

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board



Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives



Lou Hammond Ketilson
Director



October 2005





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

The centre is also supported by Saskatchewan Industry and Resources and the University of Saskatchewan, with Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and the CUMIS Group making additional contributions.

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, Political Studies, and Sociology, among others—as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

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



Overview and Highlights



Centre Awarded Significant New Research Funding



Social Cohesion Project Update



New Interdisciplinary Seminar



Other Research Update



Conferences



InterD Research Concentration



Publications



Staff News



Visitors



Overview and Highlights

Everyone at the centre was saddened to learn of the death of former University of Saskatchewan President Leo Kristjanson, who was instrumental in the formation of the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives in 1984. Noting that co-operatives play a crucial role in all segments of the provincial economy and society, Kristjanson found it surprising that so little research was being done into their role and operation. To answer this need, he established the centre, in conjunction with people from the co-operative sector, the university, and the Government of Saskatchewan. Although the interdisciplinary model he recommended was unique at the time and not without its critics, universities are increasingly adopting this approach to problem solving, and the centre has played a valuable role in demonstrating how interdisciplinary work can be fruitfully undertaken. We began as a small unit with a grand vision and have grown over the past twenty years into a national model of university-based outreach and engagement. Our activities continue to be sustained by the vision and mandate of its founders, among whom Leo was the guiding light. Never one to take the limelight himself, however, he would have been quick to pass the credit to his partners in the co-operative sector, including Vern Leland of FCL, Norm Bromberger from the credit union system, and Glen McGlaughlin and Ted Turner from Sask Wheat Pool.

▲ Centre Awarded Significant New Research Funding

We are thrilled to announce that our application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for a regional node in the Social Economy Suite was successful! Especially noteworthy is the fact that this is the largest SSHRC grant ever received on this campus, attesting to the high regard in which the centre has come to be held by major funding agencies. Our main partner in the application is the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), one of the most successful social science research initiatives in Saskatoon in recent years. Based on the past success of CUISR and the centre in implementing community and policy-relevant research, this new undertaking will study the evolving social economy in the context of the particular geographies and histories of hinterland cities and associated areas,

investigating past and present conditions that contribute to the development of social economy vehicles, such as co-operatives, that serve many groups, including those who are often disadvantaged: women, children, and youth; First Nations and Métis persons; and rural populations. With thirty-five co-applicants and collaborators and letters of support from more than thirty community-based partners, we will be engaged with people throughout the region under study—Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario. As principal investigator, Lou has already begun meetings with partner groups in Ontario and Manitoba.

Nora is in the process of preparing the press release and planning the event to celebrate the announcement of the award, but since our research is only one node in a large national project, SSHRC has requested that we hold off on our own formal announcement until after the national press release, which is dependent on the busy schedules of various federal officials. We are expecting it will be sometime in early November.

▲ Social Cohesion Project Update

With the new project looming, there is now some urgency to wind up activities in the Social Cohesion research. To this end, twenty of us involved in the research from across the country gathered for an intense weekend writing workshop at the end of September in Waskesiu, with the goal of pulling together key ideas and findings of the project and producing a manuscript for an integrated, tightly focussed, co-authored academic book. In preparation, researchers submitted chapter proposals in July, which Brett refined and made comments upon. Authors submitted draft chapters mid-September, which were circulated to participants, who then discussed each chapter in turn during the workshop. Everyone left the workshop with a clearly defined idea about necessary revisions, and final chapters are due 31 October. Once they're in, a proposal will be prepared to submit to a mainstream publisher. Apart from the work, the weekend provided a wonderful opportunity to strengthen personal ties, which cannot help but promote cohesion among the researchers and hence a better understanding of goals and outcomes.

We also have plans for a national policy conference in early 2006 to present the research and recommendations of the project to federal and provincial civil servants and other interested parties. See Brett's section for more details.



Participants in the weekend writing workshop at Waskesiu during one of their hiking breaks.

▲ New Interdisciplinary Seminar Offering

With the assistance of a \$49,564 CIDA/Canada Corps University Partnership Program Award (Lou, Cris, and Michael were the recipients), the centre has developed a graduate seminar on co-operatives and sustainable development in Mongolia and Canada, which attracted nine students this fall. It is being co-taught by centre fellows and scholars, as well as Roger and Paul Stevens from the College of Agriculture. The grant is providing the funding for five students, Michael, and Roger to undertake a month of field research in Mongolia. This new course and the activities around it are the result of a partnership involving the centre, Paul Stevens, and the Ulaanbaatar Regional Committee in Mongolia. The purpose of the project is to promote the alleviation of poverty through co-operative development and institutional co-ordination among levels of government within the central region. It offers a marvellous opportunity for some of the centre's graduate students to gain experience abroad working in co-operative development activities. Those students enrolled in the class not able to travel to Mongolia are conducting case studies in four co-operatives in Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

▲ Other Research Update

In addition to the Mongolia project, we have several other irons in the fire. Cris and Carol's National Co-operative Data Centre project is still in progress, with the comprehensive review of co-op and other business statistics collected by SSHRC student Angela Wagner in editing with Nora.

Murray, along with Gary Storey, Bernie Sonntag, Bill Turner, Dan Ish, and Maurice Doyon (U. Laval) are well into their activities around the "Small Farmers Adapting to Global Markets Project" funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The purpose of the project is to provide training to support the development of farmers' associations in rural China. Recent activities include a training session here in July with five extension agents from counties in Sichuan and Inner Mongolia that have been selected as pilot areas, as well as a study tour in September in which we had thirteen participants. The study tour was a combination of lectures and visits that provided an overview of the role that farmer associations and agricultural co-ops have played in the development of agriculture in Canada and specifically Saskatchewan. While most of the tour took place in and around Saskatoon,



Participants in the September study tour from China. Roger, Bill Turner, Gary Storey, and Murray can be seen in the back row.

the group also spent two days in Montreal. Other activities include a trip to China by Gary and Bernie to examine the potential for farmer association development in the pilot counties, and the development of case studies that will be used in the training materials that are being developed. Roger is preparing curriculum materials for delivery to trainers in China; he will be presenting these materials on the way back from his trip to Mongolia.

We are also engaged in another project in Asia titled “Enabling Co-ops in Rural China.” Partners include the centre; The Rural Development Institute, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; and the Canadian Co-operative Association. The purpose of the project is to conduct research and develop a basic assessment tool to aid co-op stakeholders in identifying factors that enable co-operative development in rural settings. In addition to the assessment tool, deliverables include a paper and annotated bibliography, both of which are to be developed jointly by the centre and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

▲ Conferences

Centre personnel participated in a variety of international conferences over the past three months. Grad student Monica Juarez Adeler presented a paper at the Mondragon Co-operative Research Conference in Spain at the end of June. In early August, Lou, Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay, and grad student Rob Dobrohoczki presented at this year’s ICA International Co-operative Research Conference in Cork, Ireland. And Roger, Lou, and Monica attended the annual Association of Cooperative Educators conference in Alexandria, Virginia, in August, where Lou presented a paper on Aboriginal co-operatives and Roger moderated a session.

▲ InterD Research Concentration in Co-operative Studies

We have another new student in the Interdisciplinary Research Concentration in Co-operative Studies program. Mitch Diamantopoulos joined us in September to begin PhD studies on worker co-ops in Canada. We also welcomed back Rochelle Smith, the centre’s first InterD PhD student, who will be with us for the next year to complete her dissertation.

▲ Publications

We are pleased to note that Brett's booklet, *Three Strategic Concepts for the Guidance of Co-operatives: Linkage, Transparency, and Cognition*, has been translated into Spanish and published in the last issue of *Documentos*, the journal of the Centro de Estudios de Sociología del Trabajo, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, in Brazil.

Forthcoming publications include the next SSHRC book, tentatively titled "Imagination and Cohesion: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities," three occasional papers, and ten booklets. We are also committed to a co-publication with Daniel Côté (the author), Ian MacPherson of the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies, and Tom Webb of St. Mary's University in Halifax. And discussions are underway between Roger and Jorge Sousa of the State University of New York for a book on co-op conversions intended for academics, policy makers, and co-op practitioners. Collaborative work with other universities and the sector seems to be becoming a hallmark of most of the centre's activities. See Nora's section in this report for more details of communications and publication activities.

▲ Staff News

Six students — Juanita Bacsu, Kim Brown, Rob Dobrohoczki, Jason Heit, Monica Juarez Adeler, and Dwayne Pattison — completed their summer research activities, which were all connected to the SSHRC project. Rob, Jason, Monica, and Dwayne remain with us as graduate students; Kim is working on her MA thesis and Juanita moved on to the Political Studies department to pursue graduate work there. Another of our interdisciplinary students, Zhao Jun, worked in China for the summer preparing case studies of farmer associations as part of the centre's contribution to the China Project. He returned to the centre in September.

Monica, Jason, Rob, Dwayne, and Zhao, along with Michael and Roger in rotation, are spending a month in Mongolia in field placements, preparing case studies on a variety of co-ops. They will be living in ghers (tent-like structures made of felt based on the ancient portable dwellings of nomadic Mongolians and still in use today) for part of the time, with no electricity or running water, giving them a wonderful opportunity to participate in some truly grassroots research.

We are very pleased to announce that Karen has joined us on a full-time basis. With all the extra projects underway at the centre, it became impossible to function without her full-time assistance.

▲ Visitors

The centre has hosted visitors from Mongolia, the UK, and China (three different groups) over the past few months. See Roger's section and "Other Research Update" (above) for details.

Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, and Administration

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Teaching

Lou is a co-recipient (with Michael and Cris) of a \$49,564 CIDA/Canada Corps University Partnership Program Award to support a graduate module on Co-operatives and Sustainable Development in Mongolia. This project is providing the funding for five students to complete a one-month internship in Mongolia.

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada

Lou developed and is the co-ordinator of this class, which is co-taught by centre fellows and scholars to prepare the students for their internship in Mongolia. Four PhD and five MA students are registered in the class.

Lou is co-supervisor of one interdisciplinary PhD, committee chair for one InterD MA and two InterD PhDs, and a committee member for one MA in political studies and two InterD PhDs.

▲ Research

Lou is involved with many research initiatives:

- ▲ she is the principal investigator in our successful application to SSHRC's Social Economy Suite for a regional node. Similar to the CURA program, the application was jointly submitted by the centre and CUISR in partnership with academics and community partners in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario. She began meeting with research partners in Winnipeg in September and Sault Ste. Marie in October, and will hold additional meetings in Saskatoon on 7 November and Winnipeg on 8 November.
- ▲ she is a collaborator on CUISR's application to SSHRC's Community-University Research Alliance program for a project titled "Building the Social Ecology of an Inclusive Community," submitted September 05.
- ▲ she continues her role as a member of the CIRIEC-International-sponsored Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy working group for a project titled "Methods and Indicators for Evaluating the Social and Co-operative Economy." Other team members include Principal Investigator Marie Bouchard, Canada Research Chair on the Social Economy, University of Québec at Montreal; Leslie Brown, Mount St. Vincent University, Halifax; Jack Quarter, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto; and Ian MacPherson, BC Institute for Co-operative Studies, University of Victoria.
- ▲ she is co-ordinator of the Aboriginal cluster of the Social Cohesion project and has just returned from a week of interviews in Pond Inlet, her second trip to this northern community.
- ▲ she continued her research involvement with the Saskatchewan First Nations Wholesale Co-operative, writing a case study and overseeing the development of a tool kit for Aboriginal co-op development; in this role, she is a partner in this Co-operative Development Initiative project.
- ▲ she is also working with the FSIN's First Nations Agriculture Council to develop agricultural co-ops in Saskatchewan First Nations communities and overseeing the development of a tool kit to support First Nations agricultural co-op development. She will be a partner in their second CDI application.

▲ Publications

With Isobel Findlay, co-editing a special edition of *Économie et Solidarités*, the CIRIEC-Canada Journal, on the topic Social Economy, Public Economy, and Aboriginal Economic Development, forthcoming 2006

In process: three case studies — on the two CDI projects mentioned above, and the Pond Inlet study for the Social Cohesion project

“First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” in process for forthcoming centre book “Imagination and Cohesion.”

▲ Presentations

“Putting Co-operative Principles into Practice: Lessons Learned from the North,” to ICA Researchers’ Forum, Cork, Ireland, August 2005

“Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada,” invited presentation to the Association of Cooperative Educators annual meeting, Arlington, Virginia, August 2005

Forthcoming: “Innovative Community-University Partnerships,” to *Weathering the Storm or Reaping the Harvest: Universities and the Innovation Agenda*, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute for Public Policy, Saskatoon, November 2005

▲ Conferences and Annual Meetings

CUExpo Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy, Progress, Winnipeg, September 2005

Strengthening Communities on Turtle Island, 12th Annual National Conference and AGM, Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers, Sault Ste. Marie, October 2005

Executive meetings and AGM of the ICA Research Committee, Cork, Ireland, August 2005

▲ Administration and Other

In addition to her responsibilities as director of the centre, Lou is also a member of the university’s Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Pre-eminence, which is drafting a foundational document for the university. She acted as an external reviewer for the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies in early October, and she also is a member of the planning committee organizing a conference on Aboriginal Womens’ Community Economic Development in 2006.

Lou continues as vice-chair of the ICA Research Committee. During this year's annual meeting, officials decided to hold the International Researchers' Forum in Saskatoon in May 2007, in conjunction with the university's hundredth anniversary and the annual meetings of the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (team taught by centre fellows and scholars)

Brett is supervising one MA student in history and one Interdisciplinary PhD student. He is also on two Interdisciplinary PhD committees in the centre's co-ops concentration area and five MA committees in history.

▲ Research

Brett's major research activity continues to be the Social Cohesion project, which is in its final year of activity. He assisted Lorraine with organizing the September 2005 workshop in Waskesiu for members of the project research team who are contributing to a planned volume on co-operative responses to pressures in Canadian communities. After discussions at the workshop led by Brett, writers are developing and revising their pieces to produce an integrated volume for submission to a scholarly press. Brett and Nora are preparing to approach a press this fall.

Brett has also been in discussions with the Policy Research Initiative of the Government of Canada in Ottawa, and with other federal agencies, about co-organizing and co-sponsoring a policy conference in Ottawa in January or February of 2006, where senior federal officials would discuss policy implications of research on co-operatives.

Together with his research assistant Rob Dobrohoczki (an interdisciplinary PhD student in the centre's concentration area), Brett has made numerous research trips to Manitoba to do interviews and focus groups with South

Interlake Credit Union. SICU is a partner in the SSHRC project and the research there is one of the final pieces of the Social Cohesion project. The Manitoba research formed the basis of Brett and Rob's paper for the writing workshop and for the planned volume on co-operatives.

Brett is also a co-applicant on the new SSHRC project on the Social Economy, "Linking, Learning, and Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities"

In terms of smaller research grants, Brett has received two awards in 2004–05 to assist with completing the Social Cohesion project and bridging to the new Social Economy work. So far, he has used these to hire Rob as his research assistant:

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: President's SSHRC Research Fund, "Building Bridges between Social Cohesion and Social Economy Research," June 2005 (\$5,000)

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Provost and Vice-President Academic, Program of Research Support for New Department Heads, "Co-operative Membership and Globalization," July 2004 (\$5,000)

▲ Publications

The *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* appeared, and with it, Brett's articles on the Grain Growers' Grain Company of 1906, the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company of 1911, and UGG/Agricore United.

Apart from his other publications connected with Alberta and Saskatchewan's anniversary year (two book chapters previously reported, still forthcoming), Brett has another publication due out shortly in the centre's occasional papers series concerning the history of co-operatives in Saskatchewan, 1905–2005.

"Communications, Culture, and Co-operatives: Liminal Organizations in a Liminal Age," submitted for a planned volume on defining co-operative studies edited by Ian MacPherson

"Growing from the Roots: Credit Union Identities in a Changing Rural Region," in process for forthcoming centre book, "Imagination and Cohesion"

▲ Presentations

“The Development of Co-operatives in Saskatchewan,” to study tour of policy officials from China, Canada-China Small Farmers’ Associations project (CIDA-funded), 5 September 2005

“Collective Action by Prairie Farmers: A History of Farmer Organizations and Co-operatives,” to study tour of extension specialists from China, Canada-China Small Farmers’ Associations project (CIDA-funded), 21 July 2005

“The Crowd Makes the Ballgame: Stakeholders and Cooperative Success,” keynote plenary speech to The Value of Values: 49th Annual Conference, Consumer Cooperative Managers Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 10 June 2005.

“The Power Play: Linking to Members,” to the same conference, 11 June 2005. **Note:** This was a major national meeting attended by more than four hundred delegates (managers and directors) of co-operative retail food stores across the US. Brett’s participant evaluations, independently collected and analysed by the organizers, showed many positive comments and consistently high overall evaluations for content and presentation. There was a lively participation in the workshop, with many compliments after the session, requests for references to his publications, and follow-up correspondence after the conference.

“Le sociétariat coopératif et la mondialisation. La cohésion sociale à travers le marché,” to CRISES/UQAM Séminaire de synthèse — Recherche cohésion sociale et coopératives de solidarité, Université du Québec à Montréal, 15 September 2005

▲ Administration and Other

In addition to his administrative work on the Social Cohesion project, being chair of the Department of History, and vice-chair of the Planning Committee of University Council, Brett is also a member of the steering committee for the new School of International Studies planned for the university and co-organizer of an emerging Institute for Aboriginal and Indigenous Graduate Studies and Research that has received preliminary approval from the College of Arts and Science.

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

Economics 231.3: Economics of Co-operatives

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (team taught by centre fellows and scholars)

Murray is supervising two PhD and two MSc students.

▲ Research

Murray has ongoing work on a number of research activities: his smaller SSHRC project, “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives”; the large project, “Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management”; and a project titled “Evaluation of Market Opportunities and Supply Chain Structure for Biocontrol Products in Canada.” He is a co-investigator for the centre’s SSHRC-funded Social Cohesion project under the leadership of Brett Fairbairn. He has ongoing responsibilities in the China Project (see highlights section for more details). And he is also a co-applicant on the new SSHRC project on the Social Economy, “Linking, Learning, and Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities.”

▲ Publications

With K. Giannakas, “Process Innovation Activity in a Mixed Oligopoly: The Role of Cooperatives,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 87, no. 2 (2005): 406-22

“Producer Associations: The International Experience,” in *China’s Agricultural and Rural Development in the Early 21st Century*, edited by Bernard H. Sonntag, Jikun Huang, Scott Rozelle, and John H. Skerritt (Canberra: Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, 2005)

With M. Cule, “Some Implications of the Unofficial Economy-Bureaucratic Corruption Relationship in Transition Countries,” *Economics Letters*, forthcoming

With A. Yiannaka, “Strategic Patent Breadth and Entry Deterrence with

Drastic Product Innovations,” *International Journal of Industrial Organization*, forthcoming

With A. Weersink, D. Pannell, and A. Meyer-Aurich, “Agriculture’s Likely Role in Meeting Canada’s Kyoto Commitments,” *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, forthcoming

With Jason Heit and Brett Fairbairn, “Globalization and Community Response: The Rebirth of Western Canada’s Co-operative Retailing System,” in process for forthcoming centre book, “Imagination and Cohesion”

▲ Presentations

With A. Yiannaka, “On the Strategic Licensing of Product Innovations to a Competitor,” to the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society Annual Meeting, July, San Francisco, CA

With D. Mihala, “The Economic Impact of Non-Compliance in the Carbon-Offset Market,” to the American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, July, Providence, RI

With A. Yiannaka, “To Patent or Not to Patent: The Role of Optimal Patent Breadth and the Decision to Defend the Patent Right,” to the same meeting

“Farmers as Price Takers: How Farm Returns are Established,” to the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute, June, Toronto

With P. Bontems, “Organizational Structure and the Endogeneity of Cost: Co-operatives, For-Profit Firms and the Cost of Procurement,” to the Food Systems Research Group conference, June, Madison, WI

With A. Yiannaka, “Privately Optimal Patent Breadth under the Threat of Patent Validity Challenges,” to the same conference

▲ Administration and Other

Murray is the director of the Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law, and the Environment and also chair of the Interdisciplinary Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. With others involved in the SSHRC project, he took part in the writing workshop at Waskesiu, acting as resident techie, among other duties. Thanks Murray!

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 204.3: Rural Sociology

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (team taught by centre fellows and scholars)

Sociology 898.3: Rural Sociology and Development

Michael is supervising five MA students (four in sociology and one in co-op studies); he is also a committee member for one MSc in nutrition, three PhDs in co-op studies, and one PhD in interdisciplinary studies.

▲ Research

Michael is a co-investigator for the centre's SSHRC-funded "Co-operative Membership and Globalization," under the leadership of Brett Fairbairn. He continues to analyse the field research in connection with cluster two, Co-operative Membership and Changing Boundaries of Community.

Research is also underway on the other large collaborative SSHRC project in which Michael is involved—"Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food System Performance."

Along with Lou and Cris, Michael is a recipient of a \$49,564 grant for a project titled "Co-operatives and Sustainable Regional Development in Mongolia," from the Canada Corps University Partnerships in Co-operation and Development Program, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, for 2005–06. In connection with this, he is spending two weeks in Mongolia supervising the field research of the five centre grad students there for a month collecting material for a variety of case studies.

He is a co-applicant on the new SSHRC project on the Social Economy, "Linking, Learning, and Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities," and a collaborator on the national hub of this project being run out of the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies.

▲ Publications

With JoAnn Jaffe, “Victual Vicissitudes: Consumer Deskilling and the (Gendered) Transformation of Food Systems,” *Agriculture and Human Values*, forthcoming

With JoAnn Jaffe, “Sustainable Development in the New Economy: Risk, Vulnerability and Eco-Social Justice,” in *To the Digital Divide and Back: Social Welfare, Technology and the New Economy*, edited by Steven Hick, Marion E. Jones, and John R. Graham (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming 2005)

“Production Co-operatives and Co-operative Production: Legacy and Promise,” in *The Agrarian Movement in Western Canada* (working title), edited by Murray Knuttila and Robert Stirling (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, forthcoming)

With Roger Herman and Dwayne Pattison, “Revealing Relationships: Co-operatives, Communities, and Sustainable Development in a Northern Prairie Region,” in process for forthcoming centre book, “Imagination and Cohesion”

▲ Presentations

“In the Spirit of Anne Frank: Combating Racism through Community Partnerships,” panel presentation at the National Conference of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies, June, Saskatoon

Participant in workshop on solidarity co-operatives at CRISES/UQAM
Seminaire de synthèse — Recherche cohesion sociale et coopératives de solidarité, Université du Québec à Montréal, 15 September 2005

Participant in writing workshop on Social Cohesion project, September, Waskesiu.

▲ Administration and Other

Michael is the academic co-lead of the Community Economic Development Module, Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), U of S, and also a CUISR board member. He is a member of the Administrative Committee, Regional and Urban Development, in the College of Arts and Science; and a member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the Department of Sociology.

Michael is president of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation for 2005–06. He continues to serve on the Science Liaison Committee for Prince Albert National Park and acts as a manuscript reviewer for the journal *Society and Natural Resources*.

Cristine de Clercy

▲ Teaching

InterD 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development: Comparisons between Mongolia and Canada (team taught by centre fellows and scholars)

Cris is making preparations for next semester's classes, a large first-year course (Political Science 111.3: Politics in North America) as well as a fourth-year honours seminar on Canadian federalism (Political Science 405.3: Issues in Canadian Federalism).

She is a graduate supervisor for two MAs and a committee member for two others in the Political Studies Department.

Cris is a co-recipient (with Lou and Michael) of a \$49,564 CIDA/Canada Corps University Partnership Program Award to support a graduate module on Co-operatives and Sustainable Development in Mongolia. As mentioned above, this funding will support five students during their internship in Mongolia.

▲ Research

Cris happily joined the ranks of tenured faculty at the University of Saskatchewan this spring, and since returning from maternity leave in April, has focussed on completing several papers and projects. With Peter Ferguson, she undertook a large study of opinion poll reporting in the 2004 election, which resulted in several conference papers and a journal article in *Canadian Public Policy*. She also has a historical study examining women and the public sphere in Saskatchewan forthcoming in *Prairie Forum*.

She attended several conferences over the last few months, serving as a session

chair at the CASC meetings in May and giving papers at the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association as well as the Laurier Institute for the Study of Public Opinion and Policy Workshop. She represented the centre at the International Society for the Third Sector's first international conference in Paris in April; it was a great opportunity to network with many international scholars who are active in social economy research. She attended the Institute for the Public Administration of Canada's annual conference in Regina in August, which featured several sessions on government policy and the third sector. And finally, with others involved in the Social Economy project, she participated in the writing workshop at Waskesiu at the end of September.

With the help of MA student Juanita Bacsu, Cris continued to work on creating the main questionnaire to be used in the upcoming large national survey of Canadians concerning their views on co-operation, globalization, and social cohesion. This is associated with the SSHRC-funded Social Cohesion project; the survey results are expected to play a significant role in the policy book we are planning as the final publication of the project.

Cris is a co-applicant on the new SSHRC project on the Social Economy, "Linking, Learning, and Leveraging: Social Enterprises, Knowledgeable Economies, and Sustainable Communities," and a collaborator on the national hub of this project being run out of the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies.

She is also a co-recipient of a \$5,000 U of S publication subvention for the book she is co-editing with Hans Michelmann, detailed below.

▲ Publications

"Women, Public Policy and the Public Sphere in Saskatchewan, 1905–2005."
Prairie Forum, accepted, in press.

With Peter Ferguson, "Regulatory Compliance in Opinion Poll Reporting During the 2004 Canadian Election," *Canadian Public Policy* 31, no. 3 (September 2005): 243-57.

Continuity and Change in Canadian Politics: Essays in Honour of David E. Smith, edited by Cris de Clercy and Hans Michelmann (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming)

“Leadership, Political Culture, and the Conservatism of Saskatchewan Voters in the 2003 Provincial Election,” in *Democracy in Canada: Elections, Representation, and Leadership: Essays in Honour of John C. Courtney*, edited by Jeffrey Steeves and Don Story (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming)

“Leadership and Uncertainty in Fiscal Restructuring: Ralph Klein and Roy Romanow,” *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming

▲ Presentations

With Peter Ferguson, “Making the Grade? The Media and Poll Reporting in the 2004 Canadian Election,” to the Laurier Institute for the Study of Public Opinion and Policy 2005 Workshop on “Public Opinion, the Media, and Elections in Canada,” 31 May – 1 June, Waterloo, ON

With Peter Ferguson, “Regulatory Compliance in Poll Reporting in the 2004 Canadian Election,” to the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2–4 June, London, ON

Chair, panel session on “The Judiciary and the Charter,” to same meetings

Chair, panel session on “Measuring and Theorizing Social Cohesion,” Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation conference, 18–20 May, Saskatoon

▲ Administration and Other

Cris is co-ordinator for cluster one of the centre’s SSHRC project and a director of the Canadian Political Science Association board for 2003–05.

Nora Russell

Like Brett, Nora was pleased to note the publication of the *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*, for which she wrote twelve entries. For their contributions, Brett and Nora received numbered, limited-edition, leather-bound copies of the book. Much to the centre’s credit, Centre Scholar Marj Benson and advisory board member Gary Storey are noted on the acknowledgements page as part of the editorial board, with Brett and Nora as editorial board associates, and the centre itself as providing institutional support.

Nora has been working on a number of large projects since the last director's report:

- ▲ research, preparation, and writing for the centre's submission to the university's Advisory Committee on Areas of Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Pre-eminence, our contribution to a major document that will describe and celebrate the research landscape at the U of S
- ▲ editing and layout is complete for Brett's occasional paper for Saskatchewan's centennial, "*Canada's Co-operative Province*": *Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005*; this project is currently in proofreading; Nora will have to enter changes and corrections and reformat prior to publication, which is planned for early November.
- ▲ editing on Rob Dobrohoczki's occasional paper, *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*, is complete; it is with the author for approval prior to layout and proofreading
- ▲ editing of the documents resulting from SSHRC student Angie Wagner's collection of co-operative and other business statistics in connection with Cris and Carol's National Co-operative Data Centre project is at the half-way mark; two documents are with the author for approval; this will be an occasional paper as well
- ▲ preparation and layout for nine centre booklets based on some of the chapters from the recent SSHRC book, *Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Practice*, is complete; Nora is awaiting documentation from the National Library of Canada for the copyright page before publication can proceed
- ▲ preparations for the press release, supporting documentation, and reception for the acknowledgement of the success of the Social Economy application are underway; awaiting word from SSHRC as to when we can proceed
- ▲ as usual, Nora wrote and laid out this director's report
- ▲ she also has work underway on the annual report

Smaller projects over the past quarter include:

- ▲ prepared copies and supervised printing of the Social Economy application and letters of support for distribution to all co-applicants, collaborators, and community partners
- ▲ translated French commentary on our Social Economy application to share with co-applicants, etc.
- ▲ prepared ad for the Co-op Week Supplement in the *StarPhoenix*

- ▲ prepared bios for everyone from the centre going to Mongolia
- ▲ prepared files for Marj Benson's *Negotiating Synergies* for posting on the WebCT

Nora has a number of projects awaiting her attention:

- ▲ editing and layout for materials from the Co-operative Research Inventory completed for the Co-operatives Secretariat
- ▲ Brett's keynote presentation to the Connections 2005 conference, which will be an addition to the centre's booklet series
- ▲ Dan Ish's "Legislation for Farmer Co-operatives in China," a centre booklet based on an international seminar he gave in Beijing in April
- ▲ editing and layout of the translation from CRISES, *The Case of the Saint-Camille Care and Services Solidarity Co-operative and its Impact on Social Cohesion*, which will be an occasional paper
- ▲ preparing the centre's fall newsletter
- ▲ editing and layout for a number of research reports prepared by summer researchers in connection with the SSHRC project

Nora takes part in regular meetings of the Editors' Association of Canada (EAC) and the Saskatchewan Publisher's Group (SPG), whose monthly newsletter continues to supply useful industry information and offers an opportunity for the centre to advertise new developments in its own publishing program. She attended the SPG fall workshops in Regina, 22–23 September, and will be taking part in the EAC professional development seminar in Saskatoon in November. With other centre personnel and colleagues from Ontario, Québec, and Nova Scotia, Nora participated in the writing workshop in Waskesiu at the end of September and awaits in anticipation the many book chapters scheduled to arrive over the next few weeks. Finally, Nora was pleased to be the centre's representative at the Co-op Merit Awards dinner in Regina, 17 October.

Roger Herman

Roger has spent considerable time during the past few months gearing-up for the beginning of the Social Economy research project. In connection with this, he prepared two internal grant applications to the university's Research Services office. In total, his efforts netted us \$10,000 towards defraying the cost of the competitive grant application process. He also gave a presentation on the project in Regina at a meeting of the federal, provincial, and territorial officials responsible for co-ops.

Roger continues to devote a portion of his time to research activities for cluster two of the SSHRC project, “Co-operative Membership and Changing Boundaries of Community.” Together with Michael Gertler and Dwayne Pattison, Roger is preparing a chapter for the forthcoming book “Imagination and Cohesion.” To that end, he, too, was a participant in the Waskesiu writing workshop.

Roger is part of the team working on the China Project. In connection with this, he took part in the week-long training program for five Chinese agronomists in July and also in the study tour arranged for thirteen senior Chinese government officials in September. He is developing curriculum/training materials that will later be delivered to groups of trainers in China and will travel to China in mid-November to pilot the materials.

Along with other centre faculty and scholars, Roger is part of the instruction team for a graduate class in Co-operatives and Sustainable Development. The course involves a month-long student placement in Mongolia. Roger will supervise five students for the second half of the field placement during the first couple of weeks in November.

Together with Jorge Sousa (State University of New York), Roger is planning a book-length manuscript on co-operative conversions. The research findings are intended for academics, policy makers, and co-op practitioners and will include a variety of case studies of organizations that have either converted from (demutualized) co-ops or converted into co-operatives. It will analyse both the rationale for conversion and outcomes.

Roger has assisted in hosting a number of visitors to the centre over the past few months. He met in late June with a group of visiting Mongolian scholars to discuss the history and contemporary co-operative experience in Canada. Later in the summer, he provided an overview of co-operatives in Canada and discussed current issues facing these organizations with a group of Chinese officials studying English at the University of Saskatchewan. Roger and Murray also hosted a UK visitor from the English Farming and Food Partnerships organization. Duncan Rawson has been studying New Generation Co-operatives in the United States and Canada with hopes of applying that organizational model in the UK agricultural sector.

Roger represents the centre on a number of committees serving a variety of purposes. One is a group of community economic development organizations working to develop a regional CED umbrella organization. Another is a

national social economy discussion group facilitated by the Canadian Co-operative Association. A third is an advisory committee of the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan planning an international community development conference for Saskatoon in 2008. And he continues as the centre's representative to the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development.

Roger serves on the board of the Saskatoon Community Clinic, sitting on the Operations Committee and chairing an ad hoc committee developing policy to deal with client complaints against clinic physicians. He is also on the board of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE). Attending the annual institute in Alexandria, Virginia, in August, he was re-elected to another three-year term. Part of his responsibilities include program planning for the August 2006 ACE institute, to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Lorraine Salt

▲ SSHRC Project Administration

The Social Cohesion project is beginning to wind down, though there remains much to be done. Lorraine continues to be involved with budgeting and planning for the final months of the project. She has received access to the university's financial accounting system, UniFi, which has made it easier to monitor the project accounts. Over the summer she submitted two successful research license applications — to the Nunavut Research Institute and the Aurora Research Institute in NWT. As is usual in these cases, the application process was a long one and several months passed before approval was received. The researchers, Lou and Isobel, are traveling to NWT and Nunavut this fall for their final round of interviews.

Lorraine also arranged for a translation of a case study published by CRISES, which will become a centre occasional paper, *The Case of the Saint-Camille Care and Services Solidarity Co-operative and its Impact on Social Cohesion*. Written by Geneviève Langlois and Patrick De Bortoli, it is a nice fit with the Social Cohesion project.

Lorraine spent a significant amount of time organizing a writing workshop for researchers within the SSHRC project. The weeks preceding the workshop

saw investigators submitting proposals based on their project research. Meanwhile, Lorraine made travel arrangements and dealt with accommodations, meeting space, and meals for the duration of the workshop, held in Waskesiu. Researchers submitted draft chapters prior to the workshop, which were distributed to everyone attending. In the end, twenty of us went to Waskesiu with the intention of finalizing the drafts during two days of intensive discussion among the group. This should result in a cohesive, tightly knit book on project research. The workshop went off without a hitch and Lorraine was relieved to pass on responsibility for the final product to Nora. It was a wonderful opportunity to come face-to-face with distant researchers, some of whom Lorraine was meeting for the first time. A second publication is planned based on a policy conference that is in the early stages of organization for the New Year. Once dates and co-sponsors are determined, Lorraine will be involved in organizing this final project conference, likely in Ottawa.

With the news of our successful application for a second SSHRC grant, this one on the social economy, Lorraine will be involved in preliminary meetings with project partners, setting-up project files and procedures, in terms of information flow, record keeping, budgeting, and other administrative matters.

▲ The Website(s)

Lorraine is responsible for updating the centre's website (<http://www.usaskstudies.coop>), as well as the social cohesion website (<http://www.social-cohesion.coop>). In the process, she is improving her Dreamweaver™ skills while expanding her knowledge of the already familiar HTML. The ins and outs of the university's web-hosting functions are slowly becoming more familiar, and with the new SSHRC grant investigating the social economy, a third website can't be far away.

▲ Other Research

Lorraine submitted a successful U-STEP application to the university, a program that provides partial funding for a U of S student for summer research employment. This grant provided funds to hire Tim Lewis to assist the Saskatoon Credit Union's Martin Chicilo in developing and implementing a survey of members' perceptions of credit union community development activities.

She spent a fair amount of time this fall compiling a list of co-operative courses taught by Centre Fellows and Scholars for a national survey of co-operative educators, which is being administered by the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies in Victoria. This has resulted in a comprehensive list of centre courses, both regular and special topics, offered at various times.

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

▲ The Library

After being unstaffed during most of 2004, the library is continuing to benefit from some TLC. For instance, a total of nine boxes of duplicate books were inventoried and sent to Ian MacPherson at the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies. In addition, Lorraine has taken considerable pride in being able to preserve the oral history project undertaken in 1994 by the above-mentioned Martin Chicilo, then a graduate student. This project was a collection of videotaped interviews with older persons who were affiliated with or grew up within the co-operative movement in Saskatchewan. It was feared that after more than ten years, these videotapes might have deteriorated to the point of being unusable, but Lorraine was able to review them and has successfully transferred the interviews to DVD, giving researchers access to nineteen interviews with local co-operators.

After the summer break, classes are in full swing again and library patrons are beginning to reappear. Lorraine enjoys interacting with and assisting students.

▲ Professional

Lorraine is the centre's new representative to the Co-operative Network of Saskatoon. She is an active participant in the Special Libraries Network, as well as in the Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA) and the Canadian Library Association. She is also a member of the SLA's budding Library Advocacy Committee. In May she attended the SLA conference in Saskatoon, and in June she took part in the Canadian Library Association's conference in Calgary, at which time she made a point of visiting the local Mountain Equipment Co-op store.

Patty Scheidl

The many research projects in which we are involved have kept all centre personnel on their toes over the last few months, particularly Patty and Karen, since aspects of all activities inevitably impact the main office. Their organizational skills and attention to detail go a long way towards making life manageable for all of us.

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the centre's day-to-day operations and undertakes many additional duties as they arise. She maintains the centre's monthly financial statements as well as the SSHRC project accounts and any other research accounts with which faculty and staff are involved. Other financial activities include helping Karen with publication purchases; dealing with quarterly invoices and deposits for centre sponsors; processing all other invoices and cheques that come into the centre for purchases and payments; and investigating the errors that occur from time to time.

Patty spent a great deal of time in September and October working on the centre's year-end financial statements. This complex and time-consuming process involved checking the monthly statements to ensure accurate processing, making sure that the 2004–05 expenses were all included in the statement provided to the board, and many phone calls to deal with errors and omissions. The final step was meeting with our financial consultant to ensure that our numbers balanced, which resulted in many more phone calls and revisions to the statement.

Patty spends endless hours setting up meetings. These arrangements always involve many e-mails and phone calls to determine dates, preparing and sending out invitations, booking rooms, ordering refreshments, printing and distributing materials, and organizing conference calls. On an ongoing basis, she makes all the arrangements for the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes co-ordinating a suitable date, preparing the minutes, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch.

Patty is responsible for making travel arrangements for centre personnel and others, which this quarter have been greatly complicated by visits from two groups from China and the trip to Mongolia. Activities include:

- ▲ transportation, hotel arrangements, and other miscellaneous items for the Chinese study group here 18–22 July
- ▲ similar arrangements for the second group from China involved in the Farmers Association Development Strategy study tour here 4–14 September; in addition, travel and hotel arrangements for the group

for their side trip to Montreal and Toronto, as well as separate flight and hotel accommodations for the translators; Patty also made arrangements with CIDA regarding health care insurance for everyone, which involved completing and sending off forms and then collecting and distributing the processed cards

- ▲ travel arrangements (flights, hotels, car rental) for Brett and Rob Dobrohoczki's trip to Winnipeg to do interviews for the SSHRC project in August and September
- ▲ flight arrangements and hotel bookings for Lou to travel to Winnipeg to attend CUexpo in September
- ▲ the same for her trip to Victoria in October
- ▲ she assisted Karen in making the travel arrangements for the five students and two faculty members who went to Mongolia (see Karen's section for more details)

Patty is also responsible for processing all invoices, travel claims, and professional fees, as appropriate, once people have returned or visitors have left.

Other responsibilities have included attending meetings in October regarding the new computer wiring being installed in the Diefenbaker Centre; co-ordinating the transcription of interview tapes from Brett and Rob's work in Manitoba; assisting Lorraine with preparing materials and other miscellaneous tasks associated with the writing workshop at Waskesiu in September; assisting Lou in the preparation of the new graduate level special topics course sent to Graduate Studies for approval; contacting instructors for reading lists and arranging for materials to be printed and distributed; and finalizing arrangements with Facilities Management regarding the assembly of the new ergonomic workstations in the main office, which involved a major reorganization of current shelving, storage, and filing materials.

On an ongoing basis Patty assists the centre's students with whatever needs they happen to have. This may involve preparing paperwork for hiring purposes, applications to programs, or scholarship applications, ordering keys, setting up office space, arranging for computer access, and general orientation activities. This quarter involved paperwork for students who had completed their summer employment and making the arrangements for the new students who joined us this fall.

Karen Neufeldt

In early September, with the workload in the main office having reached unmanageable proportions, Karen joined us on a full-time basis, which has

been an enormous help to Patty. She continues with her regular duties, which include reception, paperwork, cash reports, filing, xeroxing and printing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, keeping track of stock for reprints, as well as invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills. Karen is also responsible for sending out the monthly seminar series announcements and periodic newsletters, updating various databases, whatever other mailouts are required, and helping to prepare packages for the advisory board meeting.

Special activities this quarter included:

- ▲ processing various travel and expense claims in connection with the China Project
- ▲ helping Patty prepare the reading packages for the new InterD seminar, Co-operatives and Sustainable Development
- ▲ assisting Lorraine with materials for the writing workshop in Waskesiu
- ▲ making travel and hotel arrangements for Lou's trip to Sault Ste. Marie, Ottawa, and Pont Inlet in October
- ▲ making the very complex travel arrangements for the five students and two faculty who went to Mongolia during October/November; this involved endless phone calls to obtain information regarding immunizations, insurance, visa and passport information, etc., plus maintaining close contact with Paul Stevens regarding the many special issues that arose concerning this trip
- ▲ making travel and hotel arrangements for Lou, Brett, and Lorraine to go to Winnipeg in connection with meetings for the Social Economy project in early November
- ▲ helping Lorraine in the library with shelving and ordering books

Karen also undertakes many incidental tasks for faculty, staff, and scholars. And both she and Patty note the many challenges with the new UniFi financial accounting system implemented in the spring that continue to impact the centre's operations.

Angela Wagner

Angie continues to work on her MA thesis titled "Membership Identity and Consumer Behaviour: The Case of Consumer Co-operatives." Her work under Cris's supervision on sources of business statistics for co-operatives and other organizations is about half-way through the editing stage; it will be an addition to our occasional papers series.

Jason Heit

Jason spent the summer as a research assistant on activities related to cluster four of the SSHRC project. He has resumed the course work for his MA and is one of the students spending a month's internship in Mongolia. With other centre personnel, he took part in the writing workshop in Waskesiu at the end of September; he is working with Murray and Brett on a chapter about globalization and community response. Jason has a paper titled "Reforming the Risk Society: A Study of Denmark's Consensus Conference Model and Danish Society" under review with the *Electronic Journal of Sociology*. And the paper he wrote on website design and quality in selected co-operative organizations awaits Nora's attention for editing as a research paper in the collection gathering around the SSHRC project.

Kim Brown

Kim has finished the course components for her master's program and is currently working on her thesis, which is connected with the Consumer Identities in Urban Communities cluster of the SSHRC Social Cohesion project. Her thesis topic is board diversity in credit unions; she is examining how credit unions both achieve and maintain board diversity.

Over the summer she continued work on her thesis and did research for the centre, assisting Lou with a literature review on Canadian Inuit. She also compiled a data set that includes various statistics on Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and is currently working on a summary that captures the history of government policy regarding the chief and council structure in First Nations communities.

Juanita Bacsu

Juanita worked with Cris over the summer, carrying on with the work she began last summer on a master survey instrument that will help to provide insight into the relationships among co-operative membership, globalization, and social cohesion. This is in connection with SSHRC cluster one. As Cris's assistant, she participated in the Waskesiu writing workshop in September; she and Cris's chapter, "Globalization, Public Opinion, and Public Policy," will likely become part of the policy book being planned as the final publication to come out of the Social Cohesion project. Juanita left the centre in the fall to pursue an MA in the Department of Political Studies.

Monica Juarez Adeler

Monica has entered the second year of the course work for her interdisciplinary PhD. Her research on e-commerce transactions and co-operative membership, comparing activity in Canada and the European Union, falls into SSHRC cluster four.

Monica presented a paper at the Mondragon Co-operative Research Conference in Spain, 28–30 June titled “Technology, Globalization, and Co-operatives: Reflections on New Economic, Legal and Socio-Cultural Complexities and the Implications for Co-operatives.” In early August, with funding from an Association of Cooperative Educators scholarship, she attended the ACE conference, “Cooperative Education: Understanding Cooperation as a Strategic Business and Community Asset” in Alexandria, Virginia. And at the end of September, she took part in the writing workshop in Waskesiu.

During the past summer she worked on the development of a First Nations Co-operative toolkit as a result of a contract between the First Nations Agricultural Council of Saskatchewan and the centre. As part of her duties, she travelled to the Pasqua and Ochapowace reserves to meetings with farmers willing to create co-ops on reserve.

With other graduate students at the centre, Monica is taking the InterD seminar on co-operatives and sustainable development and is spending a month in Mongolia doing fieldwork for case studies on a variety of co-ops.

Rob Dobrohoczki

Rob has embarked on the second year of his part-time PhD studies. This past summer, he worked as Brett’s assistant on the Social Cohesion project, exploring member identity in two Manitoba credit unions, and finishing the fieldwork in September with interviews and focus groups. In August, he presented a paper at the ICA research conference in Cork, Ireland titled “Co-operatives as Social Policy Instruments for Creating Social Cohesion in Communities.” He was a participant in the Waskesiu writing workshop and is working with Brett on a chapter titled “Growing from the Roots: Credit-Union Identities in a Changing Rural Region” for the new SSHRC book, “Imagination and Cohesion.” He is working on Nora’s recommended revisions to his occasional paper, “Social Cohesion through Market Democratization: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation.” And he is participating in the Mongolian internship with other centre students.

April Bourgeois

April is working on a contract basis for the centre helping to prepare the resource kit for co-operative development within First Nation communities. This comprises part of Lou's work with the Saskatchewan First Nations Co-operative.

Zhao Jun

An interdisciplinary PhD student under Murray's supervision, Jun worked in China for the China Project this past summer, conducting a literature review, collecting case studies of farmer associations and co-operatives, and interviewing officials at research institutes who are engaged in similar work. Based on this, he wrote a background paper outlining the theoretical thinking behind group action by farmers. He also drafted two case studies — one on a vegetable growers' co-operative in Shandong Province, the other on a rabbit producers' co-op in Sichuan Province.

In mid-August, Jun travelled with Bernie Sonntag and Gary Storey to Sichuan and Inner Mongolia, interviewing people in dozens of farmer co-operatives and associations and delivering training sessions to farmers. At the same time, they conducted policy dialogue with government agencies and thinktanks, believing that an enabling environment is critical to the development of farmers' organizations. As a result of this, Jun wrote up two more case studies, one on a swine producers' co-operative, the other on a rapeseed producers' co-op, both located in Sichuan Province.

After returning to Saskatoon at the end of August, Jun became involved in hosting a training group headed by Dr. Han Jun of the Development Research Center of the State Council of China. His interpretation activities, he said, provided a terrific learning opportunity for him, giving him a chance to communicate with managers and members of various farmers' groups in the province, including both traditional and New Generation Co-ops, ranging from a small community-based co-op to a federated co-op with connections throughout western Canada.

Jun returned to the centre just in time to gain some orientation from the InterD seminar on co-ops and sustainable development and go off to Mongolia to do field research. He will be returning with the rest of the group mid-November.

Dwayne Pattison

Dwayne began his interdisciplinary MA this fall and intends to examine the regionalization of co-operatives in northern Saskatchewan. He worked for the summer with Michael and Roger on cluster two of the SSHRC project, creating a profile of the Prince Albert community and surrounding areas, interviewing key informants of the PA Credit Union and the PA Co-operative Association. Michael, Rob, and Dwayne made a three-day trip to Big River, Prince Albert, and La Ronge at the beginning of August to conduct interviews; Dwayne spent the remainder of the summer transcribing and analysing the discussions. Dwayne is enrolled in the Co-operatives and Sustainable Development seminar and with others, is presently in Mongolia conducting field research and enjoying the culture.

Rochelle Smith

Rocky was our first interdisciplinary PhD student, having begun her studies in 1997 and spending four years with us before having to return to her duties as manager of Policy and Program Development, Business Services Branch, at Saskatchewan Industry and Resources. She returned to the centre this fall to work on her dissertation, which is looking at the relationship between Saskatchewan's co-operative community health clinics and the government. Welcome back, Rocky!

Mitch Diamantopoulos

Mitch is the most recent addition to the centre's Interdisciplinary Research Concentration in Co-op Studies program. His PhD research will concentrate on the promise and potential of worker co-operatives in Canada, examining what he is calling the "worker enterprise development gap." He will compare the cultural, public policy, and infrastructural dimensions of sector strength in Québec and the European Union to the sector's comparatively slow start in English-speaking North America.