

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board



Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives



Brett Fairbairn
Director



June 2002





The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is an interdisciplinary teaching and research institution located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. It is supported financially by the co-operative sector—Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Federated Co-operatives Ltd., Co-operative Trust, The Co-operators, and the CUMIS Group—the Government of Saskatchewan, 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, Political Studies, and Sociology—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



SSHRC Grant Update



Winter/Spring Research Projects Update



The Seminar Series



Publications New and Forthcoming



Staff News



Scholars Update



Visitors

▲ SSHRC Grant Update

Now that the initial euphoria has calmed somewhat, Centre Fellows, Scholars, and co-applicants have settled into the first phase of this massive project on co-operative membership and globalization. An initial planning session involving co-applicants and some of the partner co-operatives from across Canada was held in late March, and plans for a conference in the fall are underway. Information about the graduate scholarships available under the grant has been prepared and circulated. And co-investigators and student researchers are preparing background papers on a number of topics (see the end of this report under Summer Researchers for details). The plan is to have the papers circulate by the end of the summer, helping provide a basis for the late October conference, where researchers and partners will discuss and plan the research program and methodologies. In addition, various researchers and partners attended the Sharing Voices: Adding Values workshop on Aboriginal community economic development in Saskatoon in early May, and later that month the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings in Toronto, where they discussed and planned aspects of the project.

▲ Winter/Spring Research Projects Update

Four research projects begun during the winter have come to a conclusion. These include the three funded by the Co-operatives Secretariat, Government of Canada: Roger's work on how social cohesion factors into the choice of organizational form by producer groups pursuing value-added agricultural ventures; Murray's research on co-operatives and farmers in the New Agriculture; and Kim Sanderson's studies of successful co-op value-added ventures. The fourth project, a comprehensive overview of Québec's Desjardins Movement, is also complete. It is likely that Roger's and Murray's papers, as well as the Desjardins project, will find their way into centre publications, either as occasional papers or research reports.

▲ The Seminar Series

Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay gave our last formally scheduled seminar in April titled "Remapping Economy, Society, Culture, and the Implications of the Postmodern and Postcolonial for Co-operative Organizations." We were fortunate, however, to have Ian MacPherson, here on SSHRC-related matters,

offer an additional seminar on the nature of co-op studies. And inspired by Isobel's presentation, Brett also jumped into the fray with a talk titled "Rethinking Saskatchewan Co-operative History: Insights from Post-colonialism." The series will continue once term starts in the fall.

▲ Publications New and Forthcoming

The centre has one new publication since the last director's report—Brenda Stefanson's *Adult Educators in Co-operative Development: Agents of Change*, originally a thesis, which has been adapted for our occasional paper series. We have also had a number of significant reprints. As reported in March, both Lou and Ian's *Report on Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: Current Situation and Potential for Growth* and Centre Scholar Marj Benson's law casebook, *Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture: A Study in Multiparty Negotiations*, sold out their print runs within three weeks. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada agreed to pay for a reprint of the former, and although we had planned not to reissue the latter until Marj had made significant revisions based on papers submitted by this term's students, demand has dictated that we reprint that as well. It is expected that the revised version will be available in December. The long-awaited reprint of *Making Membership Meaningful: Participatory Democracy in Co-operatives*, first published in 1995, is finally on our shelves. We are pleased to have this back in circulation; although somewhat dated, people continue to ask for it.

Forthcoming of note is an addition to our booklet series, Ann Hoyt's *Up a Creek with a Paddle: Excellence in the Board Room*; an occasional paper on Saskatchewan's Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation; and a number of research papers—one on a comparison of agricultural co-operatives in Germany and western Canada, another on student co-operatives in North America, and a third on the Desjardins Movement in Québec.

Please see Nora's section for more details about activities in the Communications Department.

▲ Staff News

Our most exciting news this quarter is the safe arrival of Carol's baby on 17 May. Her name is Maeve, a baby sister for Declan. Carol will be on maternity leave until January 2003. Replacing her to handle the administrative

responsibilities connected to the SSHRC grant is Cindy Hanson, who most recently worked on campus as an administrative assistant and managing editor of the *Canadian Journal of History* in the History Department. Her background is in education, research, and management in the humanities and social sciences. We were fortunate to find someone with her background and experience.

Of our two winter research assistants, Diane Reid completed her English-language overview of the Caisse Populaire Desjardins and left us at the end of May, and Armando Lessa continues to work with Michael on his large research project on the Saskatoon Farmers' Market.

Murray returned in June from a six-month administrative leave spent researching and teaching in France, Denmark, and Greece.

We have hired no fewer than seven students as summer research assistants, four of whom will be working on SSHRC-related matters, and the other three on a variety of topics. Please see the end of this report for details.

And we are pleased to announce that Karla Radloff, a researcher with the centre last summer and again this year, will be joining us as a graduate student in Political Studies at the master's level in the fall.

▲ Scholars Update

The CSC Scholars have participated in a variety of centre activities since joining us a year ago. Ten of the current twelve U of S scholars took part in an all-day workshop last summer at which important aspects of co-operative teaching, research, and possible collaborative projects were discussed.

No fewer than six scholars wrote papers and made presentations in the centre's seminar series during 2001–02. Some of these papers will be worked up for publication, either as centre occasional papers or in outside journals. Gordon Barnhart expanded his seminar on former Premier Walter Scott and his various early co-operative projects and presented it at several other venues over the course of the year. Two more U of S scholars are already booked for presentations next year.

A number of scholars have on-going projects with co-operative connections. Isobel Findlay has been heavily involved in developing the successful SSHRC strategic grant proposal on co-operatives and social cohesion, and is at work on a background paper for the project. She was also the organizing chair for a

conference in May on Aboriginal community economic development and has given three presentations relevant to the Aboriginal cultures cluster. Marj Benson, produced a book-length publication with the centre this past year—*Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture*—which is being revised and expanded in 2002–03. The course on which the publication is based is being developed as a distributed learning course to be shared with other law schools. Sheryl Mills teaches a summer course in co-operative learning through the College of Education. And Louise Clarke has been a participant over the past year in a community-based strategic planning process in Saskatoon’s core neighbourhoods spearheaded by QUINT, a community development corporation with a commitment to co-operatives.

Three scholars are involved in joint projects with centre fellows (Jill Hobbs with Murray and Brett in the Role of Farmers in the New Agriculture project, Eric Howe with Brett in hosting a delegation of German co-operators in September, and Jim Randall with Lou in the Community-University Institute for Social Research, CUISR, which has done two studies so far in conjunction with the centre). The connection with Jim Randall and CUISR also involves several other dimensions. Nora has been working with CUISR to produce the proceedings of a conference on urban housing issues in the prairie provinces. Roger is also working with CUISR on a 2003 conference called CUexpo, which will examine and feature university-community partnerships such as the centre and its work.

Two scholars attended the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings at University of Toronto in late May/early June, indicating a commitment to co-operative studies. And a number of scholars have called on Carol’s assistance for research and reference support as they explore and become more familiar with co-operatives.

▲ Visitors

We have had only two visitors since the last director’s report. Professor Chen Fu, head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the South China Agricultural University in Guangzhou, came to the centre to make use of our resources on co-operatives. And George Hendry came to us from Scotland, where he won the Farmer of the Year Award over six hundred tenants of the Crown Estates in the British Isles. The award allowed him to go anywhere in the world to study agriculture, and his interest in co-operatives led him to Saskatchewan and our centre, as well as to Wisconsin. His own co-op is facing some challenges and he is curious about how North American co-ops have dealt with similar circumstances.

Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, and Administration

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

History 288.3: Co-operatives in the World (Jan–Apr 02)

History 899.6: A Special Topics Class in Rural Social History (Sept 01–Apr 02)

Both these courses came to an end in April. Brett continues to supervise a number of graduate students.

▲ New Research

Besides the SSHRC project, Brett is involved with Murray, Jill Hobbs, and Kim Sanderson in “The Role of Farmers in the New Agriculture” project.

Brett recently reached an agreement with Federated Co-operatives Limited to research and write their 75th anniversary history, covering the period 1982–2003, to be ready for FCL’s annual meeting in 2004. Nora developed a complementary proposal that would see the centre publish the book.

▲ Publications

Academic—Published

(Co-editor with Omer Chouinard) Special Issue of *Économie et Solidarités* on *L’Économie sociale au Canada*, 33 (1) 2002.

(Co-author with Omer Chouinard) “L’Économie sociale au Canada hors Québec: la tradition coopérative et le développement économique communautaire.” Special Issue of *Économie et Solidarités* on *L’Économie sociale au Canada*, 33 (1) 2002, pp. 51–56.

“How ‘Social’ are Co-ops? Tensions, Transitions, and the Social Economy of Co-operatives in Canada.” Special issue of *Économie et Solidarités* on *L’Économie sociale au Canada*, 33 (1) 2002, pp. 112–30. (Peer-reviewed.)

Academic—Forthcoming

“Membership, Organization, and Wilhelmine Modernism: Construction of Economic Democracy through Co-operation.” Submitted for *Wilhelminism and its Legacies: Crisis, Continuity, and the Meanings of Reform in Germany, 1890–1930*, eds. Geoff Eley and James Retallack (Berghahn Books) (accepted).

“Self-Help and Philanthropy: The Emergence of Co-operatives in Britain, Germany, the USA, and Canada from the mid-19th to mid-20th Century.” Submitted for a volume on philanthropy and patronage in 19th-century Germany, the USA, Britain, and Canada, ed. Thomas Adam (University of Indiana Press) (accepted).

“A Century of Prairie and Saskatchewan Farm Co-operatives: Philosophy, Organization, and History.” Submitted for the proceedings from the Territorial Grain Growers Association Centenary Symposium, University of Regina, 25 November 2001.

“‘Betweenness’ as Characteristic of the Teacher-Scholar: Interdisciplinarity, Internationalization, and the Research-Teaching-Extension Intersection.” Submitted for the proceedings from University of Saskatchewan “What Is a Teacher-Scholar?” symposium, 9 November 2001.

“Co-operatives and Economic Transformations in the United States and Canada,” for volume edited by Chris Merrett of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (accepted).

“Consumer Co-operatives in International Perspective: A Historical Overview,” for volume edited by Michael Prinz on the history of consumer society in Germany (forthcoming, to be translated into German).

▲ Presentations and Extension Education

Brett is instructing two weeks of a course titled “Co-operation in the Global Economy” in the Bologna Summer Program for Co-operative Studies, Bologna, Italy, 17–25 June 2002. This is a summer program of the Canadian Co-operative Association, BC Region, and the University of Bologna.

“The Role of the Farmer in the Future Economy,” Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan Midterm Convention, 14 June 2002, Saskatoon.

“Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Economic Relations. A Project Overview,” Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Toronto, 30 May 2002.

“Cooperative Centers: Adapting for the Long Run,” Association of Cooperative Educators 2002 Institute, Guelph, Ontario, 15 May.

“Pre-Institute Workshop: Rethinking Cooperative Education” (speaker and facilitator), Association of Cooperative Educators 2002 Institute, Guelph, Ontario, 14 May

“The Social and Co-operative Economy in Canada Outside Québec,” Colloque “Économie sociale, publique et coopérative” au 70e Congrès de l’ACFAS, Université Laval, 13 May 2002.

“Rethinking Saskatchewan Co-operative History: Insights from Post-colonialism,” Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Seminar Series, University of Saskatchewan, 9 May 2002.

▲ Other

In addition to his responsibilities as director of the centre, Brett is a director and chair of the Saskatchewan Archives Board; editor of the CASCnet list-serve; a member of the History Department’s Systematic Program Review self-study committee; and principal investigator for the SSHRC grant.

Murray Fulton

Murray spent the past six months on administrative leave, doing research in France and Denmark. He returned to the centre in June.

▲ Teaching

While on leave, Murray taught a course titled “Economics and Organization of the Food Industry” to MSc students at the Mediterranean Agriculture Institute of Maich in Crete, Greece.

▲ Research

Murray finished his paper (co-authored with Kim Sanderson) for the Co-operatives Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, titled “Co-operatives and Farmers in the New Agriculture.” The paper explores the implications of the major changes underway in the agri-food system for farmers and agricultural co-operatives, examining two issues in detail—the greater interdependence of farmers with other players in the food system and the increased emphasis on quality.

He is also working on papers in the following areas: the gray market for fertilizer in China; leadership, agency, and member commitment in co-operatives; leadership quality and competition; and the role of co-ops in the provision of quality.

▲ Publications

Academic—Accepted

(With K. Belcher and M. Boehm) “An Agroecosystem Scale Evaluation of the Sustainability Implications of Carbon Tax and Carbon Credit Policies.” *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture*. In Press.

▲ Presentations

“Leadership in Democratic and Participatory Organizations” to the Royal Agricultural College in Copenhagen, Denmark.

“The Market Effects of Genetically Modified Foods” to Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique in Toulouse, France.

“Organizational Commitment in a Mixed Oligopoly: Agricultural Co-ops and IOFs” to Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique in Toulouse, France.

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community (Jan–Apr 02)

Sociology 402/802.3: Advanced Seminar in the Sociology of Agriculture
(Jan–Apr 02)

These courses concluded in April. Michael continues to supervise a number of masters students and is a committee member for four PhD candidates. He was also the external examiner for a PhD defence in the College of Commerce in May.

▲ Research

Michael continues to work on his CUISR-funded project titled “The Economic and Social Importance of the Saskatoon Farmers Market Co-operative in the City and Region,” co-directed with Diane Martz from the Department of Geography. He has completed a survey of vendor-members, and is hoping to expand the project to include farmers’ markets in other parts of the province.

Co-investigator for SSHRC-funded project, “Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations,” under leadership of Brett Fairbairn.

Michael is a co-investigator on a proposal under SSHRC’s Initiatives on the New Economy program, administered through the Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina. If successful, the project would support further research on co-operatives in Chile and Costa Rica that he began during his recent sabbatical year. With the Letter of Intent approved, researchers are currently developing a full-fledged proposal, due 15 July.

And Michael is a research advisor for a project submitted by Saskatoon’s Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-operative to CUISR. The proposal is to study similar youth projects across the country and to investigate options for combining programming in the arts, trades, recreation, and the environment.

▲ Presentations

“Circles Closed: Co-operative Enterprise and Sustainable Economic Development,” at the Value(s) Added: Sharing Voices on Aboriginal

Community Economic Development conference, 2–4 May, Saskatoon.

“Formal and Informal Co-operation in Farming: Limits and Possibilities,” at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, May, Toronto.

▲ Administration and Other

Michael participated actively in centre staff meetings, planning, and in development and review of particular proposals for new centre initiatives. These initiatives have included the development of the SSHRC grant proposal and the strategy for implementing it; proposed 2005 centenary projects; and new communications initiatives towards the public and the co-operative sector, among other topics. He is chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Sociology, for 2001–02. He is a member of the Administrative Committee, International Studies, College of Arts and Science, U of S. He is a member of the Endowment Committee of the Rural Sociological Society, and chair of the Science Liaison Committee for Prince Albert National Park.

Cristine de Clercy

▲ Teaching

Political Studies 203.6: The Government of Canada (Sept 01–Apr 02)

This class concluded in April.

▲ Research

Since March Cris has been working on several projects already in progress. With a colleague at U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, she has completed a comprehensive survey instrument to study municipal officials and politicians. It will be ready for distribution once the sample is drawn. Of relevance to co-operators, it includes a few baseline questions about how local politicians view the economic potential of co-ops. These test questions may provide the basis for a larger survey undertaken as part of the SSHRC project.

In April Cris was awarded a Canadian Institute for Health Research Development Grant, which will help her to author a full grant proposal for CIHR research funding.

Currently she is finishing a chapter titled “Women and the Public Sphere,” to be published in a centenary collection of essays about Saskatchewan edited by Professor Jene Porter in Political Studies.

Co-investigator for SSHRC-funded project, “Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations,” under leadership of Brett Fairbairn.

▲ Presentations

“A Brief Conceptual History of the Co-operative Sector–Government Partnership in Co-operative Development,” to the Saskatchewan Department of Industry and Resources/CCA (Saskatchewan Region) Officials’ Forum on the Role of Co-operatives in Saskatchewan, 5 June 2002, Saskatoon.

“GM Foods and the Co-op Sector,” to the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation annual meetings, Toronto 31 May–1 June 2002.

“The Behavioural Revolution, Act 2: Rational Models of Leadership,” to the Canadian Political Science Association annual meeting, Toronto, 29 May–1 June 2002.

Panelist, “Roundtable Panel for New Hires on Making the Transition to an Academic Career,” at the Canadian Political Science Association annual meeting, Toronto, 29 May–1 June 2002.

▲ Administration

Organizer of eight-member panel on “Studying Political Leadership: Methods and Models,” at the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, 29 May–1 June 2002.

Cris participated actively in centre staff meetings, planning, and in development and review of particular proposals for new centre initiatives. These initiatives have included the development of the SSHRC grant proposal and the strategy for implementing it; proposed 2005 centenary projects; and new communications initiatives towards the public and the co-operative sector, among other topics.

Lou Hammond Ketilson

Lou is a Fellow of the centre, currently on leave to perform administrative duties in the College of Commerce. Nevertheless, she remains active in working on topics related to co-operatives.

▲ Teaching

MBA 898: Independent Readings Course, “Women in Management,” with PhD candidate in Women and Gender Studies (Jan–Apr 02)

This course ended in April. Lou is committee chair for two MBA students and on the committee of one other. She also runs the MBA program in the College of Commerce.

▲ Research

Co-investigator for SSHRC-funded project, “Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations,” under leadership of Brett Fairbairn.

▲ Publications

Academic—Submitted

“Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: An Economic and Social Development Strategy Whose Time Has Come,” submitted to *Journal of the Council for Aboriginal Native Development Officers*.

▲ Presentations

“Building New Co-operative Links with Tomorrow’s Communities,” to Credit Union Central’s annual meeting in Regina, 9 April 2002. This was the conclusion of a series of practical presentations Lou has made to CUC officials over the past year.

Lou chaired the closing session of the Co-operative Development Forum sponsored by Saskatchewan Industry and Resources (formerly Sask. Economic and Co-operative Development), 5 June in Saskatoon. Her role was to pull together the day’s sessions and set the ground-work for future actions.

▲ Conferences

Lou attended the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings in Toronto, 30 May–1 June.

And she is working with Kathleen Gabelman from the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies to organize a Canadian delegation of women involved in co-ops and co-op development to join the American delegation attending the World Congress on Rural Women in Madrid, October 2002.

▲ Administration

Lou continues her term as associate dean in the College of Commerce, which, in addition to general administrative duties, includes responsibility for graduate programs and the directorship of the Centre for International Business Studies. She is on the President's SSHRC Committee, the University IT Committee, and is the university co-ordinator of the Community Economic Development module of the Community-University Institute for Social Research.

Nora Russell

Since the last director's report, major activities in the Communications Department have included:

- ▲ design, layout, and print supervision of Brenda Stefanson's *Adult Educators in Co-operative Development: Agents of Change*, an addition to our occasional paper series;
- ▲ writing, layout, and print supervision of the spring newsletter;
- ▲ editing the one-hundred pages of the transcribed text from the Scholars' Retreat down to a manageable fifty; this is with Brett for final revisions prior to layout, printing, and distribution to participants;
- ▲ on behalf of the Community-University Institute for Social Research, co-directed by Centre Scholar Jim Randall, did the editing, layout, cover design, and prepress work for the proceedings of the Prairie Urban Congress 2001, a conference on urban housing issues sponsored by CUISR; and

- ▲ editing and layout for Roger’s research paper titled “The Role of Social Cohesion in the Adoption of Innovation and Selection of Organizational Form: An Examination of Saskatchewan’s Value-Added Agricultural Sector,” prepared for and funded by the Co-operative’s Secretariat, Government of Canada.

Smaller projects have included:

- ▲ preparing ads for centre seminar series;
- ▲ redesign and print supervision of covers for our occasional paper series;
- ▲ pulling text out of QuarkXPress and preparing Word files of *Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture* for Marj Benson’s upcoming revisions;
- ▲ research for proposed special newsletter to go out to individual board members in credit union outlets and branches, FCL retails, and SWP delegates (i.e., beyond the head office officials who currently receive our regular newsletter); this is an attempt to reach the grass roots of our sponsoring organizations; and
- ▲ design of business card for SSHRC project.

Reprints:

- ▲ *A Report on Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: Current Situation and Potential for Growth* (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada generously paid for the printing costs.)
- ▲ *Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture: A Study in Multiparty Negotiations* (Demand compelled us to reprint this while awaiting Centre Scholar Marj Benson’s substantially revised second edition, which will include input from this term’s class in multiparty conflict resolution.)
- ▲ *Making Membership Meaningful: Participatory Democracy in Co-operatives* (This has been out of stock for some time and we are pleased to have it back on our list.)
- ▲ *Rural Co-operatives and Sustainable Development* (the third reprint in six months)

As co-employment equity co-ordinator for the centre, Nora recently completed a pilot on-line course in Aboriginal Cultural Awareness. A second pilot

is taking place in June and it is hoped that it will be made available to the wider university community in the fall.

As usual, Nora has a number of items on her to-do list. The occasional paper on the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation (editing complete) is with the author for revisions. Other items include Hannes Mesecke's paper comparing western Canadian and German agricultural co-operatives, an occasional paper; Karla Radloff's paper on student co-operatives in North America, a research report; Ann Hoyt's *Up a Creek with a Paddle: Excellence in the Board Room*, a booklet; and Diane Reid's work on the history of the Desjardins Movement in Québec, another occasional paper. Nora also has to prepare the year-end employment equity report for submission to the university's Employment Equity Working Committee. And once the current director's report is complete, she will be turning her immediate attention to the annual report.

Nora participates actively in centre staff meetings, planning, and in development and review of particular proposals for new centre initiatives. Recent initiatives have included the proposed 2005 centenary projects; employment equity activities; and new communications initiatives towards the public and the co-operative sector, among other topics.

Carol Shepstone

Before Carol's maternity leave began unexpectedly early on 17 May, she was working on a number of projects related to the SSHRC grant, including budget revision and development and organizing meetings for upcoming planning sessions. Following the application prepared by Carol, we received ethics approval from the university's Committee for Social and Behavioural Science Research, a hurdle that had to be overcome before the real work could begin. She has set up five separate listserves for participants, a general one as well as one relating to each of the clusters. She was responsible for advertising for the scholarships and the four summer research assistantships attached to the grant, as well as vetting the many applications, and setting up and participating in the interviews and the final hiring process. In addition, she prepared the applications to the U-Step Program, which provides funding for student research assistants, for the non-SSHRC-related projects the centre wished to undertake this summer. These applications successfully resulted in funding for Jill McKenzie's summer work on the documentation of co-opera-

tive history; details can be found at the end of this report under Summer Researchers.

Although we will not be able to offer research and reference services in her absence, Carol has developed a detailed plan to ensure that most other library functions can be maintained at a reasonable level. Cindy Hanson, as mentioned in the Highlights section, will take over her project management role in connection with the SSHRC project, while Karen and Patty will be responsible during the summer for the day-to-day administrative tasks such as routing of new serials, check-in and reshelving, table of contents e-mails, circulation, and the newspaper clipping files.

Development and maintenance of the SSHRC website has been placed in the hands of Steven McLeod, the web person from Arts and Science. And Patty will be doing the essential web updates on the centre's regular site, such as posting seminar announcements, director's reports, newsletters, new publications, etc.

Brett received a letter from the president of the Special Libraries Association, Western Canadian Chapter, of which Carol is the Saskatchewan director, commending her for her "excellent work" with the association. Carol recently co-ordinated five "highly successful" virtual professional development opportunities for members in Saskatchewan and was praised for her "professionalism, innate sense of business, and practical advice."

Carol participates actively in centre staff meetings, planning, and in development and review of particular proposals for new centre initiatives. These initiatives have included the development of the SSHRC grant proposal and the strategy for implementing it; employment equity activities; and proposed 2005 centenary projects, among other topics.

Carol plans to return to the centre in January 2003.

Roger Herman

Roger recently completed the research report titled "The Role of Social Cohesion in the Adoption of Innovation and Selection of Organizational Form: An Examination of Saskatchewan's Value-Added Agricultural Sector" for the Co-operatives Secretariat, Government of Canada. Also for the Co-operatives Secretariat, he arranged for the preparation (by a graduate student)

of nine mini case-studies of successful agricultural co-operative ventures in Saskatchewan.

He continues to work on research for his Masters thesis titled “The Diffusion of Innovation in Saskatchewan Agriculture,” which is examining producer-owned terminals, community-based hog initiatives, and New Generation Co-operatives.

Roger has also been involved in a number of other activities. He continues to work with the planning committee for CUISR’s 2003 conference on community-university partnerships. With a number of American colleagues, he is part of another committee planning a second “Co-operative Think Tank,” a follow-up on a similar event held last summer in Medora, North Dakota, which involved a variety of academics and co-op development practitioners from across the US. Roger participated in a consultation meeting with employees from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada regarding the Agricultural Policy Framework, and continues to respond to inquiries related to New Generation Co-operative development. He attended the Association of Co-operative Educators Institute in Guelph in May, and presented a paper titled “The Diffusion of Innovative Organizational Structures in Saskatchewan’s New Agriculture” at Symposium 2002, a conference hosted annually by the Co-operative Chair, Department of Rural Economy, University of Alberta.

Roger is responsible for the co-ordination of the centre’s seminar series, which, since the last director’s report, has seen three presentations on a variety of subjects from Centre Fellows and Scholars. In addition, he has co-ordinated a weekly lunch gathering for centre staff and summer students, offering an opportunity for examination and discussion of co-op-related issues and topics.

Most recently, Roger hosted George Hendry, a Scottish co-operator, during his visit to the centre, helping to arrange other meetings and visits to co-ops while he was in Saskatoon.

Roger participates actively in centre staff meetings, planning, and in development and review of particular proposals for new centre initiatives. These initiatives have included the proposed 2005 centenary projects, in which Roger took the leading role, and new communications initiatives towards the public and the co-operative sector, among other topics.

Patty Scheidl

In addition to regular day-to-day responsibilities as the office manager, Patty has been kept extremely busy over the past several months with SSHRC project activities. She assisted with the advertisements for the summer research positions, gathered the applications, and set up interviews. Once decisions had been made, she processed all the paperwork for hiring the four students, made arrangements for office space and keys, and informed them of various office procedures. She also processed the appointments for the three other students hired for the summer, as well as for Cindy Hanson, who replaced Carol in the SSHRC project manager's position.

With so many new people at the centre, equipment needs expanded, and Patty was in charge of researching and co-ordinating the purchase of three new computers, setting up the new workstations, and managing the inevitable transfer of critical files and shuffle of machines within our offices that occurs with each new purchase.

Patty assembled the applications submitted for the PhD scholarship in "Aboriginal Cultures and Co-operation" as well as the MA /PhD scholarships in "Co-operatives and Social Cohesion" offered by the centre through the SSHRC project, co-ordinating arrangements for the committee to meet and preparing copies of each application to be reviewed.

She made travel arrangements for several faculty members for the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation meetings in Toronto, the Association of Cooperative Educators conference in Guelph, and other travel arrangements as required. She registered several centre staff for the "Values Added" community economic development conference held at the College of Commerce in May, and processed the travel expenses for those who came from out of town. She also made social arrangements for the SSHRC co-applicants who attended the conference and stayed for a SSHRC-related meeting afterwards.

On an ongoing basis, Patty maintains the centre's monthly financial statements as well as the various research accounts, ensuring that balances are accurate and all invoices are paid. Over the past couple of months she has been preparing the paperwork for several new research accounts connected with the SSHRC project. She is also in the time-consuming process of calculating projected budget expenditures until the end of the financial year to help Brett prepare for next year's budget.

Patty makes the arrangements for all the meetings at the centre, which includes co-ordinating the schedules of everyone involved, booking rooms, preparing whatever paperwork is necessary, and arranging for refreshments. She also assists Karen in the preparation and dissemination of the monthly seminar series announcements, newsletters, and other mailouts.

Patty's responsibilities, as with Karen's, below, have increased in Carol's absence. She and Karen handled a class tour of the library in May and both have taken on additional daily administrative duties while Carol is on leave. Patty will be responsible for maintaining essential web-based activities, such as posting news and events, seminar notices, director's reports, newsletters, and other publications.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen works for the Centre on a half-time basis, providing support in general office duties as required. Her regular duties include reception, paperwork, cash reports, filing, xeroxing and printing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, keeping track of stock for reprint possibilities, 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 the database, whatever mailouts are required, and helping to prepare packages for the advisory board meeting.

Karen's responsibilities in the library have increased considerably in Carol's absence. In addition to her usual duties of reshelving, keying in records in preparation for cataloguing, labelling, and copying material for the vertical files, Karen, with Patty's assistance, will be handling routing of new serials, table of contents and notification of new items e-mails, circulation, and checking the newspapers for clippings. Karen also works half-time in the College of Dentistry.

Summer Researchers

We have seven students working for us this summer on a variety of projects. Four of them are writing background papers for the different clusters associated with the SSHRC grant. **Dinah Amankwah**, a graduate student in Education, is working on Aboriginal cultures and co-operatives; **Robert**

Dobrohoczki, a third-year Law student, is researching social cohesion and co-operatives; **Colin Leinenweber**, a fourth-year student in History and Sociology, is covering consumer identities and co-operative membership; and **Myfanwy Van Vliet**, in her fourth-year of Women's and Gender Studies, is preparing a paper on changing community boundaries and co-operative membership.

In non-SSHRC-related activities, **Karla Radloff**, who worked for us last summer and who has just graduated in Political Studies, is back this year researching CCF government policy and Aboriginal co-operative development in the North, focussing on the 1950s; **Jill McKenzie**, a fourth-year student in English and History, is working on a collaborative project with the university and Saskatchewan Archives to identify archival co-op resources, and generally to document co-op history with Saskatoon sources; and **Sara Shymko**, with a degree in Agricultural Economics, is working with Bill Brown in Ag Econ to update and revise the community-based land trust model feasibility report first published by the centre in 1993.

Needless to say, office space is at a premium.