

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board



Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives



Lou Hammond Ketilson
Acting Director



April 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 (formerly Co-operative Trust), 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.



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Data collection and other research activities are ongoing in all clusters. Cluster one is working on the master survey instrument, expected to be disseminated in June or July. Cluster two has completed phase-one fieldwork, which has been transcribed and is currently under analysis. Cluster three has completed its first round of interviews, which have also been transcribed and are under analysis. And cluster four is depending upon the work of graduate students Jason, Rob, and Monica for much of its research; this, too, is well underway. As was the case last year, participants will be making good use of their findings in presentations at conferences and workshops across the country this spring and summer. The CASC conference in particular is expected to provide a major showcase for research results.

Heading into the last year of this project, we are beginning to make decisions about deliverables and what type of capstone regional and/or national workshops or conferences might be appropriate to add the finishing touches. Under consideration are an ideas workshop in May in conjunction with the CASC meetings, a fall summit, and a national policy conference in early 2006. Out of these meetings we are discussing the possibility of two peer-reviewed books, one on policy implications of the research, the other a textbook. Other research communications strategies include journal submissions, book chapters, information booklets for our partner organizations, research reports by our student assistants, and dissemination at many upcoming conferences.

It should also be noted that this project has already directly supported six graduate students through scholarship funding, as well as employing eleven other students in summer research positions over the past three years.

▲ Significant New Research Funding Application

With our current SSHRC project, Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations, heading into its final year, the centre, in partnership with the Community-University Institutue for Social Research, has embarked upon another major funding

application, this time centred on the social economy through SSHRC's Strategic Programs and Joint Initiatives Division. As with the first grant, if successful, we will be engaged with many partners and collaborators throughout the region under study—Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario. Very generally, our proposal is to 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 (see letter of interest, attached, for further information).

We have submitted a letter of interest and are in the process of preparing the detailed application, which is due 15 April.

▲ Other Research Update

Work on Carol and Cris's National Co-operative Data Centre has moved on to a new phase. The massive review of co-op and other business statistics collected by SSHRC student Angela Wagner is currently in editing with Nora. An addition to the centre's occasional papers series, it will provide a wealth of information regarding sources for business and industry statistics.

▲ Upcoming Conferences

The centre is involved in many conferences over the next few months, two of which we are hosting and organizing. Building Co-operative Futures, the third annual International Co-operative Youth Conference, will be here in Saskatoon 12–15 May. It will focus on youth engagement in co-operative organizations and furthering this engagement through education and community-centred participation. Sponsored by the centre and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association, it is expected to attract about a hundred youth from across Canada and abroad. Roger is heavily involved in co-ordinating this effort, along with assistance from our graduate students, all of whom will be participants at the conference.

CCA's Triennial Congress, Connections 2005, sponsored by the Canadian Co-operative Association and Credit Union Central of Canada, will be in Saskatoon 14–19 May, overlapping slightly with the youth conference. This

first-ever joint conference between CCA and CCC will offer participants a rich mixture of practical sessions addressing the most current topics in the credit union and co-operative business development field, member relations, and governance. Centre people will be both presenters and participants.

And 18–20 May in Saskatoon, overlapping with Connections 2005, is another centre-sponsored event, the annual Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings. This year's theme is "Realizing the Co-operative Difference: Innovations in Co-operation and Co-operative Research." The conference is expected to be a showcase for SSHRC-project research results, and we are looking forward to the opportunity of having so many of our far-flung partners together in one place. Michael is deeply involved in his responsibilities as program chair, with assistance from Monica as conference coordinator. As the conference draws closer, other centre personnel will take on supportive roles in various areas. Everyone at the centre is expected to be involved in the actual conference either as presenters, participants, and/or volunteers.

The Mondragon Co-operative Research Conference takes place at the Mondragon University School of Management in Spain at the end of June. It is a major international event for researchers, academics, industry specialists, practitioners, and students interested in the advances and applications of the social economy. Monica will be the centre's representative, presenting a paper titled "Technology, Globalization, and Co-operatives: Reflections on New Economic, Legal, and Socio-Cultural Complexities and the Implications for Co-operatives."

This year's annual ICA International Co-operative Research Conference is in Cork, Ireland, 10–14 August. Titled "The Contribution of Co-operatives to Community Culture," one of the thematic areas is the role of co-ops in developing and sustaining local and regional community culture, social fabric, and heritage, which fits beautifully with our new research interest in the social economy. Though no final decisions have been made, the centre intends to send a number of people as presenters and participants.

▲ InterD Research Concentration in Co-operative Studies Update

We continue to receive inquiries about this new program and are expecting a number of new students to join us over the next few months. These include two confirmed and one potential PhDs, one confirmed and two potential

MAs, as well as two confirmed MAs in Political Studies who will be working on co-op topics. Needless to say, we are extremely pleased with this burgeoning interest in our programs. We have put a great deal of effort into attracting high-quality graduate students. Our success has ramifications not only for the reputation of the centre but also for that of the university.

▲ The Seminar Series

There have been four seminars since the last director's report in October. Murray Fulton talked to us about "Cognitive Processes and Co-operative Business Strategy" in November. Our interdisciplinary graduate students Rob Dobrohoczki, Jason Heit, and Monica Juarez-Adeler gave a group presentation titled "E-Commerce and Community: Dispatches from the Research Front" in December. Brett Fairbairn reflected on "A Century of Saskatchewan Co-operatives" in February. And Tirso Gonzales from the Indigenous Research Center of the Americas, University of California, Davis, gave a talk on "Globalization, Indigenous Peoples, and Development" in March.

▲ Publications

Nora is working on three large projects at the moment — two occasional papers and the Co-operative Research Inventory project. She is also planning a number of additions to our booklet series based on individual chapters in the recently published *Co-operative Membership and Globalization*. Since the last director's report she has also written and laid out the annual report and our winter newsletter, as well as writing three more articles for the *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*. See Nora's section in this report for more details of communications and publication activities.

▲ Staff News

At the top of the list, the centre is thrilled to note the arrival of Cris de Clercy and Peter Ferguson's baby, Colin Theodore, on 15 November 04. In dispatches from the front, next-door neighbour Nora reports that the baby's arrival appears to have had no lasting ill effect on the joie de vivre and bouncing good nature of Cris and Peter's immense Bouvier, Chika, a matter of some concern to all of us at the centre. In other news, despite just giving

birth, Cris managed to jump through all the requisite hoops and was granted tenure at the beginning of March. Congratulations Cris! We are looking forward to having her back at the centre after her maternity leave ends in April.

The centre welcomes Lorraine Salt, our new research officer/librarian. Lorraine comes to us fresh from completing her Masters in Information Studies and has considerable background experience in special libraries settings. She has no small task ahead of her putting the resource centre in order after a year without a librarian. Although we have managed to maintain core functions with the help of Patty, Karen, Nora, and Roger, we are really looking forward to offering our constituents complete library services once again. Lorraine will also take over the administration of the SSHRC grant, which will relieve Patty of many hours of extra responsibility in this area.

We have another new PhD student in the Interdisciplinary Research Concentration in Co-operative Studies program. Zhao Jun arrived from China in January 05. He will be working with Murray.

Angela Wagner, our second SSHRC scholarship winner, came to the end of her term at the centre in December 04. She has finished the course work for her MA and is currently working on her thesis titled “Membership Identity and Consumer Behaviour: The Case of Consumer Co-operatives,” which she expects to defend in the summer of 05.

Two of our other graduate students have received significant scholarships from outside agencies, two of them centre sponsors, Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan and Concentra Financial. Rob Dobrohoczki was awarded both the Norm Bromberger Research Bursary and the Dennis Lyster Leadership Bursary, while Nancy Allan won the F.J.H. Fredeen Memorial Scholarship donated by the Fredeen family.

Juanita Bacsu, one of our summer researchers last year, has returned to the centre on a part-time basis to work for Cris on cluster one of the SSHRC project, Co-operative Consumer Identities in Urban Communities.

April Bourgeois 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.

Finally, Caren Mann, a library technician, has joined us for a couple of months to help restore order in the resource centre.

▲ Visitors

Lou, Nora, and Roger met on 3 December 04 with Michel Auger and Louis Grenier, program manager of Prairie Hub, to discuss areas of common research interest. Prairie Hub is funded by Co-operative Development Initiative (CDI) money managed by the Co-operatives Secretariat and is the mechanism for distributing CDI funds in the Prairie region.

Michael hosted three visitors 11 Feb 05 from Kyrgyzstan. Talas (last name unavailable) and Alexandr Vereschagin were in Canada building bridges for research, teaching, and development work/exchanges. Alexandr is the director of science at the Sarychat Reserve in the Tien Shan Mountains, and Talas is the manager of international relations at the Karakol State University; both have experience with development projects. They were accompanied by William Wilson, a U of S grad now teaching in the Geography Department at Lakehead University who did a thesis here on Mongolia a few years ago. Professor Wilson has an interest in co-operative management of high-altitude pastures, and Michael anticipates that he may be a useful contact for the project on Mongolia in which he has recently become involved.

On 21 February, Murray and Roger met with two Japanese co-op scholars to discuss NGCs and co-ops in general. Tetsuo Ohe, from the Norinchukin Research Institute, and Hisashi Bannai, from the Rural Finance Research Institute, are both associates of Mr. Toyiko Matsubara, who has visited the centre in the past. The Norinchukin Research Institute is a subsidiary of the Norinchukin Bank, Japan's nation-wide co-operative financial institution, while the Rural Finance Research Institute is an independent unit funded mainly by the Norinchukin Bank.

▲ Of Note

Anne Reynolds of the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives has written an extremely positive review of our latest publication, *Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Practice*, for the next issue of the *Association of Cooperative Educators Newsletter*. She generously shared a copy of it with us prior to publication. Noting the primary focus of the book, she says:

The authors use the multi-faceted concept of globalization to focus on issues that are at the core of cooperative practice: membership, democracy, identity, community. As Fairbairn points out in his final essay, the book is a “dialogue of multiple voices,” raising questions, proposing theories, and suggesting areas of further research. Many of the answers will come from the experiences of people involved in new and existing cooperatives, as they grapple with change. This book challenges all of us to re-think the prevalent paradigms, engage in thoughtful discussion, and work toward a deeper understanding of the forces that are shaping cooperative practice.

A copy of the complete review can be found with the information items in your package.

A recent request for a donation of *Co-operative Membership and Globalization* to a library abroad has resulted in the centre appearing as a donor agency to the RESPRO Academy Centre for Co-operative Studies in Kathmandu, Nepal. Because of our many visitors, our international network, and the accessibility of our website, the centre has publications and therefore a presence in libraries, organizations, and offices all over the world.

Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, and Administration

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Teaching

Commerce 345.3: Business and Public Policy

Lou is supervising Brenda Burghardt’s (MA in Conflict Analysis and Management, Royal Roads) thesis titled “Innovation in a Regional Financial Services Organization: Managing Conflict to Optimize Innovation Implementation” (the organization under study is Northern Savings Credit Union in BC). She is committee chair for Rob Dobrohoczki (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies); and a committee member for Kim Brown (MA, Political Studies); Kim Morrison (PhD, Interdisciplinary Studies); Monica Juarez Adeler (PhD,

Interdisciplinary Studies); and Barb Millsapp (MBA, Laurentian), who is researching credit union mergers in Canada.

▲ Research

Lou was a co-applicant in a Letter of Intent submitted to SSHRC's Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) program by Debbie Pushor and Nazeem Muhajarine entitled "Building the Social Ecology of an Inclusive Community." The letter-of-intent stage was successful and the group was awarded \$20,000 to proceed to the full application stage. The Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR) is the sponsoring organization.

Lou is the principal investigator in the centre's Letter of Interest submitted to SSHRC's new Social Economy Suite 15 March. Similar to the CURA program mentioned above, the application was jointly submitted by the centre and CUISR together with academics and community partners in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and northern Ontario. The full application is due 15 April 05. See the Highlights section of this report for more details.

Lou is 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.

Lou is also a co-applicant on a submission to SSHRC's Research Development Initiatives, due 7 April 05. If successful, the funding will be used to support development of the Canadian network (BC-Alberta, northern Ontario-Manitoba-Saskatchewan, southern Ontario and Quebec) focussed on the evaluation of the social economy in Canada. This research network will be part of the CIRIEC International project mentioned above. The principal investigator is Marie Bouchard, Canada Research Chair on the Social Economy, University of Québec in Montreal.

Lou is awaiting news on Ian MacPherson's SSHRC application to fund a Canada-wide project that would reassess the country's co-operative history. If funded, Lou's responsibility would be the contributions of women in the history of the co-op movement.

Lou carries on with her research for cluster one of the current SSHRC project, Co-operative Membership and Globalization. With interviews and transcriptions from stage one complete and analysis underway, she and Isobel Findlay

are planning their next research trip to the Arctic. She is also a member of a research team lead by Dr. Wanda Wuttunee at the University of Manitoba submitting a proposal to the Conference Board of Canada to conduct a study of Aboriginal economic development in Canada.

Lou continues her involvement with the Saskatchewan First Nations Co-operative (SFNC). She is assisting with the development of a governance model consistent with the needs of First Nations communities; helping to conduct an assessment of the impact of the co-op(s) formed with the support of SFNC; and supervising the development of a resource kit for co-operative development within First Nation communities. The SFNC is one of the case studies within the Aboriginal cluster of the social cohesion project.

Lou is also supervising a research assistant working on a meta-analysis of the research projects completed over the past four years within the CUISR's Community Economic Development module.

▲ 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

“Revisiting the Role of Values and Principles: Do They Act to Include or Exclude?” in *Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Practice*, Brett Fairbairn and Nora Russell, eds. (Saskatoon: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2004)

▲ Presentations

Lou provided the keynote address and an introduction for a panel discussion to the Interdepartmental Seminar entitled The Co-op Model of Enterprise: Exploring Its Impact and Potential in Aboriginal Communities. Jointly sponsored by the Co-operatives Secretariat and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the seminar targeted senior officials responsible for Aboriginal files in federal government departments, along with interested policy and program personnel, leaders of national Aboriginal organizations, and leaders from the co-operative sector (Ottawa, 30 March).

▲ Administration and Other

In addition to her responsibilities as acting director at the centre, effective 1 January 05, Lou became the acting co-director for the Community-University Institute for Social Research. She is also a member of the planning committee organizing a conference on Aboriginal Womens' Community Economic Development.

Lou was a reviewer for the *Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences* in January 2005. She also reviewed three papers submitted to the Gender and Diversity in Organizations Division, Administrative Sciences Association of Canada annual meetings taking place in May 2005.

Lou participated in consultations sponsored by Western Diversification to develop implementation rules for social economy capacity building and enterprise development programs. She also participated in the organizing meetings for the formation of the Community Economic Development Network (CEDNET) of Saskatchewan.

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

History 288.3: Co-operatives in the World

This class has a record forty-two students this term. The highlight of the course has been the student presentations based on original sources about co-operatives. Topics included the creation of UGG; famous women in the 1920s farm co-operative movement; the merger of the co-op refinery with the co-op wholesale in 1944; the origins of Saskatoon Credit Union and of Teacher's Credit Union; the role of Saskatoon Credit Union in the community; Steep Hill food co-op; Mountain Equipment Co-op; and three presentations on aspects of the recent history of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. Many students commented that they had not heard of co-ops before taking this course or did not know what they were.

One of Brett's MA students, Dan Macfarlane, successfully defended his thesis in December. This leaves him with one MA student in history—Tom Novosel—who is looking at the history of the PA pulp mill and re-

source development in the PA area, and one PhD student in Interdisciplinary Studies—Warren Weir—who is researching co-operative models for Aboriginal economic development.

▲ Research

Brett is the principal investigator on the centre's SSHRC project, "Co-operative Membership and Globalization," and as such is involved in project coordination as well as hands-on research. With his research assistant, centre PhD student Rob Dobrohoczki, he visited South Interlake and Gimli credit unions in Manitoba to plan research interviews and focus groups there this spring and early summer. Partnership agreements are in the hands of the credit unions; ethics approval still needs to be obtained from the university after the credit unions have indicated their interests.

▲ Publications

Since last fall, Brett's writing has centred around the 2005 centenaries of Saskatchewan and Alberta. He has two essays about the histories of co-operatives in the provinces submitted for historical anthologies (see details below), as well as three entries prepared for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*. These detail the Grain Growers' Grain Company, United Grain Growers (Agricore United), and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Company. In addition, there are the following:

Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Practice, co-editor with Nora Russell (Saskatoon: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2004)

"Cohesion, Adhesion, and Identities in Co-operatives," in *Co-operative Membership and Globalization*, see details above

"Setting New Directions," in *Co-operative Membership and Globalization*, see details above

"'Canada's Co-operative Province': Individualism and Mutualism in a Settler Society, 1905–2005," submitted for a planned centenary volume on Saskatchewan history edited by Jene Porter

"From Farm to Community: Co-operatives, Locality, and Social Cohesion in Alberta and Saskatchewan, 1905–2005," submitted for a volume entitled

Prairie West as Promised Land, Doug Francis and Chris Kitzan, eds.

“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

▲ Presentations

“The Role of Co-operatives in the Social Economy of Canada,” to the Canadian Club of Saskatoon, 19 January 2005. This presentation was very well-received and I have received expressions of interest in giving similar presentations to other groups.

“Historical Review of Agriculture in Saskatchewan,” to Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists annual conference, Prince Albert, 7 April 2005.

▲ Administration and Other

Brett continues to be heavily engaged in administration as head of the Department of History and as vice-chair of the Planning Committee of University Council. His department is developing new initiatives in environmental history, Native history, US history, and Asian history. He is also on the drafting committee for the university’s new foundational document on outreach and engagement, and on the steering committee for the university’s planned new School of International Studies. He describes his level of commitment in administrative and planning activities as “not sustainable.”

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

Ag Econ 842.3: Organization of the Food Industry
Ag Econ 898.3: Cognition, Organizations, and Policy

Murray is supervising several graduate students at both the MA and PhD level, two of whom are doing co-operative related theses.

▲ Research

Work is ongoing on Murray’s smaller SSHRC project, “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-

operatives,” as well as on his large project, “Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management.” He is also a co-investigator for the centre’s SSHRC-funded “Co-operative Membership and Globalization” under the leadership of Brett Fairbairn.

▲ Publications

“Cognitive Processes and Co-operative Business Strategy,” in *Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Practice*, Brett Fairbairn and Nora Russell, eds. (Saskatoon: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2004).

With K. Lang, “Member Commitment and the Market and Financial Performance of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool,” *Current Agriculture, Food and Resource Issues* 5 (2004): 238–52.

With M. Cule and A. Weersink, “Greenhouse Gas Policy and Canadian Agriculture,” *Current Agriculture, Food and Resource Issues* 6 (2005): 1–11.

With K. Giannakas, “Process Innovation Activity in a Mixed Oligopoly: The Role of Cooperatives,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, forthcoming.

▲ 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. He is currently taking the lead in developing one of the initiatives outlined in the university’s Integrated Plan, namely the School of Public Policy.

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community

Sociology 402/802.3: Advanced Seminar in the Sociology of Agriculture

Michael was the external examiner for Megan McLoughlin’s successful MA defence of “South Downtown Revitalization in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan: A

Review and Reconsideration.” He is currently supervising three MA students in sociology and on the advisory committee for one MSc and three PhD students (two interdisciplinary, one geography).

▲ Research

Michael is a co-investigator for the centre’s SSHRC-funded “Co-operative Membership and Globalization,” under the leadership of Brett Fairbairn. He is currently engaged in analysis of the initial round of field research in connection with cluster two, Co-operative Membership and Changing Boundaries of Community. He and Roger have more interviews planned for the spring and summer.

Research is underway on the other large collaborative SSHRC project in which Michael is involved—“Thought for Food: Essential Skills and Food System Performance.” Michael’s area of study is the Saskatoon Co-operative Association; there are a number of graduate students already engaged in research activities.

▲ Publications

“Co-operative Membership as a Complex and Dynamic Social Process,” in *Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Practice*, Brett Fairbairn and Nora Russell, eds. (Saskatoon: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2004).

With Lenore Swystun and JoAnn Jaffe, “The Old Same Place? Gender Relations on Co-operative and Conventional Farms in Saskatchewan,” *Prairie Forum* 29 (2): 253–77.

“Synergy and Strategic Advantage: Cooperatives and Sustainable Development,” *Journal of Cooperatives* 19 (2004): 32–46.

Review of *The Trajectories of Rural Life: New Perspectives on Rural Canada*, Raymond Blake and Andrew Nurse, eds., *Great Plains Review* 14 (2): 354–55.

▲ Presentations

With Carol Henry, Adrian Blunt, JoAnn Jaffe, and Susan Whiting, “Literacy and Health in the Food Sector: An Investigation of Essential Skills in Market and Community Settings,” presented at the Second Canadian Conference on Literacy and Health, Ottawa, 17–19 October 2004.

“Exploring the Roles of Co-operatives in Sustainable Rural Development,” presented at Co-operatives and Extension for Sustainable Rural Development in Mongolia conference, Mongolian State University of Agriculture, Ulaanbaatar, 24–25 November 2004.

▲ Administration and Other

Michael has many administrative responsibilities over the coming year. He is program chair and secretary of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation for 2004–05, and as such, responsible for planning the CASC conference in May in Saskatoon. He is the academic co-lead of the Community Economic Development Module, Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), University of Saskatchewan, 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, the Graduate Studies Committee, and the Budget and Planning Committee in the Department of Sociology.

Michael is also on the Science Liaison Committee for Prince Albert National Park, and acts as a manuscript reviewer for the journal *Society and Natural Resources*.

In other scholarly and outreach activity, Michael has done manuscript review this quarter for the *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, the journal *Rural Sociology*, and reviewed a grant application for SSHRC.

Cristine de Clercy

Although she continues to be involved in ongoing aspects of some projects, Cris is currently on maternity leave following the birth of her son, Colin Theodore, in early November. She will be returning to the centre in April.

▲ Publications

“Leadership and Representational Diversity: Theory, Operationalization, and Measurement,” in *Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Practice*, Brett Fairbairn and Nora Russell, eds. (Saskatoon: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2004)

Canadian Politics and Federalism in the Millennium: Essays in Honour of

David E. Smith, Cris de Clercy and Hans Michelmann, eds. (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*, Jeffrey Steeves and Don Story, eds. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, forthcoming)

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

▲ 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

Large projects since the last director’s report include:

- ▲ final preparation of *Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Practice* (320 pp.), Brett and Nora, eds., a major deliverable from the SSHRC project; this book was published at the end of October 04
- ▲ writing, layout, and print supervision of the centre’s annual report
- ▲ writing, layout, and print supervision of the winter newsletter
- ▲ preparing materials for reprinting ten centre publications
- ▲ writing three more articles for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan* (on the centre, New Generation Co-operatives, and the Matador Co-operative Farm); altogether, Nora has written twelve articles for the encyclopedia
- ▲ many, *many* hours spent updating the website, which because of glitches in the system due to the installation of a new server and other new equipment, did not always yield the desired results; this is in the process of being attended to

Smaller projects over the past quarter include:

- ▲ editing the minutes of the last director’s meeting
- ▲ updating student information package
- ▲ arranging for a centre display at the Bob Willard lecture “The Business Case for Sustainability,” sponsored by the centre and others

- ▲ providing materials for university authors display in the Link at the Main Library
- ▲ reprinting SSHRC newsletter
- ▲ preparing a flyer advertising the SSHRC book, *Co-operative Membership and Globalization*, which was sent out with the annual report
- ▲ writing cover letters and arranging for shipping complementary copies of the SSHRC book to all authors, co-investigators, and research partners in the project, as well as the cover designer, translators, and key people in the SSHRC organization
- ▲ preparing ads for centre seminar series
- ▲ preparing various promotional contributions to the Saskatchewan Publishers' Group newsletter *SaskF@cts*
- ▲ preparing materials for inclusion and proofing the centre's pages in University Extension Press's 2005 catalogue; we have six books featured
- ▲ writing articles for CCA's Educator's Newsletter
- ▲ assisting with preparation of materials for the letter of intent for the new SSHRC application

As noted above, we have had a record number of reprints this quarter:

- ▲ *A History of Saskatchewan Co-operative Law*
- ▲ *Worker Co-operatives in Mondragon, the UK, and France*
- ▲ *Employment Co-operatives*
- ▲ *Farm Interest Groups and Canadian Agricultural Policy*
- ▲ *Co-operative Development and the State* (two volumes)
- ▲ *Negotiating Synergies: A Study in Multiparty Conflict Resolution*
- ▲ *Co-operative Development: Towards a Social Movement Perspective*
- ▲ *Co-operative Organizations in Western Canada*
- ▲ *Patronage Allocation, Growth, and Member Well-Being in Co-ops*
- ▲ *Co-operative Organizations in Rural Canada and the Agricultural Co-operative Movement in China: A Comparison*

Nora has plans for additions to the centre's booklet series based on some of the chapters in the SSHRC book, *Co-operative Membership and Globalization*. She is currently working on editing and layout for three large projects; an occasional paper arising from research for the SSHRC project; materials from the Co-operative Research Inventory recently completed for the Co-operatives Secretariat; and the lengthy resource documents resulting from SSHRC student Angie Wagner's work collecting co-operative and other business statistics in connection with the National Co-operative Data Centre project. Nora also has another occasional paper awaiting her attention—Brett Fairbairn's "*Canada's Co-operative Province*": *Individualism and Mutualism in*

a Settler Society, 1905–2005, written in celebration of Saskatchewan's centennial. And there is the usual collection of research reports lurking on the back of her desk.

Nora attends regular meetings of the Editors' Association of Canada 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. Through the March newsletter, for example, we learned about a program called Agriculture in the Classroom, which does regular mail-outs to five hundred educators around the province who are interested in resources related to agriculture, a subject featured in many of our publications. Nora discussed possibilities with the program manager and sent her our list of publications, which she will copy and distribute. The SPG catalogue, *PaperCuts*, featuring three centre publications this year, has been sent to all schools, libraries, and bookstores in the province, as well as being available at trade shows, teacher/librarian conferences, gift shows, and other display events, raising the centre's profile in a number of new areas. Recent and upcoming events where centre publications have been/will be seen include Wintergreen, Agribition, and the Saskatchewan School Librarians Association meetings in Regina; and the Sundog Craft Faire, the Saskatchewan Reading Council conference, the Saskatchewan Library Association Conference, and the Saskatchewan Valley School Division meetings in Saskatoon.

Nora is also responsible for organizing and preparing the quarterly director's reports.

Roger Herman

Roger has spent considerable time during the past few months co-ordinating efforts and preparing applications for two major research grants. The first was in response to a request for proposals issued by the Co-operatives Secretariat and related to preparing a series of case studies on co-operative development. After much preparation, a decision was eventually made not to submit the application because of irresolvable issues related to the retention of copyright for intellectual property feeding into and resulting from the research. The centre has discussed the matter with the secretariat in hopes of avoiding similar difficulties in the future. The second and ongoing grant application is to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council on the subject of the social economy. Details of this proposed research are discussed elsewhere in this report.

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. This has involved reviewing and analyzing interview transcripts of key informants from Prince Albert Co-operative Association and Prince Albert Credit Union.

Roger attended the seventh annual Farmer Co-operatives Conference in Kansas City in November 04. This year's conference, organized by the Center for Co-operatives at the University of Wisconsin, focussed on co-operative innovation.

In January, Roger and Murray hosted two Japanese scholars researching the Canadian pork industry and the role of co-operatives in community development.

Roger is leading a committee planning the third annual Building Co-operative Futures youth conference, to be held in Saskatoon in May 2005. The conference will include a variety of sessions and workshops in addition to a Rural Hospitality Evening and a Cultural Evening. We are expecting about a hundred participants, including First Nations and Francophone youth, as well as representatives from developing countries in which CCA has active development projects.

Roger continues to respond to inquiries regarding New Generation Co-operatives as well as co-ops in general; he remains the centre representative to SCCD (Saskatchewan Council for Community Development) functions, and he serves on the Saskatoon Community Clinic's board of directors.

Lorraine Salt

We have at last found a replacement for Carol! Lorraine joined us in early February and quickly made herself at home in the resource centre, tackling the mountains of materials that have lain fallow since Carol's departure.

She has spent the past six weeks familiarizing herself with the contents of the library and the subject of co-operatives. Due to the time of year, a steady stream of undergraduate students has been coming into the library, which has given Lorraine a baptism by fire in terms of learning about available resources and the scope of the library collection. With the assistance of a part-time

library technician over the next couple of months, she has a project underway to catalogue the large backlog. The two of them are shelf reading, reorganizing, and generally tidying items on the shelves, which had fallen into a bit of disarray.

In her role as administrator for the SSHRC project, Lorraine is engaged in updating expense information and arranging meetings with project partners in preparation for the final year of the grant and the myriad of details that that involves. Like others at the centre, she is also a participant in the new SSHRC application, which will focus on the social economy.

Lorraine comments on the hive of activity that characterizes the centre in contrast to the relative calm of her past employment and recent studies, and though it is still early days, notes that she is beginning to adjust to the daily challenges and their concomitant rewards.

Patty Scheidl

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. This includes ensuring the presence of all supporting documentation and the many steps involved in obtaining the appropriate paperwork in its absence. 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 and omissions that occur from time to time.

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 sometimes organizing conference calls. This past quarter she organized several meetings in connection with the new SSHRC application on the social economy, and a very successful breakfast meeting for centre staff. On an ongoing basis, she makes all the arrangements for the Management Advisory Board meetings. This includes co-ordinating a suitable date for everyone involved, which inevitably takes days of back-and-forth communications, 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 and accommodation arrangements for centre personnel. This past few months she organized Michael's trip to Mongolia and is in the process of dealing with travel claims for Bill Turner and Gary Storey in connection with the Rural China project being administered through the centre. This involves setting up a new research account and sorting out the complex details of the contract between the university and Ag and Agri-Food Canada.

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.

As usual, Patty has spent time with Campus Computer Store employees arranging for quotes and the purchase of new equipment. She has also devoted many hours to co-ordinating and supervising visits from our IT technician, Brent Burlingham, who has assisted us with various computer-related problems and tasks—cleaning off old disks in preparation for sending them to Surplus Assets; setting up workstations for staff and students; and troubleshooting numbers of computer problems.

It is interesting to note the amount of administrative time it takes to fill a vacant position at the centre. Patty spent many hours during December/January dealing with posting and filling the Research Officer/Librarian position. This involved negotiating with HR officials regarding the posting description, closing dates, application procedures, and interviewing; posting the advertisement through library list serves across Canada; collecting applications after the closing date; preparing copies for the interview committee; and scheduling interviews with both local and long-distance applicants. This included arranging conference-call interviews. Once the successful candidate had been selected, she sent out letters to the unsuccessful applicants, prepared Lorraine's hiring forms, ordered office keys, arranged for the library nameplate to be changed, and assisted Lorraine with orientation issues.

Until Lorraine's arrival in early February, Patty spent a lot of time assisting in the resource centre registering students, helping them find things, signing out books, and photocopying articles. She also dealt with the many other

inquiries that come in via phone or e-mail, directing them to the appropriate person for help. And without a project administrator for the SSHRC grant, Patty has found herself dealing with many issues around this large complex activity, including finances, travel arrangements, reimbursements, and the co-ordination of tape transcription, which includes hiring people, dealing with payroll forms, and arranging for equipment.

Less demanding but no less important activities include assisting Karen in sending out the seminar series notices (four since the last director's report); assisting with the mailout of the centre's annual report and the winter newsletter; organizing the printing of course materials for faculty; assisting Michael by sending out mass e-mails regarding the upcoming CASC conference and the call for papers; helping Roger with the many arrangements around the co-operative youth conference coming up in May; handling numerous printing jobs and courier packages; and renewing memberships and subscriptions to periodicals.

Patty attended a training session on the new photocopier machine and co-ordinated a meeting of the three departments in our building to assist everyone in learning how to use the new machine when it arrived. She also attended a couple of training sessions on the procedures for the new P-card for office purchases.

Finally, she contacted Human Resources regarding the availability of a library assistant to deal with the backlog of books and prepared the paperwork for hiring Caren Mann, who will be with us for two months.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen works for the centre half time, assisting Patty in the office and in the library with a variety of activities. Her regular duties include reception, paperwork, cash reports, filing, xeroxing and printing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, keeping track of stock for reprints, as well as invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills. 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 substantial amounts of copying and

printing for faculty and staff; the mailout of the annual report in December and the winter newsletter in February; booking rooms for meetings and ordering media equipment; organizing the routing of journals, assisting students, ordering and shelving books and other materials in the library; responding to many publications enquiries, preparing invoices and cash reports for purchases; typing up the materials for the new SSHRC application on the social economy; sending out notices for four separate seminars; and spending many hours on the phone arranging for accommodations for the upcoming CASC conference in May.

Karen was also responsible this quarter for dealing with the Norm Bromberger scholarship applications. This involves arranging for printing and sending them out to seven departments in each of fifty-eight universities across Canada.

In addition, she has been kept busy with the interest in the new *Co-operative Membership and Globalization* book. In addition to fulfilling regular orders, this has included preparing the packages for sending out complementary copies to potential reviewers, the authors, all co-investigators and partners in the SSHRC project, as well as key people in the SSHRC organization.

Up until Lorraine's arrival, Karen had a number of regular responsibilities in the library—ordering new books, processing returns, keying in records in preparation for cataloguing, labelling, shelving, filing, copying materials for the vertical files, and getting new books ready for circulation. She spent a lot of time registering students and other library patrons, helping them access materials in the library, or directing them to other individuals for help with their reference questions. She has also been responsible for circulating periodicals, preparing summaries of journal contents and distributing them to centre faculty, staff, and scholars, as well as notifying everyone of new books received. And she has maintained the bulletin board and book display area in the hallway outside the library.

Karen also willingly undertakes whatever incidental tasks may be required by faculty, staff, or scholars.

Angela Wagner

Angie's SSHRC scholarship came to an end in December 04. With the course work for her MA finished and her data collection complete, she is working on her thesis titled "Membership Identity and Consumer Behaviour: The Case

of Consumer Co-operatives.” She expects to defend it late summer 05.

Over the past couple of years, as part of the condition of her scholarship, Angie has worked for the centre researching sources of business statistics for co-operatives and other organizations, compiling a voluminous amount of material in the process. This is with Nora for editing and will be an addition to our occasional papers series.

Jason Heit

Jason was the first student in the centre’s Interdisciplinary Research Concentration in Co-operative Studies program; he is also a SSHRC scholarship winner. While focussing on the course work for his MA, he continues to be involved in a number of other activities at the centre. In December, he was part of a panel presentation with fellow inter-d students Monica and Rob for the centre’s Seminar Series. They discussed issues relative to e-commerce and community. He will be part of another panel with Isobel Findlay, Monica, and Rob at the CASC meetings here in May; his paper is titled “Expressing Identity or Franchising Conformity: A Review of Six American Agricultural Co-operative Websites.” He 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 last summer on website design and quality in selected co-operative organizations awaits Nora’s attention for editing; it will become a research paper in the collection gathering around the SSHRC project. With assistance from centre staff, Jason continues to co-ordinate the centre’s Seminar Series. He is also helping Roger and other members of the planning committee with the organization of this year’s Building Co-operative Futures youth conference, which will be held on the University of Saskatchewan campus 12–15 May.

Kim Brown

Another SSHRC scholar, Kim is busy this semester finishing the class requirements for her master’s program in political studies. She spent many hours this past quarter determining the research question and methodology for the thesis component of her program, which was approved just before Christmas. Her topic is board diversity in co-operative organizations, which is related to cluster one of the SSHRC project, Co-operative Consumer Identities in Urban Communities. Like Jason, Kim is involved in planning the co-operative youth conference taking place here in May.

Juanita Bacsu

Juanita was one of our summer research assistants last year and although she completed her assignment at the end of August, she returned to the centre part time in January 05 to help Cris with the creation of 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 and follows on from work Juanita did last summer.

Monica Juarez Adeler

The first PhD student in the centre's Interdisciplinary Research Concentration in Co-operative Studies, Monica is also a SSHRC scholarship recipient. She is busy this year fulfilling her course-work requirements. Her dissertation topic on e-commerce transactions and co-operative membership, which will compare activity in Canada and the European Union, places her in the SSHRC cluster four research area. Monica made presentations to the InterD Seminars at the end of October and in mid-November. With Jason and Rob, she was part of a panel discussion on issues around e-commerce and community for the centre Seminar Series in December. Also with Jason and Rob, along with Isobel Findlay, she will take part in another panel presentation at the CASC meetings in May, which she is helping to organize. Her topic is "The Internet and the European Union: Reflections of Economic, Legal, and Socio-Cultural Complexities and the Implications for Co-operatives." Finally, Monica will be the centre's representative at the Mondragon Co-operative Research Conference in Spain at the end of June, presenting a paper titled "Technology, Globalization, and Co-operatives: Reflections on New Economic, Legal, and Socio-Cultural Complexities and the Implications for Co-operatives."

Rob Dobrohoczki

Rob is a part-time PhD candidate in the InterD Concentration in Co-op Studies program. He is the recipient of both the Dennis Lyster Leadership Bursary from Concentra Financial and the Norm Bromberger Research Bursary from Credit Union Central. In addition to his course work this year, he is assisting Brett with the research in Manitoba's Interlake Region for the SSHRC project. With Monica and Jason, Rob took part in a panel presenta-

tion on e-commerce and community for the centre's Seminar Series. And with Isobel Findlay, Monica, and Jason, he will be presenting a paper titled "E-Commerce, Democracy, and Co-operative Identity" in a panel discussion at the CASC conference in May. Rob also has a paper in editing with Nora for the centre's occasional paper series titled "Social Cohesion through Market Democratisation: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation."

Caren Mann

Library technician Caren Mann joined us for two months beginning in March to assist Lorraine with the enormous backlog of materials that has built up in the library since Carol left last January. She is working half time, mainly cataloguing and shelving books.