taught her annual summer class in co-operative learning, gave a workshop session on co-op learning for Special Education Teachers, and took part in a poster session at a medical education conference on co-operative learning.
- ▲ Ian and Jorge Sousa, as always, were enthusiastic participants in the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings.
- ▲ Our newest Centre Scholar, Jorge is also a co-investigator with the southern Ontario and BC-Alberta regional nodes of the Social Economy project, and he has a book in progress with Roger — *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*.

▲ Visitors

- ▲ Linda Shaw from the Co-operative College in Manchester spent some time at the centre in July; she is interested in collaborating with the centre on some research activities in Africa; discussions on this matter are ongoing
- ▲ on 12 September we hosted Julio Berdegué (Chile) and Merle Faminow (Uruguay) from the Rural Territorial Dynamics program, a research-based policy advice and capacity-development program for rural economic growth, social inclusion, and sound environmental governance in Latin America

▲ Partners and Developments

This section highlights relevant issues and developments among centre sponsors.

SaskCentral (Karl Baumgardner reporting)

Financial

Net earnings: \$16.1m (including \$6.3m for sale of c card business)

Assets: \$1.6b (\$133m above plan)

R.O.E.: 12.69% (plan was 8.6%)

Dividend: \$15m paid to credit unions

Market Disruption (A.B.C. Paper)

The restructuring plan is proceeding after the Supreme Court ruled against appeals.

SaskCentral made a \$25.1m writedown in December 07 and this appears to be inadequate.

Technology

A three-year conversion program is proceeding. Many credit unions in the prairie region will convert to eroWorks.

IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards)

SaskCentral is supporting credit unions in the transition from GAAP to IFRS, which comes into effect in 2011.

Prairie Central

The centrals of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are exploring the merits of creating a prairie central.

Fall Delegates Meeting

Delegates are meeting in Regina on 20 November. A meeting with MLAs is scheduled for 19 November.

*The Co-operators***Financial**

The Canadian P & C (property and casualty) remain stable. As of 30 June, pretax profit was \$104.2m (\$21.9m below 2007). The lower profit was related to storm losses, higher replacement costs, and lower value of investments.

Growth

The purchase of Addenda in April has raised assets under management from \$9.97b to \$39.3b. Client and staff retention is being maintained. The Quebec strategy is to establish a multidistribution model. Agencies now stand at 468.

Clients

Progress is being made in growing a multiclient base. New radio and TV ads began in the fall. The Community Guard for the voluntary/nonprofit sector has been well received in the Alberta pilot. The sustainability program has gained international recognition (Stockholm, Sweden).

Co-operatives

Current membership is forty-one with five new applications. Viterra has been recognized as a member replacing the former Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and Agricore United. Centrals of BC and Ontario have formed Central 1. Contributions were made to three co-ops for a total of \$26,700. Four staff have graduated from the CMEC Master's Program, St. Mary's University.

Trust and Reputation

Plans are being made for a parliamentary reception on 26 November. Talks with the Government of Saskatchewan have been held to seek permission for our agents to sell SGI products. The sustainability program is being enhanced. Through the directed donations program, \$221,875 was provided to 176 charities.

Concentra Financial (Mary Beckett reporting)

Operations

Financial Update (30 September): Despite the continuing market volatility, overall consolidated earnings results for Concentra are ahead of budget and prior year results on a year-to-date basis. There are positive variances to budget in the provision for credit (recovery) losses, noninterest income, and noninterest expenses, and financial results are tracking positively for the balance of the year.

Organizational Alignment: Concentra undertook further changes to its enterprise-wide structure this year. Shifting from a vertical model of product development, implementation, support, and client delivery, it has moved to a horizontal model focusing each area on a core aspect of client servicing, product development, or organizational accountability. This horizontal model requires that integrated and collaborative approaches be used between divisions and departments, consolidating specialized expertise, enhancing communications, and ultimately increasing the enterprise-wide focus on clients.

Product Development

Tax-Free Savings Accounts (TFSA): Concentra has been working closely with Credit Union Central of Canada and the provincial centrals to assist in the development and rollout of this new product, which will be available to Canadian consumers in January 2009, in credit unions nationally. It is anticipated that the introduction of TFSAs will reduce federal revenues by \$5 million in 2008–09. Over the next twenty years, the annual tax savings will continue to grow to the point that experts estimate, relative to the size of today's economy, these tax savings will exceed \$3 billion annually.

Corporate Banking Expansion: In early 2008, this business line successfully expanded its presence in the British Columbia market with support from commercial and credit union clients in that market.

Strategic Planning

Through ongoing customer dialogue, consultations and formal studies, and client satisfaction surveys, Concentra continues to focus on establishing a consolidated viewpoint of current and future needs from our client partners. In August, the board of directors considered the environmental information and analysis and affirmed the long-term strategic intents of Position for Market Relevance and Expansion & Development as the focal points for all strategies employed at Concentra Financial.

Amalgamations and consolidations continue within the co-operative system as evidenced by continuing mergers at the credit union level (such as the mega-merger in Alberta of Servus Credit Union) and the consolidation and realignment of provincial centrals (Central 1, the Atlantic Centrals, and the Prairie Initiative).

Market Conditions

Liquidity continues to be a key factor across Canada and throughout the global market. In the face of this, Concentra Financial focuses on prudently managing its financial resources. To accomplish this, key individuals from divisions across the enterprise are holding special joint meetings to ensure a co-ordinated approach to liquidity, profitability, and capital. This careful monitoring of the market conditions will continue until there is normalization of the market.

Federated Co-operatives Limited

Marilyn McKee will present a verbal report.

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

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is co-supervisor for Rochelle Smith (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies) and supervisor for Tsevelmaa Chuluunbaatar (MA, Interdisciplinary Studies). She is a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler, another InterD PhD student, and committee chair for Kama Soles (InterD MA), as well as Rob Dobrohoczki, Zhao Jun, Patricia Elliot, and Mitch Diamantopoulos, all InterD PhD students.

▲ Research

Lou is a participant in many research initiatives.

- ▲ she is 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
- ▲ she is a co-applicant in a letter of intent initiated by CCA for for a SSHRC-funded CURA that proposes to examine the impact of co-operatives in Canada

- ▲ her project with Kim Brown on using co-operative models to finance Aboriginal economic development is complete and with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for comment
 - ▲ she has a new project with Kim examining governance issues at Advantage Credit Union
 - ▲ with Roger and Dwayne, she is a participant in the centre's research project examining mergers and amalgamation in the co-operative retail sector
 - ▲ co-applicant in the Atlantic, Southern Ontario, and Northern social economy nodes; she is a co-investigator in a project titled "Integrating Social Economy Curriculum into Canada's Business Schools" with the Southern Ontario node; and a co-investigator with the Northern node in a project titled "The Role of Women in Social Economy Organizations in Canada's Far North"
 - ▲ member of the Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation led by Denis Harrisson at CRISES, University of Quebec at Montreal
 - ▲ co-applicant in Murray's SSHRC-funded "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"
 - ▲ 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 third CDI application, which involves developing an evaluation tool for the ongoing project
- ▲ Publications and Related Activities
- ▲ with Kimberly Brown, "Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development: The Potential for Using Co-operative Models," report submitted to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
 - ▲ with Gayle Broad, drafted a paper on "Mapping the Social Economy in Aboriginal Communities in Canada" for a book to be published by the Social Economy Research Partnership
 - ▲ prepared Accountability Report for presentation to government representatives in connection with funding renewal
 - ▲ "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
- ▲ "Integrating Theory and Practise: The University, the Co-operative Movement, and the Role of Research Centres and Networks," keynote address to ICA V Latin America Co-operative Research Conference titled The Co-operative Movement, Transnationalisation, and Co-operative Identity in Latin America, 6-8 August, Ribeirao Preto, Brazil; as chair of the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research, Lou also gave introductory and closing remarks at this conference

- ▲ “Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development in Canada: The Feasibility of Using Co-operative Models,” to the ICA Research Committee conference titled The Role of Co-operatives in Sustaining Development and Fostering Social Responsibility, Trento, Italy, 15–18 October
- ▲ as chair of the ICA Committee on Co-operative Research, Lou also gave introductory and closing remarks at this conference, chaired several plenary sessions, moderated a couple of parallel sessions, and chaired the general meeting
- ▲ program chair and presentation, “Achieving Board Sustainability,” FCL Leadership Program, 27 October, Saskatoon
- ▲ conference chair, The Role of Co-operatives in Health Care: National and International Perspectives conference sponsored by the centre and the Community Health Co-operative Federation, 30 October, Saskatoon

▲ Administration

Specific to the Centre

- ▲ commitment leader for the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship priority of the U of S Second Integrated Plan 2008-2012
- ▲ board member, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association; participated in many meetings as a member of selection committee for new executive director
- ▲ 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 steering committee for the 2009 Youth Sustainability Conference hosted by The Co-operators; attended first meeting of the steering committee 17 September, Guelph
- ▲ meeting with provincial government representatives to present accountability report in connection with the centre’s funding renewal, 10 October, Saskatoon
- ▲ prepared for November management advisory board meeting

Specific the Social Economy Project

- ▲ teleconference meeting with the adjudication committee for the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project in July; meeting resulted in project receiving its final two years of funding
- ▲ participated in the conference calls and meetings organized by the National Hub and other associated committees and adhoc groups
- ▲ chaired conference call meeting of LLL management board, 10 October

As Chair of ICA Committee on Co-operative Research

- ▲ assisted in organizing the annual conference in Riva del Garda, Italy, October; finalized program for both conference and annual meeting
- ▲ Member of the Steering Committee of the Research and Policy Programme at the Co-operative College, Manchester, Attended the first meeting of the steering committee in Riva del Garda , Italy, October.

Brett Fairbairn

Brett formally took up his duties as Provost and Vice-President Academic 1 July 08. Most of his time since then has been devoted to his administrative responsibilities. He has been extensively involved in the development of the university's Second Integrated Plan, in preparations for implementation of the plan, in internal reorganization of the provost's office, and in transition related to his new job. Despite these huge demands on his time, however, he remains connected to the centre and co-operative studies in a variety of roles, though he has had to reduce his involvement because of his other responsibilities.

▲ Graduate Supervision

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"
- ▲ Warren Weir (InterD) "A Co-operative Model for Community Economic and Political Development in First Nations Communities in Saskatchewan"
- ▲ Rochelle Smith (InterD) "The Relationship of Saskatchewan's Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Towards a New Understanding"

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

▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator, "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations," SSHRC funded; co-investigators are Murray Fulton and Marie Bouchard (Université du Québec à Montréal, UQAM)
- ▲ co-investigator, "Coordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada," SSHRC funded; principal investigator is Murray Fulton
- ▲ co-investigator, "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century," SSHRC funded; principal investigator is Murray Fulton
- ▲ co-investigator, "Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society," SSHRC funded; principal investigator is Denis Harrisson of UQAM

▲ Publications

- ▲ review of *It Was a Great Privilege: The Co-operative Memoirs of B.N. Arnason* (Victoria: BC Institute for Co-operative Studies, 2004), in *Saskatchewan History* 60, 1 (Spring), pp. 42-43
- ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, Brett is

author or co-author of four chapters; Nora has completed editorial comment; ms is with Brett for review

- ▲ 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
- ▲ “Communications, Culture, and Co-operatives: Liminal Organizations in a Liminal Age,” in *Approaches to Co-operative Studies: A Selection of Papers and Presentations*, ed. Ian MacPherson (Victoria, BC: New Rochdale Press), forthcoming 2008
- ▲ review of Robert Arsenschek, *Der Kampf um die Wahlfreiheit im Kaiserreich: Zur parlamentarischen Wahlprüfung und politischen Realität der Reichstagswahlen 1871–1914* (Düsseldorf: Droste, 2003), *German History*, forthcoming
- ▲ review of Uwe Puschner, *Die völkische Bewegung im wilhelminischen Kaiserreich: Sprache, Rasse, Religion* (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2001), *German Studies Review*, forthcoming
- ▲ “‘Canada’s Co-operative Province’: Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005,” in *Perspectives of Saskatchewan: 1905–2005*, ed. Jene Porter. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, forthcoming

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Cognition, Democratic Governance, and Innovation in Co-operatives: Theory and Canadian Example,” to Community Development Society [International] conference, 23 June 08, Saskatoon
- ▲ “Does Governance Matter? Innovation in Saskatchewan Community Clinics, 1962–present,” to The Role of Co-operatives in Health Care: National and International Perspectives conference, 30 October 08, Saskatoon

▲ Professional Practice

Brett is on the editorial board of the *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics* and is a member of the steering committee for the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

Murray Fulton

Murray is on sabbatical this year and is spending the fall term at the University of California, Davis. Happily for us, his academic appointment has been moved from the department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics (formerly Agricul-

tural Economics) to the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, housed in the Diefenbaker Canada Centre with us. His research interests have not changed; he will still be doing research on co-operatives, albeit perhaps with a bit more emphasis on the policy dimensions. Welcome back to the building, Murray!

▲ Graduate Supervision

Murray is supervising five MA and PhD students working on co-operative topics and is a committee member for a number of others. 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 (KIS) 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"; SSHRC funded; Brett is principal investigator
- ▲ "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

- ▲ "Rural Credit and Agricultural Technology Extension: Approaches and Policy in Canada" to the New Directions with Cooperatives One Year after the Co-operative Law Conference in Qionglai, Sichuan, China, 12–13 September

This conference is one of the activities in the Small Farmers Adapting to Global Markets project in which the centre has been involved for some time. It was nice to note in the report on the conference that the training materials produced a couple of years ago at the centre have been put to good use in China developing farmer associations and co-operatives in the pilot counties.

- ▲ Murray provided the introductory remarks at his KIS project/Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy sponsored symposium, The Role of Economics in Public Policy, 20 October, Saskatoon

- ▲ Outreach
 - ▲ entries to the Illative Blog — www.illativeblog.ca — which provides a forum for people interested in agriculture and rural communities to use their intuition and imagination to look into the future and determine where they think things are going

- ▲ Administration
 - ▲ graduate chair, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy
 - ▲ member of the Interdisciplinary Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research

Michael Gertler

Michael resumed his normal duties after concluding his sabbatical at the beginning of July, when he was also appointed an associate member of the new School of Environment and Sustainability and became acting university co-director of the Community-University Institute for Social Research.

- ▲ Teaching
 - Sociology 204.3: Rural Sociology

- ▲ Graduate Supervision
 - Michael has on-going supervisory duties for two MA students (sociology); he is also on advisory committees for six InterD PhD students (five in co-operative studies, one in sociology).

- ▲ Research
 - ▲ co-investigator with sector partner the Saskatoon Co-operative Association on SSHRC-funded “Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food System Performance” (complete)
 - ▲ 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”
 - ▲ applicant, Saskatchewan Housing Research Program grant, “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan,” a study of the Quint housing co-ops

- ▲ collaborator (representing CUISR), SSHRC CURA Letter of Intent for a project titled “Strengthening Community-University Partnerships to Provide Evidence for Policy Development and Community Change,” October 2008, Bud Hall is the applicant
- ▲ co-applicant, SSHRC Standard Grant Application for project titled “La pertinence, les particularités, la légitimité et la performance des coopératives et des mutuelles à partir de leur identité,” October 2008, Michel Lafleur (IRECUS) is the applicant

▲ 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), in *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* 22 (August 2007): 239–40
- ▲ with J. Jaffe, “Sustainable Development in the New Economy: Risk, Vulnerability and Eco-Social Justice,” in *Currents: New Scholarship in the Human Services* (University of Calgary on-line journal), forthcoming 2008

▲ Presentations

- ▲ with J. Jaffe, “Agri-Food System Performance: Competing Frameworks and Development Alternatives,” to annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, July 08, Manchester, NH
- ▲ “Knowledgeable Enterprise: Co-operatives and the Prospects for Sustainable Economies,” to International Co-operative Alliance Research Conference, October 08, Riva Del Garda, Italy
- ▲ “Achieving Organizational Stability,” to FCL Leadership Program, 27 October, Saskatoon

▲ Administration/Professional/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 a member of the College of Graduate Studies and Research Interdisciplinary Committee (2008–2011) and of the Regional and Urban Planning Administrative Committee, College of Arts and Science. He is also a member of the Rural Sociological Society Membership Committee.

Michael is a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Cooperatives* and was recently appointed to a three-year term as a member of the editorial board of the Rural Studies Series, Rural Sociological Society and Penn Sate University Press.

Catherine Leviten-Reid

Nearing the end of her first year at the centre as a postdoctoral fellow, Catherine has become immersed in centre activities.

▲ Teaching

- ▲ developed a syllabus on the social economy and public policy for a course that will be offered this winter through the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

▲ Research

- ▲ completed an occasional paper for the centre titled “Co-operatives, Child Care, and Quality”; with Nora for editing
- ▲ wrote a grant proposal to SSHRC for a project titled “Outcomes and Social Co-operatives”
- ▲ working on an article on testing stakeholder theory

▲ Publications

- ▲ with Brenda Parker and Kristen Springer, “Making Space for Graduate Student Parents: Practice and Politics,” *Journal of Family Issues*, accepted for publication
- ▲ “Learning Through Life,” in *Academic Street Smarts: Informal Professionalization of Graduate Students in Sociology*, ed. Ira Silver and David Shulman (Washington, DC: American Sociological Association, 2008).

▲ Outreach

- ▲ elected to the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic
- ▲ elected to the board of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation; in addition serving as an adjudicator for the CASC awards, Catherine is serving as CASC president and is program chair for the 2009 conference

Nora Russell

▲ Large Projects This Quarter

- ▲ reviewed and made editorial comments upon *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities* manuscript, the centre book based on the Social Cohesion project (283 pp.); with Brett for comment
- ▲ copy editing, layout, and print supervision for thirteen final reports from the Social Economy project (635 pp altogether); reports are now available for circulation from the library and posted to the website
- ▲ final edit and layout for Tom Gray’s occasional paper *The Agriculture of the Middle Initiative: Premobilizing Considerations and Formal Co-operative Structure* (54 pp.); proofreading complete; awaiting Nora’s attention to enter corrections prior to printing
- ▲ editing and layout for Marguerite Mendell’s booklet *The Social Economy in Quebec: Lessons and Challenges for Internationalizing Co-operation* (30 pp.);

proofreading complete; awaiting Nora's attention to enter corrections prior to printing

- ▲ editing and layout for *Co-operative Youth Education in Saskatchewan: Co-op Schools and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Youth Program* (130 pp.); a joint publication with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association; with SCA for proofing and final approvals; wrote back cover copy and prepared instructions for the designer for the cover
- ▲ layout for the French version of *Government Policies towards Community Economic Development and the Social Economy in Quebec and Manitoba* (76 pp.), one of the Social Economy project final reports
- ▲ co-ordination, writing, and layout for this director's report

▲ Other Activities

- ▲ preparing the Accountability Report for government representatives
- ▲ preparing materials for the FCL Leadership Program
- ▲ editing the CASC call for papers
- ▲ preparing a special promotional announcement for Lou's Co-op Merit Award for Exemplary Contributions to Co-operative Studies
- ▲ preparing an ad for Co-op Week for the *StarPhoenix*
- ▲ co-ordinating the production and delivery of a letter of support from the research office on campus for the LOI being prepared by CCA for submission to SSHRC for a project titled "Measuring the Social and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada"
- ▲ assisting with materials for the Co-operative Health Conference 30 October
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last advisory board meeting

▲ Reprints

- ▲ Accountability Report to the sector
- ▲ *Recovery of the Collective Memory and Projection into the Future: ASOPRICOR* (Social Economy report)
- ▲ *Measuring and Mapping the Impact of Social Economy Enterprises: The Role of Co-ops in Community Population Growth* (Social Economy report)
- ▲ *Community Supported Agriculture: Putting the "Culture" Back into Agriculture* (Social Economy report)
- ▲ *Social Enterprises and the Ontario Disability Support Program* (Social Economy report)
- ▲ *The Meaning of Rochdale: The Rochdale Pioneers and the Co-operative Principles*
- ▲ *Research for Action: Women in Co-operatives*

▲ Professional, Outreach, and Other

Nora is on the executive of the Saskatoon branch of the Editors' Association of Canada. She is also a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, which connects the centre to other publishing organizations throughout the province.

She is the centre's representative to the Saskatoon Co-op Network, which organizes lunches and speakers of interest to local co-op organizations. In Lou's absence she attended the University of Saskatchewan Centres Forum meeting; these meetings explore common issues and ensure that the respective centres' concerns are heard. She participated in the conference call management board meeting of the Social Economy project. And she attended the Co-op Week Luncheon on 16 October.

Roger Herman

Roger continues to work on the post-conference details following the 2007 Co-operative Innovation: Influencing the Social Economy event. This includes further dissemination of the various presentations on the conference website and other publications.

He is part of the Finance Cluster of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project and with Lou and in conjunction with the Canadian Co-operative Association continues research on the level and types of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian co-ops and credit unions. He is also a regular participant in the Social Economy project management advisory board meetings.

Roger was the centre's representative to an advisory committee of the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan planning an international community development conference that took place in Saskatoon at the end of June. He also chaired the sub-committee that co-ordinated mobile learning workshops for the event, which attracted about three hundred people.

His book with Jorge Sousa (University of Alberta), *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, undertaken on contract with the Co-operatives Secretariat, is undergoing final revisions prior to design, layout, proofreading, and publication.

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

- ▲ he was elected to another three-year term on the board of directors of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) and was appointed president of the board at the AGM in Ottawa in August. He also chaired a special committee tasked with succession planning following the executive director's decision to step down. On behalf of the centre, Roger prepared a proposal to ACE for the provision of administrative services. Unfortunately, the proposal was unsuccessful.
- ▲ he is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of visitors to the centre; on 12 September he and Michael hosted Julio Berdegú (Chile) and Merle Faminow (Uruguay) from the Rural Territorial Dynamics program, a research-based policy advice and capacity-development program for rural economic growth, social inclusion, and sound environmental governance in Latin America.

- ▲ he is part of a participant selection committee for a national youth conference being organized by The Co-operators that will take place in Guelph in September 2009
- ▲ with Lou and Dwayne, he is helping to plan and co-ordinate the centre's research project examining mergers and amalgamation in the co-operative retail sector
- ▲ with Catherine and Lou, he organized a co-operative health care conference 30 October in Saskatoon; the event is building on a meeting of the board of directors of the International Health Co-operative Organization taking place in Saskatoon that week
- ▲ he is working with Lou on preliminary planning for the Exhibition of Research Results from the Social Economy project, jointly co-ordinated with the Diefenbaker Canada Centre; the exhibit will include a travelling component
- ▲ with Lou, Michael, and Dwayne, he facilitated a day-long leadership workshop for FCL's board of directors 27 October; this is the second of three annual modules
- ▲ on behalf of the centre he attended the Co-operative Merit Awards banquet in Regina 14 October; he also attended the Co-op Week Luncheon on the 16th
- ▲ with Lou, he is working on the final preparation of a toolkit for the development of First Nations Co-operatives; this is the end product of an earlier project with the First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan
- ▲ he will be making presentations at a conference in Dauphin, Manitoba, 18–19 November, hosted by the Parkland Agricultural Resource Co-op; the conference will examine best practices related to value-added co-op development
- ▲ he continues to respond to inquiries regarding New Generation Co-operatives as well as co-ops in general
- ▲ he 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:

- ▲ 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
- ▲ he continues as an alternate centre representative to the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and attended a meeting of the board in October

Heather Acton

▲ The Library

- ▲ materials signed out: 83
- ▲ materials returned: 115

- ▲ reference and research requests responded to: 53
- ▲ books catalogued: 42
- ▲ new borrowers registered: 13

In September we switched from a software-based library catalogue system to an online one, the benefits being reduced cost and ease of use. Please remind people in your organizations that the library is here and that they are invited to make use of it.

Our plans for a library renovation and expansion are moving ahead; we are awaiting the availability of workers.

With Karen's assistance, Heather has done a thorough review of old patron records and missing books and is clearing up all associated records to keep the catalogue current and accurate.

▲ Research Activity

With the support of a USTEP grant, we hired a summer student, Breann Heggie, who completed the historical research begun last summer on youth in co-operatives in Saskatchewan. She did excellent job. Nora has edited and designed the final report, which will be a useful and attractive contribution to the history of co-operatives in Saskatchewan.

We also hired two additional summer students, Chen Bi and Zunyi Lin. Although Chen Bi was with us for only two months, he completed much of the work on the database for the Social Economy Project. Heather will finish the work and it will be available on the project website in January 09. Zunyi Lin worked on the design of our new centre website and migrated the information from our old website. Over the next few months we will continue to prepare the website for an anticipated January launch.

▲ Events Attended

- ▲ Meetings of the Saskatoon Special Libraries Network and the University Librarians
- ▲ Meetings (conference calls) with the Social Economy Hub
- ▲ Meeting (conference call) with the Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan Node of the Social Economy project
- ▲ Meeting (conference call) with SSHRC with regard to the result of our mid-term review
- ▲ Meetings (conference calls) with the Social Economy Learning Network and the Social Economy Student Network
- ▲ in-person meetings with CUISR regarding the Social Economy project
- ▲ Co-op luncheon on 16 October

Heather also regularly updates and maintains both the centre's blog and the Social Economy website and blog.

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 updating and recording the various revenues/expenditures associated with the centre's monthly financial statements as well as maintaining the SSHRC project account and all other research accounts. Patty is responsible for monitoring these accounts and making sure that the funds are expended in accordance to the specified requirements as well as investigating errors and processing journal vouchers for incorrect charges to particular accounts. She must also ensure that all the supporting documentation is in the files and contact the Central Registry to obtain the appropriate paperwork if it is missing. She also updates 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; and processing all other invoices and cheques that come into the centre for purchases and payments.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ calculating dues for each of our sponsor organizations; preparing a chart outlining the contribution breakdown for each organization
- ▲ ensuring that a copy of the 2008–09 budget approved at the June board meeting was sent to each sponsor organization, the government, and the university
- ▲ issuing invoices to our sponsor organizations for 2008 third and fourth quarter dues; completing the cash report forms and making deposits upon receipt of the dues
- ▲ dealing with payroll issues for student assistants Zunyi Lin and Chen Bi
- ▲ assisting Heather in gathering financial information for the mid-term review for the Social Economy project
- ▲ preparing paperwork (payroll forms and scholarship contract) for Tsegi Chuluunbaatar and Haotao Wu for 08–09; assisted Tsegi in applying for an SIN number in connection with her scholarship.
- ▲ processing payroll forms for research assistants Dwayne Pattison (Co-op Mergers project) and Kim Brown (Advantage Credit Union project)
- ▲ sorting out some financial issues associated with the completion of the Mongolian project and closing the account
- ▲ co-ordinating the transfer of funds to the various clusters associated with the Social Economy project; this involved preparing cheque requisitions upon receipt of the signed third-year transfer agreements with the University of

Western Ontario, University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Algoma University, and CUISR

- ▲ assisting Michael in the preparation of an invoice for the expenditures associated with the Organic Farmers project; reviewing the monthly financial statements for the year; gathering, photocopying and assembling all the supporting documentation for the expenditures (travel, car rentals, telephone, printing, payroll, etc.) processed through the centre's operating fund; and providing an itemized listing and subtotals for categories in which the centre will be reimbursed in support of the project

Most of Patty's time in September and October was spent working on the centre's year-end financial statements. This involved checking the monthly financial statements to ensure that all the paperwork was processed accurately and cross-checking to make sure that the expenses relating to the 07-08 financial year were cleared through the fund and allocated to the appropriate category on the financial statement. The final step was numerous discussions with Barb Geib, our financial consultant, to ensure that categories were accurate and numbers in each budget line balanced.

On an ongoing basis, Patty is responsible for organizing the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes the many hours that go into co-ordinating a suitable date, preparing the minutes and other materials, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch.

Patty also co-ordinates many other meetings. This quarter they included:

- ▲ several meetings with Lou and Michael Atkinson, executive director of the School of Public Policy, and Teresa DeMong of the Diefenbaker Centre to discuss issues around changes and space allocation within the building
- ▲ meetings with Occupational Health and Safety to assess workstations for Catherine and Roger; also made arrangements with Facilities Management and Business Furnishings to set up the workstations when they arrived
- ▲ made arrangements for the midterm review tele-conference 17 July
- ▲ made arrangements for meeting room and lunch for the selection committee for the SCA interviews held 20 August
- ▲ assisted in the planning and arrangements for the Diefenbaker Centre "Meet & Greet" 15 September
- ▲ co-ordinated many other meetings for Lou

Other responsibilities this quarter include:

- ▲ assisting Jessica Gordon Nembhard, our new visiting scholar, with the complicated paperwork for her work permit; prepared paperwork for the creation of a research fund for her work at the centre; prepared payroll forms; assisted her in obtaining an SIN number; dealt with keys, office arrangements, etc., in getting her settled at the centre

- ▲ editing and preparing the June 08 management advisory board meeting minutes as well as obtaining agenda items for the next meeting
- ▲ being the centre's contact person responsible for communicating information to centre staff and students regarding the nearly six months of building renovations
- ▲ assisting Catherine with the posting of a part-time grad student assistant position for CASC, which will be housed permanently at the centre
- ▲ assisting Michael in co-ordinating signatures with the research office for two projects; one is the Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan; the other is a SSHRC project at the Université de Sherbrooke
- ▲ assisting Lou with a number of arrangements for the conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in August
- ▲ assisting Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay with arrangements for the ICA Research Conference in Italy
- ▲ working with Telephone Services in moving centre phones over to the new system on campus

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, invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills, as well as monitoring office supplies and ordering replacements as required. 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 with paperwork, work permit, and work space for Jessica Gordon Nembhard's stay at the centre
- ▲ mailout of thirteen Social Economy project publications to authors and for legal deposit
- ▲ mailout of publication requests and processing payments
- ▲ mailout of the health conference brochure, handling registrations, receipts, name tags, preparing conference kits, etc., for the Co-operative Health Conference 30 October in Saskatoon
- ▲ co-ordinating reading packages, copying materials and sending to FCL, preparing name tags and binders and assisting with equipment needs for the FCL Leadership workshop 27 October
- ▲ making room booking and lunch arrangements for the meeting with Advantage Credit Union
- ▲ setting up two conference calls — the CASC call 24 September and the Social Economy project call 10 October

- ▲ sending out scholarship notices for the Dennis Lyster award
- ▲ sending out notices for the Fredeen Scholarship and copying applications for the committee
- ▲ as Heather's Most Excellent Library Assistant, ordering new books, assisting with processing new books, routing journals to centre staff, registering patrons, assisting with research questions, checking in and reshelving books
- ▲ assisting with many travel, accommodation, car rental, and conference arrangements for centre personnel; processing travel claims upon return:
 - Roger and Dwayne — to attend the ACE Conference in Ottawa in July.
 - Lou — to Guelph to meet with The Co-operators personnel in September
 - Lou, Michael, Rob, Isobel and Len Findlay — to attend the ICA Research Conference in Trento, Italy, in October
 - Roger — to attend the Co-op Merit Awards Banquet and SCA Board Meeting in Regina in October
 - Catherine — to participate in the Re-imagining Health Conference in Vancouver in November

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

The Students and Contract Researchers

Kim Brown, a former centre MA student, has been hired on a contract to look at governance issues in the Advantage Credit Union system. Her project with Lou on a project for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada titled "Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development: The Feasibility of Using Co-operative Models," is complete and with INAC for their comments. Kim is also working on a CUISR internship writing a case study on La Ronge for the Social Economy project titled "Exploring the Social Economy in Saskatchewan." In other activities, and associated with her own recent experience as a co-op intern in Kenya, she was the resource person for and facilitated the Canadian Co-operative Association's Youth Experience International program in Ottawa in July.

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 titled "Building a Tax Policy Framework to Enable Co-operative Development."

Rob Dobrohoczki is studying for his PhD comprehensives. He has one publication forthcoming, a chapter co-authored with Brett in the centre book *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*. With other centre personnel, Rob attended the ICA Research Conference in Italy in October to present a paper titled "The Importance of Co-operative Law and its Interpretation in the Postnational Constellation." And he will be teaching co-operative law at the College of Law in the January term.

Zhao Jun continues to work on his PhD, though he intersperses these activities with other work. He spent the summer working for the China-EU Watershed Management Project as a Farmers' Co-operative Groups Formation specialist.

Dwayne Pattison, a former MA student at the centre, has been hired on a contract to study the impact of retail co-op mergers and amalgamations on such things as membership participation, governance models, management, and community. He has just returned from three weeks of interviews, during which he visited multi-branch co-ops in Alberta, Manitoba, and southern Saskatchewan and met with members, board members, and management. His research is now in the analysis and transcription stage.

Dwayne is also finishing up the final report for a CUISR internship on the Big River Arts Marketing Co-op for the Social Economy project. And he was a presenter at the FCL Leadership Program 27 October in Saskatoon.

Rochelle Smith continues to work on revisions to her PhD dissertation titled "The Relationship of Saskatchewan's Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Towards a New Understanding."

Mitch Diamantopoulos is working on the research and writing for his PhD dissertation on the promise and potential of worker co-operatives in Canada. He has one publication forthcoming, a chapter titled "Belonging, Comfort, and Home: Globalization, Social Exclusion, and Innovations in Co-operative Housing" for the centre book *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*.

Mike Chartier continues to work on a CUISR internship for a Social Economy project titled "Advancing the Co-operative Sector: Mapping Development Needs of Co-ops in Emerging, Underrepresented, and Struggling Sectors." He is working with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and Co-operative Ventures Worker Co-op. He also teaches grade eight at W.P. Bate Community School in Saskatoon and continues to work on his MA thesis on the communitarian pedagogy of Watson Thomson, which he hopes to finish before Christmas.

Kama Soles' Interdisciplinary Studies Master's thesis, "Empowerment through Cooperation: Disability Solidarity in the Social Economy," is investigating the potential that the co-operative model has for empowering people with disabilities, and will identify barriers to inclusion in the social economy and the formation of co-operatives. She is currently taking her last special topic 898 course titled Disability Studies — Contexts and Constructions: Forming Disability Communities, and hopes to defend her thesis in the spring of 2009.

Tsegi Chuluunbaatar is engaged in course work for her MA in the Co-op Concentration. Her research will be supervised by Lou and Michael. Her thesis is tentatively titled "Increasing Opportunities for Women in Rural Mongolia Through Co-operatives and Co-operative Models of Development."

Karlah Rudolph, our most recent Social Economy scholarship winner, is in the CSALE Concentration (Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law, and the Environment) and is working with Murray and Brett on Brett's SSHRC-funded project "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations." This past summer, she worked on an online toolbox for the governance node of the Social Economy project; the website will be launched at the end of October and features numerous training tools and resources for individuals interested in learning about effective governance in the social economy.

The title of Karlah's thesis is "Cooperative Response to Globalization of the Food Chain: Implications for the Emergence of a Sustainable Food System." It will examine how the governance of multistakeholder organizations involved in the sustainable food movement allows them to innovate and alter the current food system.

Patricia Elliott, our newest InterD PhD student in the Co-op Concentration, has begun course work this fall. Her dissertation will study the social economy of community media, looking specifically at the impact of grassroots community radio across a broad range of social networks, points of tension, and ultimately, social change.