



Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board

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

November 2012



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

The centre is also supported by the University of Saskatchewan. The university not only houses our offices but provides in-kind contributions from a number of departments and units 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



Thank You to Sponsors and Others



More Awards for Sponsors



Co-operating to Build a Better West Conference



The Idea Lantern



Building Community Exhibit



Digitization Project



Canadian Co-operatives and Film Research Project



Impact of Co-operatives Research Update



Other Research Update



Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings



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Partners and Developments

Overview and Highlights

▲ A Big Thank You to Our Sponsors and Others

All of our co-op sector sponsors — Federated Co-operators Ltd., SaskCentral, The Co-operators, and Concentra Financial — have made significant donations in support of the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference, 1–3 November 2012. Without their assistance it would have been difficult if not impossible to plan for the scope and quality of speakers we have managed to attract. So thank you so much for your on-going and generous support of the work we do here at the Centre.

Planning for the conference has been a collaborative effort involving many individuals and organizations. We would like to thank our organizing partners, the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, and le Conseil de la Coopération de la Saskatchewan. In addition, many others have made contributions both cash and in-kind. We thank them here as well: Affinity Credit Union, Conexus Credit Union, the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy, the University of Saskatchewan, The Community Health Co-operative Federation Ltd., the Credit Unions of Southwest Saskatchewan, Prairie Centre Credit Union, Diamond North Credit Union, and Raymore Credit Union.

We also extend many thanks to OPEN, a design collaborative of five graduates from Dalhousie University's School of Architecture, who created a participatory art installation for the conference. Named The Idea Lantern, it is located in Kiwanis Park South on the riverbank near the conference site. The members of OPEN contributed countless volunteer hours to the creation, construction, and supervision of The Lantern (see more details below).

▲ More Awards for Sponsors

The Co-operators has been named among the top six “best corporate citizens” in Canada, ranked by the social responsibility magazine *Corporate Knights*. It has also been recognized as one of Canada's fifty best employers for the tenth consecutive year in a ranking by international consulting firm Aon Hewitt. The list is determined primarily on the basis of employee surveys that examine such things as training and professional development programs, staff wellness initiatives, tuition reimbursements, employee recognition, and workplace engagement. We are proud and fortunate to be on the list of organizations to which The Co-operators is committed.

▲ Co-operating to Build a Better West Conference

Centre personnel have spent many hours preparing for this conference, with organizing partners the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, and le Conseil de la Coopération de la

Saskatchewan. The conference will include presentations from more than forty speakers, most of them from the co-op sector and other community-based organizations. Other events include Co-op Fest, a combined music festival and trade show that will celebrate local co-operative businesses and musicians; tours of the Building Community exhibit, currently on display at the Mendel Art Gallery; the Co-op Merit Awards; and a participatory art installation in Kiwanis Park South near the site of the conference.

Visit www.buildabetterwest.com for details about the program and further information.

▲ The Idea Lantern

This participatory art installation was created especially for the conference by the design collaborative OPEN, five graduates of Dalhousie University's School of Architecture. Everyone is invited to take part.

The wording on the outside of The Idea Lantern was inspired by the motto for the International Year of Co-operatives — “Co-operative Enterprises Build a Better World.” The Lantern features a variation of this slogan — “Together We Build a Better World.” The Lantern conveys a strong message on its own, but it also provides an opportunity for the public to share their own messages or ideas for their community. The Lantern is made of thousands of small cards attached to a frame. Each card invites the public to contribute to the project by answering the question, “How Do You Build a Better World?” To get involved, people simply go inside The Lantern and write their answer on the back of a card with one of the pens supplied. They can answer the question as many times as they want; The Lantern has six thousand cards.

The installation will grow with each new message, and together these individual messages will begin to convey a bold public statement.

▲ Building Community Exhibit

The reconfiguration of our large-format exhibit, Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being, is a major part of the Centre's contribution to celebrations for the International Year of Co-operatives. The full version of the exhibit was displayed during the Joint Congress of the Canadian Co-operative Association and the Conseil de la coopération canadien et mutualité in Montreal, 26–29 June 2012. With a sponsorship by Affinity Credit Union, it is currently mounted at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon for the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference. Swift Current is confirmed for November 2012 to January 2013, and we are working with The Co-operators to take it to Guelph for the annual meeting in April 2013.

▲ The Digitization Project

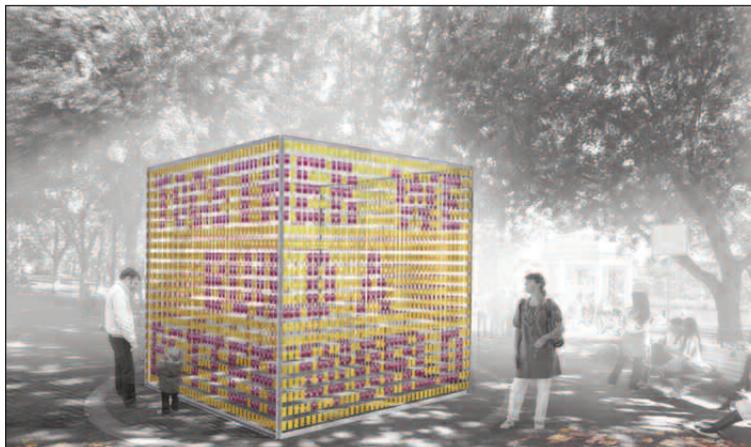
We are excited about the launch of our digitization project with the support of Saskatchewan History Online (SHO), an organization that is helping to increase

the availability of free online access to Saskatchewan's cultural and historical record. SHO is assisting cultural heritage organizations of all types to digitize their collections and provide them with ways to create online exhibits that will reach a global audience. It is harvesting content from a range of repositories of Saskatchewan historical content — the Saskatchewan Archival Information Network, the University of Saskatchewan Library, the University of Regina Library, Our Legacy, and others. Thus far, SHO has provided the Centre with support and expertise as well as a portal at <http://saskhistoryonline.ca>. So far we have uploaded about one hundred digitized images, including photographs, pamphlets, and some of the artifacts from our historical co-op collection. We expect to be adding many more items in the near future and will also be adding more textual details and metadata about the images that have already been uploaded.

▲ Canadian Co-operatives and Film Research Project (CCFRP)

We are also extremely pleased to announce a significant new collaborative project with George Melnyk, associate professor of Canadian Studies and Film Studies, Department of Communication and Culture at the University of Calgary. The Co-operative College in the UK established a National Co-operative Film Archive in 1992 to preserve all film and photographic material relating to the consumer co-op movement, to promote the use of archive films in co-op education, and to stimulate research in the use of film in relationship to co-ops. No such archive exists in Canada and there has been no academic study of Canadian co-ops and film. And yet Canada has been the home of the most successful documentary film-making tradition in the world with its National Film Board, which has made dozens of films about co-ops during its seventy-year history. Professor Melnyk plans to develop a catalogue similar to that in the UK for Canada and launch an academic study of Canadian co-ops and film.

As well as producing scholarly research, CCFRP will establish a Canadian Co-op Filmography, an on-line resource describing all films made on co-ops in Canada



from 1930–2010. This resource will be based at the Centre and will serve as a stimulus for further research. CCFRP also intends to establish a Canadian Co-op Film Digital Archive at the Centre, which will provide access to all co-op films made in Canada from 1930–2010. This will include both English and French language material and will deal with films made by the National Film Board, provincial bodies, the co-op sector, and independent producers on all types of co-operatives.

▲ Impact of Co-operatives Research Update

Research continues on Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada, spear-headed by the Canadian Co-operative Association (CCA). The Centre is involved in two projects under this umbrella. Lou Hammond Ketilson and Jessica Gordon Nembhard are partnered with Advantage and Affinity credit unions to study “The Impacts of Credit Unions on Communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba: Measuring Member and Community Benefits and Asset Building from Credit Union Ownership.” Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan incorporated four of Lou and Jessica’s survey questions into its provincial survey, which was administered in August, as well as several of Lou and Jessica’s other questions into the Affinity-specific portion of the survey. The results will be shared with all credit unions in Saskatchewan. Jessica, Lou, and Linda Moulin, senior VP of governance at Affinity, presented their work to the Joint Research and Education conference in Montreal, 24–26 June. The other project, undertaken by former Centre postdoc Catherine Leviten-Reid and Karla Skoutajan of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, is examining “The Impact of Co-operative Housing on Household Income, Skills, and Social Capital.” This is a five-year, \$1 million SSHRC-funded project involving CCA, the Centre, Saint Mary’s University, the University of Victoria, and Mount Saint Vincent University, plus more than a dozen co-op associations and credit unions.

▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ (new) through Lou, the Centre is partnering with the Canadian Co-operative Association to apply for funding from the International Development Research Council Canadian Partnerships Program for a project titled “Examining Success Factors for Sustainable Rural Development through the Integrated Co-operative Model” (see Lou’s section for more details)
- ▲ (new) Murray is a participant in a University of Nebraska–Lincoln agricultural policy project funded by the US Department of Agriculture
- ▲ (new) Murray is working on an article titled “The Future of Agricultural Cooperatives” for the *Annual Review of Resource Economics*
- ▲ “Co-operatives in Saskatchewan 2012: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Expectations in the International Year of Co-operatives” — Lou and Michael are working with the Social Sciences Research Laboratory in the College of Arts and Science to conduct a province-wide telephone survey of the public’s knowledge and attitudes towards Saskatchewan co-operatives and co-operative development — ongoing

- ▲ Murray Fulton and Michael Atkinson's (School of Public Policy) examination of executive compensation in government offices, Crown corporations, universities, and co-operatives — ongoing
 - ▲ Murray's work on the role of producer associations in innovation activity, part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network; ongoing
 - ▲ Michael Gertler's work with a variety of partners on "Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan" — ongoing
 - ▲ Michael Gertler's "Food Sovereignty in the Canadian Context: Issues, Initiatives, and Opportunities" — ongoing
 - ▲ Catherine Leviten Reid's research on health services in Duck Lake in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region and CUISR — complete
- ▲ Conferences, Workshops, and Meetings
- ▲ 9th Institut national de la recherche agronomique / Institut d'économie industrielle (INRA/IDEI) Conference on Industrial Organization and the Food Processing Industry, Toulouse, France, 21–22 June 2012; Murray attended and presented
 - ▲ "Co-operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives," the Joint Co-operative Research and Education Conference involving the International Co-operative Alliance, the Association of Cooperative Educators, the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, and the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research, Montreal, 24–26 June 2012; Lou, Maria, and Michael attended and presented; Heather and Audra also attended
 - ▲ "Mainstreaming Co-operation: An Alternative for the 21st Century?" Manchester and Rochdale, UK, 3–5 July 2012; Michael attended and presented
 - ▲ Annual Meetings of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, 26–29 July 2012; Michael attended and presented
 - ▲ Quebec 2012 International Summit of Co-operatives, Quebec City, 8–11 October; Lou attended and presented; Audra also attended
 - ▲ Imagine 2012: International Conference on Co-operative Economics, Quebec City, 6–8 October; Michael attended
 - ▲ Co-operating to Build a Better West, Saskatoon, 1–3 November 2012; all Centre personnel will attend; Lou, Michael, Murray, and Brett will present
 - ▲ Cooperation Works, the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union 2012 Convention, Loveland, Colorado, 14–18 November 2012, Michael will attend and make keynote presentation
 - ▲ Co-ops: An Exercise in Democracy, the National Farmers Union 43rd annual convention, Saskatoon, 22–24 November 2012; Michael will attend and present
 - ▲ Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union Research Symposium, Tokyo, 22–24 November 2012; Lou will attend and present keynote address
 - ▲ ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Research Conference, Kobe, Japan, 26 November 2012; Lou will attend and present keynote address

▲ Seminars

Our seminar series this term, in partnership with the Edwards School of Business Dean's Speaker Series, celebrates the International Year of Co-operatives by inviting senior co-op sector leaders to give presentations. The September event unfortunately had to be cancelled because of the resignation of SaskCentral's Ken Anderson, who had been scheduled to speak. Kathy Bardswick, president and CEO of The Co-operators Group, made a presentation titled "Balancing Growth and Sustainability," 4 October 2012. The November seminar has been superseded by the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference, which will see presentations by many co-op sector leaders from across the West. The December event will feature Scott Banda, CEO of Federated Co-operatives Ltd.

▲ Publications

- ▲ *Community Conversations about the Good Food Junction Co-operative*, Social Economy report, printed and posted
- ▲ *Community-Based Regional Food Distribution Initiatives: A Cross-Case Analysis*, Social Economy report, printed and posted
- ▲ *Participatory Action Research: Challenges, Complications, and Opportunities*, Social Economy report, printed and posted
- ▲ "Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," accepted for publication by UBC Press, in revise-and-resubmit mode
- ▲ thirteen Social Economy reports await Nora's attention

▲ Faculty/Scholar/Staff/Student News

- ▲ Mitch Diamantopoulos, who graduated with a PhD in the Co-op Concentration last fall, is the recipient of the 2012 Norm Bromberger Research Bursary; Mitch's dissertation is currently being adapted for a book for the University of Toronto Press
- ▲ Centre colleague and University of Quebec (Montreal) professor Marie Bouchard received the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation Award of Merit for her contribution to co-operative and social economy research and her efforts to bring together the French- and English-speaking research communities
- ▲ Maria Basualdo, a Centre graduate student in the Co-op Concentration and our co-ordinator for the Building Community exhibit, has accepted a position in Ottawa but continues to work part-time on exhibit-related activities; she is also working with Lou and Jessica Gordon Nembhard on the Impact of Co-operatives research project with CCA. we certainly miss having her in the office
- ▲ Scott Kim, an MA student from Eastern Mennonite University in Virginia, has joined us for a practicum for the next six months

▲ Partners and Developments

Ken Sherwin has provided a written report on SaskCentral; Herb Carlson and Barbara Turley-McIntyre will provide verbal reports on their organizations.

SaskCentral — Ken Sherwin

Second Quarter Financials

Overall the credit union system has seen strong growth and solid profitability due to good expense management. Although SaskCentral's financial earnings are close to budget in dollar terms, there are two competing elements. Margins are lower than expected due to a low interest rate environment, but this is offset by higher statutory liquidity deposits due to high system growth. SaskCentral's efforts are focused on maintaining financial earnings in dollar terms and we expect to end the year at budget.

Democratic Structure

The board approved the June 2012 membership and asset statistics as the basis to determine delegate election and representative voting. As per SaskCentral's Democratic Structure Policy, the structure is based on the previous mid-year credit union statistics.

Fall Delegates Meeting

The fall delegates meeting will take place Thursday, 1 November, at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon, followed by the Co-operating to Build a Better West Conference, 1–3 November at the same hotel.

SaskCentral's CEO

Following the resignation of Ken Anderson, the board has appointed Keith Nixon as interim CEO. Decisions on longer-term recruitment plans have not been made. Pam Skotnitsky has been appointed corporate secretary and temporarily assigned duties as executive vice-president, Corporate and Community Affairs.

Teaching/Research/Publications/ Presentations/Administration/Outreach

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is supervising MA student Tsegi Chuluunbaatar (InterD Co-op Concentration), who is still in Mongolia conducting field research, and is a committee member for Monica Juarez Adeler (InterD PhD, Co-op Concentration) and Zahra Rahmani Nooshabadi (MA, School of Public Policy). Lou is also committee chair for Rob Dobrohoczki, Maria Basualdo, Annette Johnson, Mike Chartier, and Patricia Elliot, all Centre PhD students in the Co-op Concentration.

▲ Research

- ▲ (new) through Lou, the Centre is partnering with the Canadian Co-operative Association to apply for funding from the International Development Research

Council Canadian Partnerships Program. The initial concept note was submitted in July and we were encouraged to move to the full application stage, which is currently underway. If successful, Lou will be the project co-ordinator; our partners will be Professor Suleman Chambo (Moshi University College of Co-operative and Business Studies in Tanzania) and Dr. Johnny Mugisha (Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness, Faculty of Agriculture, Makerere University, Uganda). The project is titled “Examining Success Factors for Sustainable Rural Development through the Integrated Co-operative Model.” It will provide opportunities for Centre faculty and a student to conduct research both in Canada and Africa, adding an international component to the student experience.

- ▲ “Co-operatives in Saskatchewan 2012: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Expectations in the International Year of Co-operatives” — Lou and Michael are working with the Social Sciences Research Laboratory in the College of Arts and Science to conduct a province-wide telephone survey of the public’s knowledge and attitudes towards Saskatchewan co-operatives and co-operative development. The survey was administered in August and results will be shared at the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference in November.
- ▲ co-applicant on the Canadian Co-operative Association’s five-year Community University Research Alliance grant — Measuring the Social, Environmental, and Economic Impact of Co-operatives in Canada; academic lead for the Prairie Cluster (see more details in Highlights section of this report)

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Their Communities: Lessons from Preliminary Research,” presented to Co-operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives, the Joint Co-operative Research and Education Conference, Montreal, 24–26 June 2012
- ▲ “Impact of Mergers on Credit Union Governance and the Democratic Process,” presented to the Forum on Governance and Democratic Decision Processes, Quebec 2012 International Summit of Co-operatives, Quebec City, 8–11 October 2012.
- ▲ “Building Sustainable Regional Economies,” to be presented to the panel on Co-operating for Resilience and Sustainable Regional Development, Co-operating to Build a Better West conference, Saskatoon, 2 November 2012
- ▲ “How Can We Measure the Socio-Economic Impact of Co-operatives to Increase Visibility?” to be presented to the research symposium organized by the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union, Tokyo, 22 November 2012
- ▲ “What is the Potential for Co-operatives in Socio-Economic Development?” to be presented to the research symposium organized by the Japanese Consumer Co-operative Union, Kyoto, 24 November 2012
- ▲ “How Can We Measure the Socio-Economic Impact of Co-operatives to Increase Visibility?” to be presented to the ICA Asia-Pacific Co-operative Research Conference, Kobe, Japan, 26 November 2012

▲ Publications (* peer reviewed)

Accepted

- ▲ * “First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” in “Community Survival: Co-operative Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” UBC Press, accepted; in revise and resubmit mode
- ▲ preface to *Essays on the Economics of Co-operative Organizations*, 2nd ed., by Sigismundo Bialoskorksi Neto, Department of Economics, School of Business and Economics, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Submitted

- ▲ “Understanding Co-operatives through Research,” *Review of International Co-operation* 101, no. 1 (2012); (status: issue will be published by the International Co-operative Alliance December 2012)
- ▲ * “Partnering to Finance Enterprise Development within the Aboriginal Social Economy,” submitted to special edition of journal *Canadian Public Policy: Strengthening Communities through Government and Social Economy Partnerships*, edited by Jorge Sousa and Mike Toye (status: awaiting reviewers’ comments)
- ▲ “Wealth Creation, Community Development, and Poverty Reduction,” in *Co-operative Enterprise for Dummies: Why Co-operatives Are Important*, ed. Terry MacDonald, Global Co-operative Development Group (status: forthcoming 2012)

In Progress

- ▲ Final report of the Issues-Based Interdisciplinary Scholarship Working Group, Second Integrated Plan, University of Saskatchewan
- ▲ editing the 2012 *Review of International Co-operation* published by the International Co-operative Alliance, based on papers from the ICA research conference in Mikkeli, Finland (status: papers are being copy edited; ICA will publish in December 2012)
- ▲ with Nora and Maria, *Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being: A Practical Guidebook for Hosting the Exhibit*
- ▲ “Building Resilient Communities: The Economic Impact of Credit Unions and Caisses Populaires in Canada,” Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Occasional Paper Series
- ▲ * with Jessica Gordon Nembhard and Pat Thomas, “Measuring the Impact of Credit Unions on Communities,” for submission to the *Annals of Public and Co-operative Economy*
- ▲ “A Critical Assessment and Integration of Scholarly Views Regarding Old and New Roles for Co-operatives,” paper presented to Promoting the Understanding of Co-operatives for a Better World conference in Venice, March 2012; paper will appear in conference proceedings
- ▲ with Gayle Broad, “Challenges in Mapping the Social Economy in Indigenous Communities in Canada,” for special edition of *Ciriec Canada journal Économie et Solidarités* titled What Is the Future for the Co-operative and Solidarity Economy in Aboriginal Communities?

- ▲ with Thibault Martin, co-editing a special edition of the Ciriec Canada journal *Économie et Solidarités* titled What Is the Future for the Co-operative and Solidarity Economy in Aboriginal Communities? Reissued call for papers to extend timeline

- ▲ Outreach and Engagement
 - ▲ Interview for *Saskatchewan Business* magazine regarding the impact of mergers and relevance of credit unions in today's environment
 - ▲ mounted the Building Community Exhibit at the Joint Congress CCA/CCCM, Montreal, 27–29 June 2012
 - ▲ mounted the Building Community Exhibit at the Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, 17 October – 5 November 2012
 - ▲ partnered with Pioneer Co-op and Innovation Credit Union in Swift Current to mount the Building Community Exhibit, November 2012 – January 2013
 - ▲ working with The Co-operators to take the full exhibit to Guelph for the Annual Meeting in April 2013

- ▲ Administration and Meetings
 - ▲ as member of Steering Committee for Setting a National Co-operative Research Agenda; the initial project is complete but Audra and Heather are participating in the continuing form of this committee, the Canadian Co-operative Research Network; the Centre's role is still to be worked out
 - ▲ as a member of the management board for Measuring the Co-operative Difference Research Network, in-person meeting 24 June in Montreal; Jessica Gordon Nembhard, Linda Moulin from Affinity Credit Union, and Lou attended
 - ▲ as member of National International Year of Co-operatives 2012 Committee; the committee has become the official Government of Canada committee as required by the United Nations
 - ▲ member of Steering Committee for Impact! The Co-operators Youth and Sustainability Programme; Michael represented the Centre in a conference call in September; the Centre will continue to be involved on the Steering Committee; the next event will not happen until 2013
 - ▲ as chair of the International Co-operative Alliance's Committee on Co-operative Research
 - ▶ member of steering committee for international research conference titled Co-operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives held in Montreal, 24–26 June 2012
 - ▶ member of the Scientific Committee for the Global Research Conference on Co-operative Research, Cyprus, 12–15 June 2013
 - ▶ conference call with director general to discuss the 2012 Issue of the *Review of International Co-operation*, September

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 204.3: Rural Sociology

▲ Graduate Supervision

Michael has on-going supervisory duties for one PhD student in the Co-operative Studies Concentration and one PhD student in the School of Environment and Sustainability. He is also on advisory committees for one InterD MA student and four InterD PhD students in the Co-op Concentration, and a committee member for one PhD student in Sociology.

▲ Research

- ▲ with Lou Hammond Ketilson and the Social Sciences Research Laboratories, College of Arts and Science, “Co-operatives in Saskatchewan 2012: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Expectations in the International Year of Co-operatives”
- ▲ principal investigator, “Houses and Communities: Learning from a Case Study of Co-operative Assisted Home Ownership in Saskatchewan”

▲ Publications

- ▲ with Nora Russell, “Where Would We Be without Co-ops?” Co-op Week insert in *Planet S* and *Prairie Dog* magazines, October 2012; published
- ▲ “Brief to the Special Committee on Co-operatives,” 41st Parliament, First Session, House of Commons; accepted
- ▲ “Co-operatives Enterprises Build a Better World,” *Earthbeat* (Saskatchewan Council for International Co-operation Newsletter), Fall 2012; published

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Co-operative Advantages: Making the (Business) Case for Co-ops,” at Co-operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives conference, Montreal, 24–27 June 2012
- ▲ “Knowledge Politics and the Co-operative Difference,” at Mainstreaming Co-operation: An Alternative for the 21st Century? Manchester and Rochdale, UK, 3–5 July
- ▲ “Co-operative Innovation and Sustainable Rural Knowledge Economies,” at the annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, 26–29 July
- ▲ “Co-operatives in Saskatchewan: A Survey of Public Perceptions and Expectations in the International Year of Co-operatives,” at Co-operating to Build a Better West conference, Saskatoon, 1–3 November 2012
- ▲ “Co-operative Advantage: Co-ops and Durable (Rural) Economies,” keynote presentation at Cooperation Works, the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union 2012 Convention, Loveland, Colorado, 14–18 November 2012
- ▲ “Realizing the Co-operative Advantage: Co-ops and Durable Rural

Economies,” at Co-ops: An Exercise in Democracy, the National Farmers Union 43rd annual convention, Saskatoon, 22–24 November 2012

▲ Administration/Professional/Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ chair of the conference co-ordinating committee and the program committee, Co-operating to Build a Better West conference, 1–3 November 2012, Saskatoon
- ▲ interview with Télévision-Radio Canada, Saskatoon CBKFT–1, re: Saskatoon Homelessness Count (commissioned by United Way, organized by CUISR), 24 September 2012
- ▲ interview, 14 September 2012, with LeRoy Bidlo, Regina *Leader-Post* for article titled “Co-ops the Focus of Saskatoon Conference” (appeared 13 October)
- ▲ represented the Centre at Imagine 2012: International Conference on Co-operative Economics, Quebec City, 6–8 October
- ▲ represented the Centre at conference marking the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Conseil de la Coopération de la Saskatchewan, Regina, 20 October
- ▲ with Heather Acton, drew up a book list for the University of Saskatchewan Bookstore display at the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference
- ▲ graduate chair, Interdisciplinary Studies Concentration in Co-operatives Studies, the Centre, 1 January 2012–
- ▲ University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association Representative for the Department of Sociology, January 2012–
- ▲ board member, Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, 2010–2012
- ▲ associate member, School of Environment and Sustainability, 1 July 2008–
- ▲ management board member, Community-University Institute for Social Research, U of S
- ▲ member, Regional and Urban Planning Administrative Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
- ▲ member, Canada-USA Relations Working Group, Division of Social Sciences, College of Arts Science
- ▲ member, Department of Sociology Library Committee
- ▲ member, Canadian Co-operative Association Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- ▲ member, Research Needs: Cooperatives, Social Enterprises, and Rural Civil Society discussion group, US Department of Agriculture
- ▲ member, editorial board, *Journal of Co-operatives*, 2009–
- ▲ representing the Centre on IYC 2012 Saskatchewan Planning Committee.

Brett Fairbairn

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

▲ Graduate Supervision

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

▲ Research

- ▲ co-investigator, “Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society,” SSHRC funded

▲ Presentations

- ▲ Brett will be making a presentation on The Challenges of Governance and Policy at the Co-operating to Build a Better West Conference, 3 November 2012, Saskatoon

▲ Publications

- ▲ “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies”; Brett is the editor as well as author or co-author of four chapters in this book accepted for publication by UBC Press

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

JSGS 865.3: Decisions in Organizations

▲ Graduate Supervision

Three of Murray’s graduate students successfully defended their theses over the past few months, one MSc and two PhDs. Murray is supervising two PhD students, one of whom is working on a co-op topic; and he is also supervising two master’s students, one of whom is working on a co-op topic.

▲ Research

- ▲ (new) participant in a University of Nebraska–Lincoln agricultural policy project funded by the US Department of Agriculture
- ▲ (new) working on an article titled “The Future of Agricultural Cooperatives” for the *Annual Review of Resource Economics*.
- ▲ with Michael Atkinson, executive compensation in the public and co-op sectors, including Crowns, universities, government executive offices, and co-operatives; ongoing
- ▲ the role of producer associations in innovation activity, part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network; ongoing

▲ Publications

- ▲ with Monica Çule, “Corporate Governance and Subjective Well-Being,” *Applied Economics Letters* 20 (4) (March): 364–67.

▲ Presentations

- ▲ with Konstantinos Giannakas, “Horizon and Free-Rider Problems in Co-operative Organizations,” at 9th INRA/IDEI Conference on Industrial Organization and the Food Processing Industry, Toulouse, France, 21–22 June 2012
- ▲ “Co-operatives in Saskatchewan” to Certified General Accountants Workshop, 19 October 2012, Saskatoon

▲ Administration

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

Nora Russell

▲ Co-operating to Build a Better West Conference

- ▲ edited all text for conference website
- ▲ designed graphics on bag for materials for conference participants
- ▲ edited and oversaw production of poster advertising participatory art installation; designed small version for circulation to Centre lists; wrote, designed, and supervised production of plaque to explain art installation to the public; wrote and designed poster board advertising the art installation for placement in the Mendel Art Gallery
- ▲ wrote and designed poster advertising Building Community exhibit at the Mendel Art Gallery
- ▲ designed notepad for inclusion in conference bags
- ▲ assisted with production of poster advertising conference
- ▲ designed variety of publicity blurbs advertising conference targeted to specific groups
- ▲ designed and oversaw production of the program
- ▲ designed name tags
- ▲ designed feedback forms
- ▲ designed and oversaw production of three banners for Heather’s display at the conference regarding the digitization project

▲ Writing, Editing, Design, Print Supervision

- ▲ *Community Conversations about the Good Food Junction Co-operative*, LLL project final report, edited, designed, printed, and posted
- ▲ *Participatory Action Research: Challenges, Complications, and Opportunities*, LLL project final report, edited, designed, printed, and posted
- ▲ *Community-Based Regional Food Distribution Initiatives: A Cross-Case Analysis*, LLL project final report, edited, printed, and posted
- ▲ designed ad for the digitization project for distribution at Co-op Week Luncheon
- ▲ did final editing, revisions, and layout for CarShare Co-op Proposal to Affinity Credit Union

- ▲ wrote ads and, with Michael Gertler, an article for *Planet S* and *prairie dog* magazines for Co-op Week
- ▲ wrote and designed two-page handout on student co-ops for U of S Welcome Week, where we had a booth; designed bookmark for same event
- ▲ prepared bibliography for UBC Press book
- ▲ edited two pieces for the ICA's commemorative IYC book
- ▲ edited Lou's foreword to Sigi Bialoskorski Neto's book, *Essays on the Economics of Cooperative Organizations*
- ▲ prepared a promotional piece for *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, for the International 2012 Summit of Co-operatives in Quebec City in October
- ▲ with Lou and Maria, putting final touches on production of *Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being: A Practical Guidebook for Hosting the Exhibit*; edited contract; edited and formatted guidebook, database, and PowerPoint of all 100 panels
- ▲ "Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies," Centre book accepted for publication by UBC Press; in the revise-and-resubmit phase
- ▲ *Rural Youth Research Internship*, LLL final report; with authors for revisions
- ▲ *Labour Market Study: A Community-Based Research Report for Mamaweswen, the North Shore Tribal Council, Naadmaadwuiik, and Saulteaux Enterprises, Aboriginal Human Resource Development Agreement Local Delivery Mechanisms*, LLL final report; with authors for revisions
- ▲ prepared seminar announcements; also special invitation to Kathy Bardswick's seminar and reception; also her itinerary
- ▲ did final edits on minutes of June advisory board meeting
- ▲ co-ordinated, wrote, and did layout for this director's report

▲ Professional, Outreach, and Other

Like other Centre staff, Nora attends all Centre seminars and Co-op Week Luncheons. As a member of EAC Saskatchewan, a branch of the Editors' Association of Canada, she designed the poster and other promotional material for their fall workshop, as well as attending it. Nora is a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, which connects the Centre to other publishing organizations throughout the province, and she is the Centre's representative to the Saskatoon Co-op Network, a group that organizes lunch-time speakers on co-op topics throughout the year.

Heather Acton

▲ The Library

Materials signed out: 15

Materials returned: 8

Reference and research requests responded to: 47

Books catalogued: 12

New Borrowers Registered: 4
Online Catalogue Accesses: 83

▲ Events and Meetings

- ▲ June 1 — Co-operative Week of Volunteering Flag Raising Ceremony, City Hall, Saskatoon
- ▲ June 22 — Volunteer work at the Food Bank's community garden on 2nd Ave, Saskatoon
- ▲ June 24 – 27 — CASC Conference, Montreal
- ▲ September 5 — Canadian Co-operative Research Network meeting (teleconference)
- ▲ September 5–7 — Welcome Week at U of S — Promotion of the Centre and the November conference
- ▲ October 3 — Grad Studies Recruitment Fair, U of S
- ▲ October 4 — Meeting regarding digitization project
- ▲ October 4 — Centre Seminar with Kathy Bardswick
- ▲ October 15 — Co-op Week flag raising and luncheon, Regina
- ▲ October 16 — Saskatchewan History Online launch (including Co-op History Online) at the University of Saskatchewan library
- ▲ October 17 — Co-op Week Luncheon, Saskatoon

▲ Other Matters

Because of the Centre's leadership role in the event, there has been a great deal of work involved in preparing for the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference. And since it is the International Year of Co-operatives, we have put additional energy into promoting the Centre and its programs. We participated with great success for the first time in university Welcome Week activities in The Bowl in September as well as in the Grad Studies Recruitment Fair in October.

With work space increasingly at a premium in the library, Heather has begun weeding the collection — removing library materials that are no longer relevant — with the hope of creating some much needed storage space. She is also constantly updating the Centre's various websites.

What she is most excited about is the launch of our digitization project with the support of Saskatchewan History Online. The organization has provided support and expertise as well as a portal at <http://saskhistoryonline.ca>. So far we have uploaded about one hundred digitized images, including photographs, pamphlets, and some of the artifacts from our historical co-op collection. We expect to be adding many more items in the near future and will also be adding more textual details and metadata about the images that have already been uploaded.

Below are general website statistics for the four-month period 1 June to 30 September 2012: Interestingly, the top four countries in each case are Canada, the US, the UK, and India. Another notable fact is that there is a steady increase in access to the Centre's websites from mobile devices.

- ▲ Centre website: 7,387 visits from 134 countries
- ▲ LLL Social Economy Website: 1,282 visits from 78 countries
- ▲ Building Community Exhibit Website: 741 visits from 60 countries

Audra Krueger

▲ International Year of Co-operatives Activities

Most of Audra's time over the past few months has been devoted to the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference. Total sponsorship of the conference is currently at \$81,750, which includes \$5,000 awarded to the Centre from the university's conference fund. There are 257 people registered, placing the organizing committee in a good position financially. It should be noted that Centre staff have also invested substantial amounts of time and expertise in the project and should share in the success of a well-organized event. Visit www.buildabetterwest.com to learn more about the conference.

For the past year Audra has been working with OPEN, a design collaborative made up of five graduates of Dalhousie University's School of Architecture, to build an interactive art installation, on display in Kiwanis Memorial Park until 4 November. See the Highlights section of this report for more details and a photograph. The Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op was another partner in the project, providing space as well as an opportunity to mentor youth, educating them on co-operative principles and the importance of public art and architecture.

Placing the installation close to the conference venue and at a busy scenic intersection ensures that it will be seen by thousands of people; it also enables conference attendees easy access during their time in Saskatoon.

This project was an innovative way to engage the broader community and push them to think of co-operatives as an important tool in the creation of a better world. During September, the cards were circulated at Welcome Week in the U of S Bowl, at public events with community groups, and in co-operatives in Saskatoon and Regina. People completed more than eight hundred cards. There remain thousands of cards to fill out on site, which will engage the broader public in an innovative and creative way. The *StarPhoenix* featured the installation with a photograph and description in its October 23rd issue. The Canadian Co-operative Association featured the installation in its newsletter and wants to do a follow-up story for national distribution. Overall, the entire project was an incredibly effective means to introduce the public to the Centre, IYC, and our conference, increasing the profile and visibility of the Centre in the wider community.

Audra is responsible for organizing the special seminar series celebrating the International Year of Co-operatives. As noted above, the Centre has partnered with the Edwards School of Business this term to bring in CEOs of three major co-operatives: SaskCentral, The Co-operators, and Federated Co-operatives, Ltd.

▲ The CarShare Co-operative

Good progress has been made on the Saskatoon CarShare Co-operative:

- ▲ the *StarPhoenix* featured the co-operative in an article in early June
- ▲ the organization was officially incorporated (Audra is the treasure)
- ▲ a community survey was carried out and analyzed (over two hundred people participated); results suggest there is good community support for the initiative
- ▲ funding proposals have been submitted and are under consideration

This process has been invaluable in terms of experiential learning (creating a co-operative) and partnership building.

▲ Welcome Week and the Grad Studies Recruitment Fair

For the first time, the Centre took part in Welcome Week in the Bowl in September with an information table that promoted the Centre's programs, its research, and the conference. Filling out the cards for the interactive art installation provided an activity and a means to start the conversation. The Centre also had a draw for a table and desk provided by the Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op as well as a collection of swag from Affinity Credit Union. Approximately 150 people entered the draw. This outreach was valuable for accessing a wide cross-section of the campus community and involved Audra and Heather in many engaging conversations over the two days. The Centre also had a booth at the Grad Studies Recruitment Fair in October.

▲ Meetings

Audra attended the CASC meetings in Montreal in June as well as the Quebec International 2012 Summit of Co-operatives in Quebec City, 8–11 October, both of which provided unique opportunities to learn and to network around collaborative possibilities on a range of initiatives.

Initial discussions have also been undertaken with representatives from the Osgoode Law School's Critical Research Lab and Sarah Buhler, assistant professor in the College of Law here, on a possible collaborative project investigating the intersection of law and co-operatives from a human justice perspective.

Audra Also attended the community meetings associated with a potential SSHRC project investigating/measuring the impact of Station 20 West.

Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the Centre's day-to-day operations and all financial matters including monitoring the main operating fund, maintaining the monthly financial statements and all research accounts, dealing with incorrect entries and missing documentation, and processing all transactions on the university credit card.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ preparing the centre's year-end financial statements, including checking monthly financial statements for accuracy and cross-checking previous months to ensure that expenses were cleared and allocated to the appropriate category; prepared new spreadsheet for the board outlining year-end revenues and expenditures for the 2011–12 year; finally, consulted with Barb Geib, our financial analyst, to ensure that everything was ready for the board's approval
- ▲ calculating contributions, issuing invoices, processing journal vouchers, and depositing sponsor dues for the past two quarters
- ▲ working with Financial Reporting to create a new account for the funding received for the November conference (completing paperwork, obtaining signatures, submitting application)
- ▲ co-ordinating completion and submission of forms extending payroll for Maria Basualdo
- ▲ finalizing payments associated with the Manitoba Building Community Exhibit as well as processing payments associated with the Ontario exhibit
- ▲ processing numerous journal vouchers for publications sent out prior to receiving payment
- ▲ co-ordinating the distribution of payments and return of publications shipped to the CASC conference for the book sale
- ▲ assisting faculty and staff by processing payments for items purchased as well as travel claims

Other responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ editing the minutes of the last board meeting
- ▲ dealing with inquiries regarding the November conference; processing registrations invoiced to the Centre by mistake
- ▲ setting up an advisory committee meeting for one of the Centre's PhD students
- ▲ assisting Audra with preliminary arrangements (room rental, suitable venues for the sessions, catering needs, etc.) for the Young Leaders conference to be held 26–28 May 2013 in Saskatoon
- ▲ co-ordinating the order for the updated operating system for Centre computers
- ▲ gathering and submitting staff listing for new campus telephone directory

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

Karen Neufeldt

Karen's regular duties as clerical assistant include the traditional activities of that position as well as extra activities as required.

Special activities this quarter included:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the June advisory board meeting
- ▲ checking in and routing journals; assisting with circulation and research questions for library patrons; reshelving returns; placing book orders
- ▲ mailing out completed Social Economy reports and Centre publications to authors, community partners, and for legal deposit; processing payments through daily cash reports and depositing payments
- ▲ processing journal vouchers for xerox billing to other departments
- ▲ posting articles to the Centre blog; routing articles from email to faculty, staff, students, and scholars
- ▲ assisting Patty with the preparation and mailout of the Management Advisory Board packages
- ▲ sending out seminar series announcements; arranging videotaping; organizing reception for Kathy Bardswick's seminar in October; sending out announcement of new competition for the Fredeen Scholarship
- ▲ co-ordinating paperwork and office space for Scott Kim, an MA student from Virginia who is doing a practicum at the Centre
- ▲ co-ordinating the purchase, set up, and training sessions for the new xerox machine
- ▲ assisting with arrangements for the Young Leaders conference in May 2013 (room rental, accommodations arrangements, catering, etc.)
- ▲ co-ordinating the pick-up, transport, and return of the Building Community exhibit to the Mendel Art Gallery
- ▲ setting up student advisory meetings; booking space for conference
- ▲ sending out ten countdown announcements for the November conference; sending out posters as well as putting up posters around campus
- ▲ making travel, accommodation, meeting, and conference registration arrangements for Centre faculty, staff, students, scholars, and other Centre associates; processing claims upon return:
 - for Lou, Michael, Maria, Audra, Heather, and Jessica Gordon Nembhard to attend the CASC and CCA conferences in Montreal at the end of June
 - for Harold Chapman and Joan Bell to attend the CASC conference in Montreal in June
 - for Michael to attend the Mainstreaming Co-operation conference in Manchester, UK, in July
 - for Michael to attend the annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society in Chicago in July
 - for Lou and Audra to attend the Summit in Quebec City in September
 - for Michael to attend the Imagine 2012 conference in Quebec City in September
 - for Michael to attend the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Conseil de la Coopération de la Saskatchewan in Regina in October
 - for Lou to attend the International Year of Co-operatives International Symposium in Tokyo in November

The Students

Maria Basualdo has been working as the Centre's exhibit co-ordinator but has accepted a position in Ottawa as co-ordinator of the Community Research Project at the Ontario Public Interest Research Group—Ottawa. The mission of the organization is to bring together and build upon a broad-based community dedicated to social, economic and environmental justice. It is concerned with the contribution that students, the university, and the community can make towards social change. Maria continues to work for the Centre part time on exhibit-related activities.

She has produced an introductory video on the exhibit, both for prospective hosts and for anyone wanting to learn more about it. It is available on the exhibit website at http://usaskstudies.coop/exhibit/?page_id=1122. Various items from the website, the comprehensive guidebook for the exhibit (nearing completion), and the video will soon be available on a DVD/memory stick as a promotional tool.

The schedule for the full version of the exhibit is as follows:

- ▲ Montreal, 27–29 June 2012 for CCA's annual general meeting
- ▲ Saskatoon, 19 October to 4 November at the Mendel Art Gallery for Co-op Week and the Co-operating to Build a Better West conference; Affinity Credit Union is sponsoring the exhibit during this period; conference participants will visit the exhibit Thursday, 1 November, in an organized bus tour
- ▲ Swift Current, November 2012
- ▲ Guelph, with The Co-operators, April 2013

The Saskatchewan version, which focusses on co-operatives rather than social economy organizations in general, is available in a travelling display unit and is also being produced as a virtual tour. The video will make connections with the "All 4 Each" booklet developed by the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association as curriculum material for grade 8 students. We plan to distribute the DVD along with the booklet to schools from rural areas.

Maria is also one of the Centre's PhD students; she has completed her course work and is studying for her comprehensives. She has two publications in process and made one recent conference presentation:

- ▲ with Isobel Findlay and Clifford Ray, "The Ethics of Engagement: Learning with Aboriginal Co-operatives in Saskatchewan," in a forthcoming book on community-based research by the Community-University Institute for Social Research and the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit, ed. Bonnie Jeffery, Isobel Findlay, Diane Martz, and Louise Clarke
- ▲ with Nicola Chopin and David McDine, "Community-Based Research Partnerships: Students, Community, and Faculty Coproducing Knowledge by Building Trust and Developing Lasting Relationships," in the same book
- ▲ "The Role of Action Research among Indigenous Communities," at the Co-

operating for Change in the International Year of Co-operatives conference, Montreal 24–27 July 2012

Monica Juarez Adeler, currently on maternity leave from the University of Winnipeg, is working on revisions to the final chapter of her PhD dissertation titled “Enabling Policy Environments for Co-operative Development: A Comparative Experience.”

Monica was part of the group that worked for the establishment of a co-op chair at the University of Winnipeg. The Government of Manitoba, in partnership with the co-operative sector, announced during Co-op Week in October that it will provide funding to create a chair in co-operative enterprises for the development and delivery of a co-operative business program at the U of W. Congratulations, Monica, for your participation in this successful endeavour!

She is also an active member of two Co-op Vision Strategy working groups in Manitoba and serves as a board member for the Association of Cooperative Educators and the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation. Her role in the latter included organizing the annual conference in Montreal in June 2012.

Rob Dobrohoczki is working on his PhD dissertation titled “Co-operatives in Times of Crisis: Building Resilient Economies through Democratic Transformation.” He has one publication forthcoming: with Brett Fairbairn, “I felt that I had lost myself”: Credit Unions, Economies, and the Construction of Locality” in Centre book “Community Survival: Co-operative Solutions for Local Economies,” accepted for publication by UBC Press. Rob serves on the board of the Good Food Junction and the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Mike Chartier has completed the course work for his PhD and is studying for his comprehensive examinations. His research topic is “A Whiteheadian Approach to Ethical Decision Making: How Could It Facilitate Effective Co-operative Governance?” Mike teaches full time in the Saskatoon Public School system and continues to sit on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic as well as the Community Clinic Foundation.

Patricia Elliott is working on her dissertation, titled “Independent Voices: Third-Sector Media Development and Local Governance.” It will look at how third-sector media contributes to citizen participation and social change, and will examine how the co-operative sector and other social movement organizations can best support its development and sustainability. In addition to working on her PhD, Patricia is director of the Community Research Unit at the University of Regina and also teaches in the School of Journalism.

Annette Johnson has finished the coursework for her PhD in the InterD Co-op Concentration and is studying for her comprehensive exams. Her dissertation is titled “Finding a Way Out: An Investigation into the Amalgamation of Worker Co-ops and Canadian Unions.” Annette is the lead sociology instructor at the

Regina SIAST campus and teaches an introductory course as well as Aboriginal awareness. She also teaches a course at the University of Regina titled Social Structure and Personality.

Tsegi Chuluunbaatar has finished the course work for her MA. She completed her research proposal and obtained ethics approval and is currently in Mongolia conducting field research — case studies on selected rural Mongolian co-ops.