



Director's REPORT

to the
Management
Advisory
Board

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

March 2008



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

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

The university not only houses our offices but provides in-kind contributions from a number of departments and units—Agricultural Economics, History, Management and Marketing, and Sociology, among others—as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

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



Overview and Highlights



Social Economy Project Update



Other Research Update



Conferences and Workshops



Publications



Faculty/Staff/Student News



The Seminar Series



Visitors



Partners and Developments



Overview and Highlights

▲ Social Economy Project Update

A major undertaking this past quarter was the preparation of the Mid-Term Report to SSHRC, outlining in great detail our accomplishments to date. This activity involved some degree of participation from everyone at the centre, plus input from others across the node. The final document, nearly two hundred pages that included twenty appendices, will soon be available on the centre's website.

Twelve research projects have been completed; another thirty are new in the past year, and eight are ongoing since the start of the project. In total, fifty-six projects have been identified and funding allocated, with the potential of an additional eight to twelve to be funded through the Call for Proposals process utilized by the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance and CUISR in Saskatoon.

The knowledge resulting from this work is starting to be disseminated. Project members — community partners, academics, and students — have all been active during the past year making presentations to a broad variety of audiences, government, academics, and community. Fourteen presentations have been given to workshops, thirty-five to conferences, six to symposia, and sixty-one to meetings with a variety of groups. Eight research reports have been written and three working papers are complete. Three non-peer-reviewed book chapters have been submitted; two peer-reviewed and one non-peer-reviewed chapter have been accepted. Two peer-reviewed journal articles have been submitted and another has been accepted. A manual and a self-assessment tool have been developed; a second manual is in process.

Employment and training of graduate and undergraduate students is an integral part of this project. Thus far the project has supported six MA and six PhD thesis research projects related to the project objectives, and one postdoctoral project. Graduate students have participated in research design, discussions with partners, field research, data analysis, preparation and writing of studies, and presentation of results in both academic and community settings. Student placements with community partners have enabled seventeen undergraduate, sixteen masters, and three doctoral students to learn about the social economy generally and to conduct specific research for the partner involved. More projects yet to get underway will offer still more training opportunities.

▲ Other Research Update

- ▲ Lou's contract with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to write a position paper on using co-op models to finance Aboriginal economic development

- ▲ Brett's SSHRC project "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations"
 - ▲ Michael's "Co-operative Marketing Options for Organic Agriculture," funded by the centre and by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan Program
 - ▲ Rose Olfert, Mark Partridge, and intern Chipo Kangyi's project examining Co-operatives Secretariat data to identify the impact of co-ops and credit unions on communities across Canada
 - ▲ Murray's "Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives"
 - ▲ Murray's "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"
 - ▲ Murray's "Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada"
- ▲ Conferences and Workshops
- ▲ joint annual meeting of Minnesota Association of Cooperatives and Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, Minneapolis, 13 November 2007
 - ▲ Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute Symposium, "Growing Canada's Rural Economies," Winnipeg, 28 February 2008
 - ▲ Annual Conference and AGM of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, St. Cloud, 4 February 08
 - ▲ "Working Together for Shared Vision and Purpose," Saskatchewan Economic Development Association conference, Saskatoon, 19–20 March 08
 - ▲ Federated Co-operatives Limited's annual meetings, 1–4 March 08
- ▲ Publications
- ▲ *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation*, an occasional paper by Rob Dobrohoczki — published in January
 - ▲ *Between Solidarity and Profit: The Agricultural Transformation Societies in Spain (1940–2000)*, a booklet by visiting fellow Cándido Cervantes — at printer
 - ▲ *The Agriculture of the Middle Initiative, Pre-Mobilizing Considerations, and Formal Co-operative Structure*, occasional paper by Thomas Gray, a rural sociologist with the United States Department of Agriculture — edited, with author for approval
 - ▲ *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, by Roger and Jorge Sousa — centre book, in process
 - ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, centre book based on Social Cohesion research edited by Brett and Nora — in process
 - ▲ *The Social Economy in Quebec: Lessons and Challenges for Internationalizing Co-operation*, by Marguerite Mendell — editing complete, with author for revisions

- ▲ *Consumer Identities and Co-operative Membership*, a research report by Colin Leinenweber — editing in process
- ▲ plus reprints of ten titles and our sponsor-focussed Co-op Strategies newsletter

▲ Faculty/Staff/Student News

- ▲ Brett was appointed University Provost and VP Academic effective 1 July 08; as a result, he resigned his position as chair of University Council and will be stepping down from the headship of the History Department at the end of June
- ▲ Candido Cervantes, who was with us for six months as a visiting fellow from the University of La Laguna, Canary Islands, Spain, left us in January; while here he made a seminar presentation and produced a centre booklet
- ▲ Catherine Leviten-Reid joined us in January as a postdoctoral fellow for a year's term; she recently finished her PhD at the University of Wisconsin– Madison; her current research interest is in child-care co-operatives
- ▲ Curtis Stofferahn, a sociologist from the University of North Dakota, also joined us in January; he will be here for three months as a visiting fellow doing research on the former Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
- ▲ former MA student Jason Heit, who has been working on a contract with Michael examining initiatives by Prairie organic producers to use co-ops to market their products, left us in early March to take up a position as an economic development officer with the Longlake Regional Economic Development Authority in Watrous, SK
- ▲ grad student Kama Soles received the 2007 Concentra Bursary
- ▲ we have a new student in the Co-op Concentration — Tsegi Chuluunbaatar, who acted as an interpreter for the group of students who went to Mongolia a couple of years ago, will be working with Lou and Michael on the role of women in Mongolia
- ▲ and we have a new Social Economy scholarship student, Karlah Rudolph, who will be working with Brett and Murray on Brett's new SSHRC project "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations"

▲ The Seminar Series

- ▲ "New Farmers' Co-operative Law: A Window of Opportunity for Chinese Small Farmers' Group Action?" by PhD student Zhao Jun, the Fredeen Scholarship presentation with the Fredeen family present, 13 December 07
- ▲ "A Rose by Any Name: The Thorny question of Social-Economy Discourse in Canada," Brett Fairbairn, 31 January 08
- ▲ "Post Co-operative Fever: The Future of New Generation Co-operatives in North Dakota," by visiting fellow Curtis Stofferahn, 28 February 08
- ▲ "Measuring Co-operative Performance," by Anne Hoyt from the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, 20 March 08

- ▲ “CCA’s Youth Experience International: Two Internships in Africa,” by Kim Brown and Angie Wagner, 27 March 08

▲ Visitors

- ▲ members of a CCA organized tour of four international credit union CEOs from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Thailand
- ▲ William Nelson, president of the CHS Foundation in Minnesota, visited Saskatoon to attend a CSC seminar and to discuss the foundation’s interest in the centre’s activities

▲ Partners and Developments

This section highlights relevant issues and developments among centre sponsors.

SaskCentral (Karl Baumgardner reporting)

Management

In January, CEO Sid Bildfell retired and was succeeded by Ken Anderson, CFO. Ken Koselofski of CUETS became the new CFO of SaskCentral.

Dividends

On 28 February 08, the board approved a record dividend of \$30 million based on the sale of CUETS. There will be no dividend based on earnings from operations in 2007. There will also be an allocation of \$250,000 for the System Sponsorship Fund. These are in addition to the \$4.3 million dividend declared in December 07.

No dividend was paid on operational income due to a \$29.1 million provision resulting from the ABC Paper disruption. For 2007 (legal entity) assets were \$1.398 million; equity, \$225.8 million; and investee earnings, \$11.15 million.

Scholarships and Sponsorships

Co-operative Studies Scholarship: SaskCentral will provide an annual scholarship of \$2,500 for three candidates annually, up to a maximum of three years (\$7,500).

SaskCentral decided to make an annual contribution of \$10,000 to Sask Crime Stoppers. The sponsorship of Sask Soccer ended in 2007, but the sponsorship of the Credit Union Eventplex (\$50,000 per year) will continue to 2014.

Annual General Meeting

SaskCentral’s AGM will be held on 9 April 08 at TCU Place in Saskatoon. There will be a keynote speaker from the government to highlight its vision for the future of the province and the role for co-operatives. Coro Strandberg, former chair of Vancity Credit Union, will provide an overview of trends in corporate social responsibility and the role/opportunity for credit unions.

The Co-operators (Karl Baumgardner reporting)**Financial** (31 December 07)

Net income was \$154.8 million, which exceeded plan by \$40.9 million (35.9 percent)

Challenges in 2007 included high losses due to storms and auto insurance payouts.

Forecast for 2008

Costs related to storms are expected to be a challenge. In January 2008, Ontario and Québec storms resulted to \$50 million to insurers. Some insurers are bracing for underwriting losses in the auto insurance lines. Costs related to auto claims — repair, health care, and legal — are increasing (12 percent in the past two years).

Distribution channels for insurance will become broader and pose challenges for direct writers or agents (e.g., The Co-operators). Another issue is the ability to attract new talent in the industry due to the large baby boomer retirement factor (see The Co-operators' Meeting Highlights included with this package).

Concentra Financial (Karl Baumgardner reporting)**Financial** (31 December 07)

Assets were \$3,589,473, a growth of 14.9 percent.

Net interest income declined \$33.3 million, which was 33 percent below plan.

Non interest income was \$15.16 million, below the budget of \$20.9 million.

Net income was \$1.877 million, well below the budget of \$14.763 million.

Due to provisions for AB Commercial Paper and low interest revenue, profitability was well below the targets of the business plan. The new accounting rules had some impact on the net income.

2007 Strategic Progress

Management made extensive consultations with credit unions and centrals across Canada.

The growth strategy was expanded with research and dialogue, with tier two and three co-operatives to explore alliances and partnerships.

The human resources plan focused on training and development strategies to ensure a highly skilled workforce.

Corporate social responsibility was manifested by staff involvement in community organizations and more than \$150,000 in donations to the community.

Federated Co-operatives Limited (Marilyn McKee reporting)**Financial**

The 79th annual report dealt with the fiscal year ending 31 October 2007.

Sales \$5.8 billion

Savings \$659 million
Allocation to members \$452 million
Total Cash redemptions in 2007 totalled \$414 million

Annual General Meeting

FCL's 79th annual meeting was held 1–4 March 2008 with the theme, "Co-operatives ... The Future is Ours!"

The delegates at the AGM passed a resolution that directs the FCL board of directors to reduce the number of FCL districts from the current nineteen to fifteen. The board will determine the process that will lead to this governance model and the time line to implement it. Other resolutions included store upgrade assistance, corporate bulk fuel plant locations, management long-term disability, and co-op private label products.

Delegates were offered eight seminars prior to the meeting. These courses are offered for credit towards the Director Development Certification levels I and II.

Delegates also heard success stories from retail co-ops that have experienced growth in new ventures, with new facilities, or mergers/amalgamations with other retails.

NewGrade Energy Inc. became a wholly owned subsidiary of FCL on 1 November 07, when the Saskatchewan share was sold to FCL. Previous to this, NewGrade was owned 50 percent by the province and 50 percent by FCL.

The expansion of CCRL in Regina was announced in January and further details were explained to AGM delegates. The refinery complex will be undergoing an expansion and some modifications to the existing facility over the next four years. The expansion is required to meet the growing gasoline and diesel requirements of the Co-operative Retailing System (CRS). This expansion will take the refinery from 100,000 barrels per day of crude processing capability to 130,000 bpd. The FCL board approved the \$1.9 billion refinery expenditure 24 January 08. We are proud to state that this expansion is projected to be completed with internal financing.

The CRS and FCL are experiencing growth and success in many areas. The future of many small co-ops will be determined by their ability to serve their members while remaining a viable business. Some may have to adapt or merge with neighbouring co-ops to remain in business.

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

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Teaching

Interdisciplinary Studies 898.3: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development; Lou co-ordinated the course and is one of several people team teaching it

▲ Graduate Supervision

Lou is co-supervisor for Rochelle Smith (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies). She is also a committee member for Kim Morrison and Monica Juarez Adeler, both PhD students in Interdisciplinary Studies. She is committee chair for Kama Soles and Dwayne Pattison, both MA students in Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as Rob Dobrohoczki, Zhao Jun, and Mitch Diamantopoulos, all PhD students in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Kim Morrison successfully defended her dissertation 1 February. Congratulations, Kim!

As chair of the Co-op Studies Concentration, Lou facilitated the entry of Tsegi Chuluunbaatar into the program. Tsegi was the interpreter for the group that went to Mongolia two years ago in connection with the Co-ops and Sustainable Development class.

▲ Research

Lou is a participant in many research initiatives.

- ▲ with Kim Brown, she is working on a project with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to write a position paper on using co-operative models to finance Aboriginal economic development. The study, which examines the appropriateness of transforming Aboriginal Capital Corporations to the credit union model, is due to be completed 31 March.
- ▲ principal investigator for the centre's Social Economy project, "Linking, Learning, Leveraging," jointly undertaken by the Centre and the Community-University Institute for Social Research in partnership with academics and community partners in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario
- ▲ part of the Finance Cluster of the Social Economy project and, with Roger and in conjunction with CCA, is conducting research on the level and types of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian co-ops and credit unions

- ▲ co-applicant in the Atlantic, Southern Ontario, and Northern Social Economy regional nodes; co-investigator in research project entitled “Integrating Social Economy Curriculum into Canada’s Business Schools”
 - ▲ co-applicant for “Tracking Quality of Life in Saskatoon,” the third in a series of surveys regarding quality of life in nine Saskatoon neighbourhoods; survey was completed in January 07; Lou is writing articles on the quality of life of Aboriginal peoples and of women
 - ▲ member of the CIRIEC-International-sponsored Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy working group for a project titled “Methods and Indicators for Evaluating the Social and Co-operative Economy”; other member of the Canadian team is Marie Bouchard, Canada Research Chair in the Social Economy; a research assistant is gathering information on evaluation strategies used by social economy actors in Canada outside of Québec
 - ▲ co-coordinator of the Aboriginal Cluster of the Social Cohesion project; drafting report based on interviews conducted October 05; used as a basis for paper presented to Innovation conference in Montreal in November — accepted for conference proceedings
 - ▲ member of the Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation led by Denis Harrisson at CRISES, University of Quebec at Montreal
 - ▲ co-applicant with Jean Marc Fontan, Université du Québec à Montréal, in a SSHRC application for a grant aimed at creating an interuniversity research network devoted to the social economy and social innovation
 - ▲ co-applicant in Murray’s SSHRC-funded “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century”
 - ▲ continued involvement with the Saskatchewan First Nations Wholesale Co-operative, writing a case study and overseeing the production of a tool-kit for Aboriginal co-op development; she is a partner in this Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) project
 - ▲ also working with the FSIN’s First Nations Agriculture Council to develop agricultural co-ops in Saskatchewan First Nations communities, and overseeing the production of a tool-kit to support First Nations agricultural co-op development; she is a partner in their second CDI application
- ▲ Publications and Related Activities
- ▲ with Gayle Broad, drafted a paper on “Mapping the Social Economy in Aboriginal Communities in Canada” for a book to be published by CIRIEC’s Scientific Commission on the Social and Co-operative Economy working group, Methods and Indicators for Evaluating the Social and Co-operative Economy; draft presented to working group in Seville, Spain, in May; the book will be published by Peter Lang Publishers, peer reviewed
 - ▲ with Isobel Findlay, co-editing a special edition of *Économie et Solidarité*, the CIRIEC-Canada Journal, forthcoming; also contributing an article on Pond Inlet
 - ▲ in process: three case studies — on the two CDI projects mentioned above

(one is in the book chapter below), and the Pond Inlet study for the Social Cohesion project

- ▲ “First Nations Co-operatives in Canada: (Re)inventing Appropriate Forms of Enterprise,” chapter in forthcoming centre book *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “Social Innovation and Culture: Indigenous Co-operatives in Canada,” CRISES 2nd International Conference, “Creating and Diffusing Social Innovation: from Initiative to Institutionalization,” Université du Québec à Montréal, 8–9 November 07
- ▲ “Update on Research Activities in Linking, Learning, Leveraging,” presented to the Manitoba provincial workshop for LLL, Winnipeg, 11 January 08
- ▲ “Three Essential Elements for Effective Governance,” presented to the 101 annual conference and AGM of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, St Cloud, 4 February 08
- ▲ “Situating the Social Economy,” presented to the Social Enterprise Development Train-the-Trainer Workshop, Sault Ste. Marie, 7 February 08
- ▲ “Update on research activities in Linking, Learning, Leveraging,” presented to the Ontario provincial workshop for LLL, Sault Ste. Marie, 8 February 08

▲ Outreach and Engagement

- ▲ Met with Glen Tully to debrief on the October 2007 workshop and to plan the October 2008 session of the Leadership Development Program for FCL’s board of directors

▲ Conferences/AGMs

- ▲ Annual conference and AGM of the Minnesota Grain and Feed Association, St Cloud, 4 February 08
- ▲ FCL’s annual meetings, 1–4 March 08
- ▲ “Working Together for Shared Vision and Purpose,” Saskatchewan Economic Development Association conference, Saskatoon, 19–20 March 08

▲ Administration

Specific to the Centre

- ▲ as board member of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, two conference call meetings
- ▲ member of advisory group for the Advanced Co-op Developer Training Program to be developed by Devco (FWC Development Co-operative), led by Melanie Conn and Marty Frost, with funding under the CDI Innovations and Research Program
- ▲ member of the search committee for Centennial Chair in Public Policy;

reviewed applications and participated in one meeting to develop shortlist;
interviewed two candidates

- ▲ chaired two student advisory committee meetings
- ▲ prepared for March management advisory board meeting
- ▲ finalized letter of appointment for new Centre Scholar

Specific the Social Economy Project

- ▲ with the assistance of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging management board and huge amounts of help from centre staff, wrote and submitted the Mid-term Report to SSHRC. A teleconference meeting with the adjudication committee is scheduled for June, after which it will be known if the project receives its final two years of funding.
- ▲ participated in the conference calls and meetings organized by the National Hub and other associated committees and adhoc groups; since 1 November, Lou has participated in four monthly conference calls for the national hub and one in-person meeting in Ottawa.
- ▲ chaired conference call meetings of LLL management board, February

As Chair of ICA Committee on Co-operative Research

- ▲ assisting in organizing the annual conference in Trento, Italy, in October 08

Brett Fairbairn

Brett's appointment as Provost and Vice-President Academic (elect) was announced to the university community 29 November 07 and his duties in connection with this role are already demanding a great deal of his time. He has begun briefings and reviews of the Provost's office and portfolio and has been involved in the preparation of the university's Second Integrated Plan and its forthcoming Foundational Document on Teaching and Learning. Although he gave up his role as chair of University Council to make room for this, he is still head of the History Department, which is in the process of selecting a new head. And he remains connected to the centre and co-operative studies in a variety of teaching and research roles.

▲ Teaching

History 288: Co-operatives in the World

This class attracted approximately thirty-five students this term. Their research reports on Saskatchewan and Prairie co-ops were lively as always, and this time were attended by numerous representatives of the sector including Warren Crossman and other SCA staff, centre board members Mary Beck and Karl Baumgartner, as well as a variety of centre staff, students, and visiting researchers, who participated and asked the students questions. Their involvement was much

appreciated and added an important dimension to the event.

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

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

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

▲ Research

- ▲ “Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multi-stakeholder Organizations,” SSHRC funded; co-investigators are Murray Fulton and Marie Bouchard (Université du Québec à Montréal, UQAM)
- ▲ continuing work on the Governance Cluster of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging social-economy project (to which the above grant is related)
- ▲ co-investigator, “Coordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada,” SSHRC funded; principal investigator is Murray Fulton
- ▲ co-investigator, “Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century,” SSHRC funded; principal investigator is Murray Fulton
- ▲ co-investigator, “Strategic Research Network on Social Innovation, the Social Economy, and Civil Society,” SSHRC funded; principal investigator is Denis Harrisson of UQAM

▲ Publications

- ▲ review of *It Was A Great Privilege: The Co-operative Memoirs of B.N. Arnason, foreword by Ian MacPherson* (Victoria: British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies, 2004), forthcoming in *Saskatchewan History*.
- ▲ *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, book; Brett is author or co-author of four chapters; with Nora for editorial comment; will be submitted to a peer-reviewed scholarly press after review and revisions
- ▲ with Rob Dobrohoczki, “Credit Unions and the Construction of Locality: The Case of South Interlake Credit Union, Canada,” article submitted to *Journal of Co-operative Studies*, UK
- ▲ “Economic and Social Developments,” in *Imperial Germany 1871–1918: The Short Oxford History of Germany*, ed. James Retallack. Oxford: Oxford University Press (peer reviewed), forthcoming 2008
- ▲ “A Shift in Values: Credit Union Expansion by Conversion of Bank Branches,”

in *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form*, ed. Roger Herman and Jorge Sousa, forthcoming centre book

- ▲ “Canada’s Co-operative Province’: Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005,” *Perspectives of Saskatchewan: 1905–2005*, ed. Jene Porter. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, forthcoming

▲ Presentations

- ▲ “A Rose by Any Name: The Thorny Question of Social-Economy Discourse in Canada,” Centre Seminar Series, 31 January 08
- ▲ “Co-ops in the Snow: The Co-op Difference in Canada,” keynote plenary presentation to joint annual meeting of Minnesota Association of Cooperatives and Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, Minneapolis, 13 November 2007. Minnesota and Wisconsin have the strongest co-operative movements in the United States and an estimated five hundred representatives of co-operatives were in attendance.

▲ Outreach and Engagement

Brett is a member of CCA’s Committee on Good Governance, which has a mandate to (a) develop an index of good governance in co-operatives, and (b) develop a program of governance awards for co-operatives. His participation is connected with his work as co-lead of the Governance Cluster of the Social Economy project, a position he will be stepping down from soon because of his new responsibilities as Provost and VP Academic elect.

▲ Professional Practice

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

▲ Administration

Brett is head of the Department of History and has many administrative duties associated with that role.

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

AgEc 342: Industrial Organization of Agricultural Markets

AgEc 842: Industrial Organization of Agricultural Markets

AgEc 898: Special Topics in Bioresource Economics

AgEc 342 and 842 each have a small co-operative component. AgEc 898 is a jointly taught class. One third of the class was on collective action in natural resource management systems and was taught by David Natcher and Murray Fulton.

Murray also taught a one week course in Cost-Benefit Analysis at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, in Crete, Greece.

Murray is supervising five MA and PhD students working on co-operative topics and is a committee member for a number of others. His PhD student Lampros Laprinakis is working on three papers with co-op content: one on the impact of Saputo's acquisition of Dairyworld; another on the role of cognitive dissonance in determining member commitment to co-operatives; and a third on the impact of decision framing on the strategic decisions taken by co-operatives.

▲ Research

- ▲ principal investigator, SSHRC-funded Knowledge Impact in Society (KIS) project, "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"; Brett, Lou, and Michael are co-investigators
- ▲ principal investigator, "Co-ordination, Identity, and Success in a Federated Marketing System: Retail Co-operatives in Western Canada," SSHRC Standard Research Grant; Brett is a co-investigator
- ▲ principal investigator, "Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives," funded by SSHRC
- ▲ co-investigator, "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations"; SSHRC funded; Brett is principal investigator
- ▲ "Evaluation of Market Opportunities and Supply Chain Structure for Bio-control Products in Canada," examining the role of co-operatives in providing co-ordination in this particular supply chain
- ▲ project examining the role of producer associations in innovation activity as part of the Canadian Agricultural Innovation Research Network
- ▲ "Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management," SSHRC funded

▲ Presentations

- ▲ "Strategic Licensing of Product Innovations" to the U of S Economics Department seminar on 6 February and at the University of California, Davis, on 17 March

▲ Outreach

- ▲ Murray's KIS project launched its Illative Blog — see www.illativeblog.ca. The purpose of the blog is to provide a forum for people interested in agriculture and rural communities to use their intuition and imagination to look into the future and determine where they think things are going. The word "illative"

means “relating to or having the nature of inference”; the blog entries and comments, therefore, will use inferences as a basis of the discussion.

▲ Administration

The School of Public Policy is currently in the start-up phase and Murray is one of its founding cohorts. The school will be located in the Diefenbaker Centre, thus allowing Murray to interact with his colleagues at the centre much more easily.

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

Michael Gertler

Michael is on sabbatical until 30 June but continues his centre-based activities.

▲ Teaching

Interdisciplinary Studies 898.3: Special Topics in Co-operatives and Sustainable Development. Lectured on co-operative development and sustainable development.

▲ Graduate Supervision

Michael’s student Nancy Allan successfully defended her MA thesis “Adding Values to Commerce: The Complementary Practices of Fair Trade Intermediaries and Co-operatives.”

He has on-going supervisory duties for four MA students (three in sociology and one in co-operative studies); he is a member of one interdisciplinary MA advisory committee (co-operative studies); and of four interdisciplinary PhD advisory committees, three of which are in co-operative studies.

▲ Research

- ▲ “Co-operative Marketing Options for Organic Agriculture,” funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Saskatchewan Program; the Canadian Organic Certification Co-operative is the applicant; former centre MA student Jason Heit has assisted with the research; Michael and Jason presented a draft report to the Canadian Organic Certification Co-op board 15 February in Swift Current
- ▲ co-investigator with sector partner the Saskatoon Co-operative Association on SSHRC-funded “Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food System Performance”
- ▲ co-applicant on the centre’s SSHRC project on the Social Economy and a collaborator on the National Hub being run by the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies

- ▲ co-applicant in Murray's SSHRC-funded "Adapting to New Environments: Agriculture and Rural Economies in the 21st Century"

Michael is involved in a number of new grant applications

- ▲ collaborator, SSHRC grant application, "A Strategic Knowledge Cluster on Community-Based Research: Enhancing a Pan-Canadian Network," Budd Hall (University of Victoria), applicant; submitted November 07
- ▲ co-applicant, International Research Linkages grant, International Council for Canadian Studies, "The Response of Canadian and Spanish Agricultural and Rural Co-operatives to Economic Globalization: A Historical and Contemporary Analysis," Lou is the applicant; submitted November 07
- ▲ applicant, Saskatchewan Housing Research Program grant application, "NHOP and Beyond: Affordable Home Ownership and Community Economic Development in the Core Neighbourhoods of Saskatoon," submitted March 08

▲ Conferences

- ▲ invited participant, Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute Symposium, "Growing Canada's Rural Economies," Winnipeg, 28 February 2008; attended on behalf of CCA

▲ Publications

- ▲ Review of Michael Mayerfeld Bell, Susan Jarnagin, Gregory Peter, and Donna Bauer, *Farming for Us All: Practical Agriculture and the Cultivation of Sustainability* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), forthcoming in *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*
- ▲ with J. Jaffe, "Sustainable Development in the New Economy: Risk, Vulnerability and Eco-Social Justice," in *Currents: New Scholarship in the Human Services* (University of Calgary on-line journal), forthcoming 2008

▲ Administration/Professional/Outreach and Engagement

Michael is academic co-lead of the Community Economic Development Module, Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), and also a CUISR board member. He is past president of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation; a member of the Rural Sociological Society Membership Committee; a member of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network Local Planning Committee for the 2008 National CED Conference in Saskatoon, 21–24 May 08; and a member of the Local Program Committee for the same conference.

Michael is a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Cooperatives*, and reviews manuscripts for the journals *Agriculture and Human Values* and *Ecology and Society*.

In other professional activities, Michael visited the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies at the University of Victoria in November 07 as part of his sabbatical activity, and served as an assessor on a SSHRC regular research grant in January 08.

Nora Russell

Nora's article on the centre appeared in the UK *Journal of Co-operative Studies* 40 no. 2 (August 2007): 47–50, providing the centre with a little international exposure (there is a copy of it included with this package)

Large projects this quarter include:

- ▲ despite sending it out to a freelance editor, Roger and Jorge Sousa's book *A Co-operative Dilemma: Converting Organizational Form* required a great deal more editorial attention from Nora; she also dealt back and forth with many queries for authors of individual chapters; this is with Roger for some final revisions prior to design, layout, and proofreading
- ▲ writing, designing, and laying out the centre's annual report
- ▲ preparing the second newsletter for the Social Economy project
- ▲ editing, layout, and final preparation of the centre's Mid-Term Report to SSHRC on the Social Economy project (187-page document, including twenty appendices)
- ▲ co-ordinated the freelance editing of visiting fellow Candido Cervantes's booklet *Between Solidarity and Profit: The Agricultural Transformation Societies in Spain*; checked editing, dealt with queries, did design and layout, sent for proofreading; entered corrections and did final formatting; with printer
- ▲ co-ordinated the freelance editing of Thomas Gray's occasional paper *The Agriculture of the Middle Initiative: Pre-Mobilizing Considerations, and Formal Co-operative Structure*; checked editing, with author for approval and queries
- ▲ entered corrections and did final formatting of Mitch Diamantopoulos's *Growing Pains: Social Enterprise in Saskatoon's Core Neighbourhoods*, a Social Economy research report; applied for CIP data; awaiting approval of common project cover design prior to printing
- ▲ entered corrections and did final formatting of Rob Dobrohoczki's occasional paper *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization*; published January 08
- ▲ preparing second draft of a common-look cover for publications arising out of the Social Economy project

Other activities this quarter:

- ▲ prepared article on the centre for the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association's youth newsletter
- ▲ preparing seminar series ads
- ▲ assisted Lou in the preparation of her PowerPoint presentation for her trip to Minnesota
- ▲ prepared a special promotional announcement for Brett's appointment as

Provost and VP Academic to circulation to centre stakeholders

- ▲ with Roger, organized the December Centre Seminar Series presentation in the absence of Patty and Karen during the strike
- ▲ editing the minutes of the last advisory board meeting
- ▲ co-ordination, writing, and layout for this director's report

Reprints

- ▲ *Co-operative Membership as a Complex and Dynamic Social Process*
- ▲ *Cohesion, Adhesion, and Identities in Co-operatives*
- ▲ *Co-operative Social Responsibility*
- ▲ *The Role of Farmers in the Future Economy*
- ▲ *Three Strategic Concepts for the Guidance of Co-operatives*
- ▲ the Co-op Strategies newsletter
- ▲ the promotional piece for Roger and Jorge's book
- ▲ *Social Cohesion through Market Democratization*
- ▲ *Synergy and Strategic Advantage*
- ▲ *The Meaning of Rochdale*
- ▲ *Co-operatives and Their Employees*
- ▲ *Co-operatives and Development: Towards a Social Movement Perspective*

Brett's book, with a new working title, *The Self-Help Solution: Co-operative Renewal in Canadian Communities*, based on the Social Cohesion research, is with Nora for editorial comment prior to being sent to a scholarly press.

Professional

Nora is on the executive of the Saskatoon branch of the Editors' Association of Canada. With a colleague, she is currently organizing the annual spring workshop. Nora is also a member of the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, which connects the centre to other publishing organizations throughout the province. And she is the centre's new representative to the Saskatoon Co-op Network, which organizes lunches and speakers of interest to local co-op organizations.

Roger Herman

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

He is part of the Finance Cluster of the Linking, Learning, Leveraging project and with Lou and in conjunction with the Canadian Co-operative Association continues research on the level and types of support provided to social enterprises by Canadian co-ops and credit unions.

Along with everyone else at the centre, he helped to prepare the Linking, Learning, Leveraging mid-term report.

His book with Jorge Sousa (University of Alberta) on co-operative conversions, undertaken on contract with the Co-operatives Secretariat, has been edited and is undergoing some revisions to the introduction and conclusion prior to design, layout, and proofreading; cover design is complete.

Along with various centre faculty and scholars, Roger is part of the teaching team for InterD 898: Co-operatives and Sustainable Development. In connection with this, he developed a proposal for funding to the Partnerships for Tomorrow Program administered by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and funded by CIDA. The proposal was for two CSC graduate students to conduct research on credit union development in Ukraine. The proposed research partnered closely with the existing CCA development project in that country. Unfortunately, the application for funding was not successful, so the students will be conducting their case studies closer to home.

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

- ▲ he is the president of the board of directors of the Association of Cooperative Educators and in addition to those duties is also chairing a special committee tasked with succession planning following the resignation of the organization's executive director
- ▲ he is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of visitors to the centre; he and Lou recently hosted visitors from Malaysia researching co-operatives and co-operative studies, but also interested in developing a formal relationship with the centre; he co-ordinated a meeting with Lou and members of a CCA-organized tour of four international credit union CEOs from the Philippines, Bangladesh, Malaysia, and Thailand; and he hosted William Nelson, president of the CHS Foundation in Minnesota, in Saskatoon to attend a CSC seminar and to discuss the foundation's interest in the centre's activities
- ▲ he represented the centre at a meeting between officials from the Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation and various University of Saskatchewan groups involved in international development projects
- ▲ he represented the centre at FCL's annual meeting in Saskatoon
- ▲ he represented the centre at a University of Saskatchewan Centre's Forum meeting; these meetings are intended to explore common issues and to ensure that the respective centres' concerns are heard
- ▲ he and Lou met with Glen Tully, FCL board chair, to discuss plans for continued board development training scheduled for the fall of 2008
- ▲ he continues to respond to inquiries regarding New Generation Co-operatives as well as co-ops in general
- ▲ he manages the centre's seminar series and is the liaison with the centre's graduate students

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

- ▲ an advisory committee of the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan planning an international community development conference for Saskatoon, 25–28 June 08; he also chairs a subcommittee co-ordinating mobile learning workshops (tours) for the event
- ▲ a committee of community economic development organizations developing a Saskatchewan regional CED umbrella organization
- ▲ a national Social Economy discussion group facilitated by the Canadian Co-operative Association
- ▲ the Agriculture Council of Saskatchewan
- ▲ and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association

Heather Acton

▲ The Library

- ▲ materials signed out: 93
- ▲ materials returned: 109
- ▲ reference and research requests responded to: 86
- ▲ books catalogued: 9
- ▲ new borrowers registered: 22

Heather and Duy, our IT expert, are exploring open-source library software called Evergreen with the hope of replacing our current software, LibraryWorld 98, which is no longer adequate.

▲ The Centre Blog

- ▲ Heather gave a presentation to centre faculty and staff on our internal blog and how to use it
- ▲ she continually monitors and updates the blog with information of interest to centre faculty and staff
- ▲ she also maintains a list of events and deadlines on the blog

▲ The Websites

- ▲ Heather redesigned the Linking, Learning, Leveraging website using WordPress. Duy provided design and technical support and migrated information from the old site. They've both been working on design and navigational improvements and have included a dynamic blog on the site. This is still a work in progress as website pages require editing and updating.
- ▲ Heather will be assisting Duy with the redesign of the centre's main website with the goal of having that completed by September

▲ Linking, Learning, Leveraging Activities

- ▲ Heather spent considerable time compiling data for the Linking, Learning, Leveraging Mid-Term Report to SSHRC
- ▲ with a conscious effort to improve the flow of communication and distribution of information within our node, Heather is developing a system of relational databases to help us record and maintain all the information relating to the LLL project; with this will come improved communications with everyone involved in the project, and much easier access to information for future reporting

▲ Events Attended

- ▲ Linking, Learning, Leveraging CESD (Northern Ontario) workshop, Sault Ste. Marie, 8–9 February 08
- ▲ meetings of the Saskatoon Special Libraries Network and the University Librarians
- ▲ meetings of the Social Economy Hub (conference calls) and in-person meetings with CUISR regarding the Social Economy project

▲ Other Activities

- ▲ library and research support to Brett Fairbairn's students in his History 288: Co-operatives in the World student presentations
- ▲ became a member of the North American Special Libraries Association
- ▲ applied for two USTEP grants — one for someone to continue historical research on youth in co-operatives in Saskatchewan, another for a support person for Duy's work on the centre's website

Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the centre's day-to-day operations and undertakes many additional duties as they arise. Much of her time is spent updating and recording the various revenues/expenditures associated with the centre's monthly financial statements as well as maintaining the SSHRC project account and all other research accounts. This involves ensuring that all the supporting documentation is in the files and contacting the Central Registry to obtain the appropriate paperwork if it is missing. It also involves updating the externally-funded research report provided at each board meeting. Other financial activities include helping Karen with publication purchases; processing the transactions on the university credit card and ensuring that expenses are charged to the appropriate account; processing all other invoices and cheques that come into the centre for purchases and payments; and investigating errors.

Special financial responsibilities this quarter included:

- ▲ issuing invoices to our sponsor organizations for 07–08 third quarter dues; com-

- pleting the cash report forms and making deposits upon receipt of the dues
- ▲ making arrangements with the Office of Research Services to provide funding for Morris Altman's Social Economy research; preparing a sub-transfer agreement, obtaining approvals, and processing a journal voucher to ensure the transfer of funds
 - ▲ dealing with the University of Manitoba in setting up Robyn Webb's scholarship contract and payroll associated with the Social Economy project; preparing another sub-transfer agreement
 - ▲ corresponding with Rose Olfert and the financial reporting office to finalize expenditures for the final portion of the "Mapping the Presence of Co-ops and Credit Unions in Canada" project; invoicing Ag and Agri-Food Canada accordingly
 - ▲ assisting Michael in processing the expenditures associated with the Organic Farmers' Project; keeping track of all the financial transactions associated with the project so they can be invoiced at the end of the project
 - ▲ assisting Lou and Heather in gathering financial information associated with expenditures for the entire Social Economy project; obtaining financial information from each of the universities associated with the project and pulling together totals; creating a document that outlined all the consolidated expenditures in the various categories for the Mid-Term Report to SSHRC
 - ▲ arranging with the College of Graduate Studies and Students Accounts for the disbursement of funds for the Fredeen Scholarship awarded to Michael Chartier.
 - ▲ submitting Jason Heit and Kim Brown's monthly hours to the Payroll Department

Patty is responsible for organizing the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes the many hours that go into co-ordinating a suitable date, preparing the minutes and other materials, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch. Extra responsibilities this quarter involved co-ordinating and organizing a dinner honouring outgoing board members Ernie Barber and Bob Effa.

Other meetings this quarter include Lou's meeting with Peter Phillips, Grant Isaac, Trevor Robertson, and Bryan Bilokreli to discuss office space at the Diefenbaker Centre; this involved many emails and phone calls to co-ordinate a suitable date. Patty also organized several other meetings and conference calls for centre faculty and staff.

Other responsibilities this quarter include:

- ▲ editing and preparing the 7 November 07 management advisory board meeting minutes as well as obtaining agenda items for the next meeting
- ▲ assisting Catherine Leviten-Reid in completing the paperwork for her one-year

- post-doctoral position at the centre; this also involved setting up her payroll, making office arrangements, and getting her settled when she arrived
- ▲ assisting Lou in organizing the service contract with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for her new research project; this involved much back and forth with the Office of Research Services and setting up the payroll for Kim Brown, who was conducting interviews and preparing the report
 - ▲ preparing the scholarship award letter and contract for Karlah Rudolph, a new graduate student at the centre; preparing her the payroll forms
 - ▲ assisting Karen in gathering, printing, and assembling the course materials for the 898 graduate course on Co-ops and Sustainable Development
 - ▲ making arrangements for Lou, Roger, Murray, and Murray's graduate student to attend FCL's AGM
 - ▲ assisting Heather with the 2008 USTEP applications

Karen Neufeldt

Karen's regular duties include reception, paperwork, cash reports, filing, xeroxing and printing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, keeping track of stock for reprints, invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills, as well as monitoring office supplies and ordering replacements as required. She is also responsible for sending out the seminar series announcements and periodic newsletters, updating various databases, whatever other mailouts are required, and helping to prepare packages for the advisory board meeting.

Other special activities this quarter include:

- ▲ transcribing the minutes of the November advisory board meeting
- ▲ helping post-doctoral fellow Catherine Leviten-Reid and Curtis Stofferahn get settled in; organizing office set-up, ordering keys, arranging for library privileges etc.
- ▲ co-ordinating mailout of the annual report
- ▲ co-ordinating mailout of second Social Economy newsletter
- ▲ organizing Zhao's seminar for the Fredeen Scholarship presentation in December, co-ordinating arrangements with the Fredeen family to do the presentation to this year's recipient; booking room and refreshments; sending out invitations
- ▲ co-ordinating room arrangements, printing, and mail-out of announcements and reminders for the three seminars in term two
- ▲ helping to co-ordinate Brett's History 288 student presentations; booked room, helped with audio visual set-up, etc.
- ▲ co-ordinating the collection of handouts for the 898 Co-ops and Sustainable Development class; organizing the copying for students and professors; scanning handouts and sending an electronic copy to Kama

- ▲ helping co-ordinate Tsegi Chuluunbaatar's application for the InterD program and making sure that documents were sent to the InterD office on time
- ▲ assisting in the library with registering students, helping with research questions, copying, checking in and filing books, checking-in and routing journals
- ▲ compiling new centre promotional packages for a variety of meetings, conferences, and workshops
- ▲ assisting with many travel, accommodation, and conference arrangements for centre personnel:
 - Lou — to Winnipeg for WIRA Workshop, 10 January 08
 - Lou — to St. Cloud, Minnesota, for a presentation and then on to Sault Ste. Marie to participate in the Community Economic Development and Social Enterprise Workshop; for same trip, car rental to do interviews for the INAC project
 - Lou — to Ottawa to participate in the National Hub Advisory Board Meeting
 - Lou and Zhao — to China in April to do a presentation to the RDI Institute in Beijing and visit farmer co-operatives
 - Lou — to Thunder Bay and Toronto for the PARO Conference and Third Annual Social Economy Conference 18 April to 1 May; also completed registration forms and booked hotel rooms
 - Heather — to Sault Ste. Marie to participate in the Community Economic Development and Social Enterprise Workshop, 7–9 February
 - Heather — to Seattle for Special Library Association Conference
 - Kim Brown — to Winnipeg and Dryden for interviews for INAC project
 - Michael — registration for the Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute in Winnipeg, 28 February

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

Catherine Leviten-Reid

We are extremely pleased to have Catherine with us for a year as the centre's first postdoctoral fellow. She joined us in January 08, having recently completed her PhD on home care co-operatives at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is currently involved in research on child care co-operatives. Her specific research questions include whether child care co-operatives offer higher quality care than other organizational forms, and whether workers in child care co-operatives experience higher levels of satisfaction and engagement versus non-profits, sole proprietorships, and corporations.

Curtis Stofferahn

We are equally pleased to have Curtis with us as our second visiting fellow of the year. He is with us for three months doing research on the former Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. Curt will analyze the discourse around the conversion of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool to a publicly listed co-operative to discern the nature and persuasiveness of the arguments used by both proponents and opponents of conversion. He will examine the discourse of the proponents through the expert discourse of neo-classical economics as well as reprivatization discourses, and that of the opponents through the metaphors contained in the populist and social materialist oppositional discourse. Data for the research consists of newspaper articles, opinion pieces and letters to the editor in the *Western Producer* in 1994 and 1995, SWP publications, and the verbatim reports and minutes of the Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills of the 1995 Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Curt has already given a presentation in the Centre Seminar Series and is planning a research monograph, a paper for presentation at a professional meeting, and some type of centre publication to come out of his research.

The Students and Contract Researchers

Kim Brown, who successfully defended her MA thesis in the fall, is currently working with Lou on a project for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada titled "Financing Aboriginal Enterprise Development: The Feasibility of Using Co-operative Models." It will assess the relevance of the credit union model to Aboriginal financial institutions (AFIs), and explore the potential barriers and opportunities in the transformation of existing AFIs to credit unions. In late March, Kim will be giving a presentation in the Centre Seminar Series on her CCA internship in Africa.

Angie Wagner, another of our successful MA students, will also be presenting in the Centre Seminar Series on her CCA internship as a reproductive health officer in Ghana, West Africa.

Monica Juarez Adeler is working on the formal proposal for her dissertation. She is currently working in Winnipeg on a contract associated with the Social Economy project for the Winnipeg Inner-City Research Alliance titled "Building a Tax Policy Framework to Enable Co-operative Development."

Rob Dobrohoczki is studying for his PhD comprehensives as well as teaching as a sessional lecturer in the College of Law and the Edwards School of Business. He has two publications forthcoming, one a chapter co-authored with Brett Fairbairn in the centre book *The Self-Help Solution*, the other an occasional paper titled

Social Cohesion through Market Democratisation, which was finally published in January 08.

Jason Heit, another of the centre's successful graduate students, is working with Michael on a project titled "Co-operative Marketing Options for Organic Agriculture," which is examining past and current initiatives by organic producers in Saskatchewan and across the Prairies to use co-operatives to market their grains, oilseeds, and pulse crops. As part of the Social Economy project, he also completed a CUISR internship report titled "Mapping Social Capital in a Community Development Network," the research for which was conducted at the South West Centre for Entrepreneurial Development in Swift Current. Jason left us in early March for a position as an economic development officer with the Longlake Regional Economic Development Authority in Watrous, SK. He has been with us for a few years as both a student and a researcher and will be greatly missed.

Zhao Jun continues to work on his PhD, though he intersperses these activities with other work from time to time. In November of 2007, he delivered training workshops on farmers' associations to government officials and farmers for the World Bank and the Food and Agricultural Organization in China. In December 07, as one of the requirements of the Fredeen Scholarship he was awarded last year, he gave a presentation in the Centre Seminar Series titled "New Farmers' Co-operative Law: A Window of Opportunity for Chinese Small Farmers' Group Action?" In March 08, he sent his revised dissertation proposal to his committee members.

Dwayne Pattison completed his CUISR internship examining collaborative governance models. His portion of the research is on the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association, which recently converted into a co-operative. On 25 March he will be defending his thesis, "Membership, Governance, and Community: Developing a Regional Consumer Co-operative in the Context of Rural and Retail Restructuring," based on the Prince Albert Co-operative Association.

Rochelle Smith will be defending her PhD dissertation titled "The Relationship of Saskatchewan's Co-operative Community Clinics with the Government of Saskatchewan: Towards a New Understanding" on 19 March.

Mitch Diamantopoulos successfully passed his PhD comprehensives and has had his dissertation proposal accepted by his committee. He has consequently entered the final phase of the process and is engaged in the research and writing for his dissertation.

Mike Chartier is engaged in a CUISR internship on a project titled "Advancing the Co-operative Sector: Mapping Development Needs of Co-ops in Emerging, Underrepresented, and Struggling Sectors," working with the Saskatchewan Co-

operative Association and Co-operative Ventures Worker Co-op. He is also teaching a class in the College of Education and is the Industrial Arts teacher at Ecole Victoria School. Michael continues to work on his MA thesis on the Communitarian Pedagogy of Watson Thomson.

Kama Soles' Interdisciplinary Studies Master's thesis, "Empowerment through Cooperation: Disability Solidarity in the Social Economy," is investigating the potential that the co-operative model has for empowering people with disabilities, and will identify barriers to inclusion in the social economy and the formation of co-operatives. Kama is still completing her coursework, having completed a sociology policy seminar, an educational research methodology course, and History 861.3 (Studies in Western Canadian History) History of Co-operatives and the Social Economy. She is currently taking two special topics 898 courses, Co-ops and Sustainable Development and Disability Studies — Contexts and Constructions: Forming Disability Communities. She regularly attends the seminar series at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, which she is co-organizing this year. Kama's paper "The Fragmentation of Citizenship and Community: Disability Rights, Economic (In)Security, and Social Policy" was recently published by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy. Kama received the Concentra Bursary in 2007.

Tsegi Chuluunbaatar, from Mongolia, is our newest MA student in the Co-op Concentration. She served as an interpreter during the Mongolia fieldwork based on the Co-ops and Sustainable Development class taken by several centre students two years ago and has now joined us here to take the class herself. Her research will be supervised by Lou and Michael and will focus on the role of women in Mongolia.

Karlah Rudolph is our most recent Social Economy scholarship winner. She is in the CSALE Concentration (Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law, and the Environment) and will be working with Murray and Brett on Brett's Social-Economy-based, SSHRC-funded project, "Cognition and Governance in the Social Economy: Innovation in Multistakeholder Organizations."