

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board



Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives



Brett Fairbairn
Director



July 2003





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, 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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▲ SSHRC Project Update

Any project of this magnitude has a number of housekeeping activities associated with its operation. Patty is involved on an almost daily basis in budget management, and from time to time in travel arrangements and the processing of expense claims. Brett and Carol spend a great deal of time in general project management. The comprehensive dissemination of notices for MA and PhD awards has attracted a number of applicants; a committee meeting is scheduled for early July to consider them. Preliminary research is underway into methodologies, data collection, and survey instruments for each cluster, and cluster co-ordinators are engaging in collaborative exchanges with co-investigators and partner organizations. Ethics reviews of research tools and protocols are still in progress. And Carol has distributed a one-page promotional piece to all participants to help raise awareness of and enthusiasm for the research in their particular communities.

Ten co-investigators and three research partners in the grant took advantage of the recent Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation/ICA Research Committee conference in Victoria to present some of their preliminary work to the international co-op community. We also used the conference as an opportunity for cluster meetings, and a working dinner and other social events provided the more casual contact so necessary for the establishment and maintenance of good working relationships.

Three student research papers (on consumer identities and co-op membership, networking diversity, and social cohesion) are awaiting Nora's attention for publication as research reports and an occasional paper.

A total of six students and one contract worker are doing research on the project this summer. Angela Wagner is working with Cris and Centre Scholar Morris Altman on co-operative consumer identities in urban communities for cluster one. Kim McKechney is investigating local government attitudes towards co-operatives, also for cluster one. Greg Wagner is helping Michael to profile partner co-ops and their respective "boundaries and

regions” for cluster two, co-op membership and changing boundaries of community. Stéphanie Boissard is working with Lou and Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay on cluster three, Aboriginal cultures and co-operation. Laura Patterson is researching co-operative communications and social cohesion for cluster four. Karla Radloff continues to work on the project alongside her MA program in political studies. And we have contracted with Michelle Kowalski to prepare a case study of worker co-ops and social cohesion.

After a flurry of winter/spring publication activity and term responsibilities, Nora and Brett are returning their attention to preparations for the proposed book based on last fall’s conference on co-operative membership and globalization. We have a number of submissions in hand and guilty promises from other contributors.

▲ Other Research Update

Since the last director’s report, Murray has received more than \$700,000 in research grants for two projects titled “Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management” and “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives.” Preliminary work is underway for both.

With classes over for the term, Brett has turned his attention to the research for the update to his 1989 history of Federated Co-operatives Ltd. In this, he has been assisted by Jill McKenzie, who last summer also prepared an archival guide to co-operative sources in the university and provincial archives. She began work this spring on a new summer project, the virtual archival gallery being created with materials from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool collection recently donated to the university.

Carol and Cris have been researching and developing proposals for a national co-operative statistical database. Summer student Kim McKechney is working with Cris on a survey of municipal government leaders and their perceptions of co-operatives, while Angela Wagner, one of our SSHRC scholarship students, is researching statistical data collection in the co-operative sector.

Both Jill and Angela are partially funded by the university’s U-Step program.

▲ CIDA Roundtable on Agricultural Policy

In the fall of 2002, Susan Whelan, minister responsible for the Canadian International Development Agency, released a discussion paper on agriculture and rural development policy, which was to be followed by a series of consultations. Dismayed to find that co-operatives did not rate a single mention in the draft policy document, CCA responded by preparing a policy statement of its own, and Brett and other co-op sector representatives provided a co-operative response at a CIDA Roundtable on Agricultural Policy in April.

Their efforts paid off. Co-operatives are now mentioned in the new policy position, released in April 2003, as a programming priority under the heading “Developing Well-Functioning Markets.” Co-operatives are also recognized as a way for communities to organize themselves in order to provide a range of “necessary rural facilities.” As well, a quote from CCA’s policy paper was used as a pull quote—“Co-operatives provide a perfect linking mechanism, allowing farmers to collectively access the marketplace, both to market crops and to access farm inputs at reasonable rates.”

Under the new policy, CIDA is committed to increasing its spending on agriculture and rural development from the current level of \$95 million per year to \$300 million in two years and \$500 million in four years. CCA, with the support of our centre and other like-minded organizations and individuals, has an ongoing commitment to influence the development and revision of CIDA policy, and is actively lobbying for a portion of these funds to become available to support co-op development.

We are pleased to have helped make a difference in championing the co-op cause.

▲ Conferences

Centre staff, fellows, and scholars have participated in unprecedented numbers in two recent conferences. The first, held 8–10 May in Saskatoon and titled CUexpo—Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy, and Progress, was hosted by the Community-University Institute for Social Research, the academic director of which is Centre Scholar Jim Randall. Roger was heavily involved on the planning committee for eighteen months prior to the conference and also chaired a roundtable discussion. Nora was

responsible for a poster session, while Fellows Brett, Lou, and Michael and Scholars Isobel Findlay, Louise Clarke, and Ian MacPherson gave presentations and/or chaired sessions. In addition, the centre helped bring in Denyse Guy of the Ontario Co-operative Association and Kim Zeuli of the Center for Cooperatives at Madison, WI, to share their thoughts about co-op research centres.

Mapping Co-operative Studies in the New Millennium took place in Victoria at the end of May. Sponsored by our sister organization, the British Columbia Institute for Co-operative Studies, directed by Centre Scholar Ian MacPherson, it consisted of two parts. The international youth forum, Building Co-operative Futures, was attended by two CSC student researchers, Karla Radloff and Jill McKenzie. This was followed by a four-day conference that included not only Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation members, but also the International Co-operative Alliance's Research Committee. Participants came from six continents and comprised a veritable who's who of co-operative studies around the world. Apart from Karen and Murray, all centre personnel attended this conference, along with Centre Scholars Isobel Findlay, Louise Clarke, and Morris Altman. Karla presented at both the youth forum and the CASC conference, while Brett, Lou, Roger, Michael, Cris, Isobel, and Morris were all presenters and/or session chairs. Carol, Patty, Nora, and Louise were faithful attendees of every session they could squeeze in. In addition to this, the conference was attended by a number of the centre's research co-investigators and community partners in the SSHRC grant, which allowed for some profitable exchange over the progress of research.

Following the conference, Brett and Lou stayed on to participate in exciting discussions about future research and teaching collaborations between the Saskatchewan and BC centres.

▲ The Seminar Series

There have been five seminars since the last director's report:

- ▲ Louise Clarke—"Winning Ways: How Can Work Organization and Employment Relations Contribute to the Success of Co-operatives?"
- ▲ Kim Zeuli—"The Potential for Nonagricultural Co-operatives in Rural Communities"

- ▲ Denyse Guy—“Recent Developments with the Ontario Co-operative Association”
- ▲ Andy Rathbone—“The Co-operative College of Canada: The Opportunities and Challenges of Partnership Arrangements”
- ▲ Roger Herman—“Using ‘Diffusion of Innovation’ and ‘Path Dependency’ Theories to Understand and Predict the Co-operative Experience”

Louise is a Centre Scholar and we were fortunate to have presentations from Kim and Denyse, who were in town for the CUexpo conference in May.

▲ Publications

- ▲ *Up a Creek with a Paddle: Excellence in the Boardroom* (booklet)
- ▲ *Is It the End of Utopia? The Israeli Kibbutz at the Twenty-First Century* (booklet)
- ▲ spring newsletter
- ▲ *Co-operatives and Farmers in the New Agriculture* (occasional paper, forthcoming in July)

There are a number of research reports and occasional papers in the works; see Nora’s section in this report for more details.

▲ Staff News

Unlike other reporting periods, both faculty and staff have remained remarkably stable over the past few months. The only change to the regular line-up was Luke Sather’s three-week internship in the library, as part of his Library Technician’s course at SIAST. Once classes ended, however, the centre took on what has come to be its usual complement of summer researchers, and we are now bursting at the seams, with up to four students sharing a single office. Stephanie Boissard, Laura Patterson, Kim McKechney, and Greg Wagner joined us for research on the SSHRC project, while Michelle Kowalski is working off-site on a case study of worker co-ops for cluster one.

Lou’s five-year term as associate dean in the College of Commerce comes to an end this summer. She will be taking an administrative leave, and to our great delight, moving back into the centre in January 2004.

▲ Scholars Update

We are pleased to announce that a new scholar has been invited to join the centre—Brian Oleson, who occupies the Agribusiness Chair in Co-operatives and Group Marketing at the University of Manitoba. Brian has been associated with the centre for a number of years and we are very happy to formalize the relationship. He plans to offer a seminar presentation at the centre later in the summer.

Other scholars continue to be involved in centre and co-op-related activities. In particular, Isobel Findlay has contributed an enormous amount to the centre over the past year in work relevant to the SSHRC project, as well as being involved generally in centre initiatives and other co-op-related pursuits. Highlights of her involvement include:

- ▲ cluster three co-ordinator for SSHRC project
- ▲ taught Law 495.3: Co-operative Law in Canada as a Social Policy Instrument
- ▲ helped supervise CSC summer research assistants, 2002 and 2003
- ▲ invited instructor, Summer Research Institute on State Culture, Law, Literature, Citizenship, and Social Cohesion, University of Alberta, August 2002
- ▲ participated in CSC planning retreat, January 2003
- ▲ with Warren Weir and Louise Clarke, “Values Added: Charting the Course for Aboriginal CED,” presentation at CANDO, Edmonton, October 2002, and also CUexpo, Saskatoon, May 2003
- ▲ “Re-imagining Co-operative Research Futures,” presented at Co-operative Membership and Globalization conference, Wanuskewin, October 2002
- ▲ “Remapping Economy, Society, and Culture: Rethinking Co-operatives as Postmodern and Postcolonial,” to Commerce Research Seminar, November 2002
- ▲ “‘Education is Our Buffalo’: Re-imagining Postcolonial Legal Studies,” presented at Law, Culture, and Humanities conference, New York, March 2003
- ▲ “Making a Co-operative Turn: Renegotiating Culture-State Relationships,” keynote address at Culture and State conference, U of Alberta, May 2003

- ▲ “Understanding Communities: Communicating Cultures/ Interdisciplining Diversity,” presented at CUexpo, Saskatoon, May 2003
- ▲ “Re-imagining Co-operative Research Futures: Co-operation as Decolonizing Theory and Practice,” presented at CASC conference, Mapping Co-operative Studies in the New Millennium, University of Victoria, May 2003
- ▲ “Working for Postcolonial Legal Studies: Working with the Indigenous Humanities,” *Journal of Law, Social Justice, and Global Development* special issue on postcolonial legal studies, ed. W. Wesley Pue (2003)

Isobel is also working on a number of publications with co-op content and is a collaborator on the SSHRC Community-University Research Alliance completion grant, which will offer further opportunity for co-operative development.

Dan Ish is currently on the centre’s management advisory board, and has recently been involved in a Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade roundtable to discuss co-ops and Canada’s foreign policy. Dan participates on a regular basis in centre activities and social events.

Sheryl Mills taught a class in co-operative learning during the summer of 2002 and has a chapter on co-ops in a book edited by Edwin Ralph: “Co-operative Learning at the Post-Secondary Level” in *Effective College Teaching: Fresh Insights and Exemplary Practices* (New York: Nova Science Publishers).

Morris Altman is working with Cris in cluster one; he was also a presenter at the CASC/ICA Research Committee conference in Victoria.

Ian MacPherson is part of the SSHRC project co-ordination group as well as being involved with the research in clusters three and four. He was instrumental in the organization of both the international co-operative youth forum and the CASC/ICA Research Committee conferences in Victoria at the end of May.

Marj Benson is working on the next version of *Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture*, the first edition of which grew out of her class in multiparty conflict resolution.

Louise Clarke continues her advisory role with Quint’s Core Neighbour-

hood Development Strategy. She contributed to the centre's seminar series in March, presenting "Winning Ways: How Can Work Organization and Employment Relations Contribute to Co-operatives' Success"? She was co-facilitator of the workshop Participatory Action Research and Co-operatives at the Co-operative Membership and Globalization conference in October 2002, and attended the dinner for our out-of-town participants. She provided commentary on Brett's methodology for the update to his forthcoming history of Federated Co-operatives Ltd. as well as on a draft of the centre's strategic planning document. She attended the co-op bonding social during the retreat in January, and took part in the recent CASC/ICA Research Committee conference in Victoria.

Since giving a seminar last year in the centre's series, Len Findlay has been developing work on the following topics: The Co-operative University, Co-operation versus the Commodification of Democracy, Co-operation as Critique of Dominant Versions of Globalization, and Rhizomatic Co-operation. These subjects have been central to six academic conference addresses he has given in the last year, and have featured in ongoing publications such as "Content Providers of the World Unite! A Critical Canadian Analysis and Agenda," *Topia: A Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies* 9 (2003): 15-34. Len also published in the Working Paper Series of McMaster University's Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition, which is available electronically on the institute's website: <http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~global/>

Rob Norris has met numerous times with visiting delegates and centre staff to discuss possible international projects related to co-operatives. He took part in the centre retreat in January and attended the social function afterwards.

Gordon Barnhart contributed to the retreat as well, and joined centre personnel for the evening festivities that followed.

Scholars Leslie Biggs and Jill Hobbs will be returning from sabbatical during the summer.

▲ Visitors

The centre has had its usual quota of visitors during the past few months. Denyse Guy, executive director of the Ontario Co-operative Association, and Kim Zeuli, an agricultural economist from the University of Wisconsin, were in Saskatoon as presenters at the CUexpo conference in early May, and while

here, both contributed to the centre's seminar series. Centre Scholar Ian MacPherson, director of the BC Institute of Co-operative Studies, was in town for the same event and spent a few days doing research in the resource centre. Michelle Kowalski, from the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation in Calgary, came to visit us in May to work out the details of some contract work she is doing in connection with the SSHRC project. And Young-Ho Lee, a professor at the Agricultural Co-operative College in Kyonggi Province, South Korea, spent some time at the centre following his attendance at the CASC/ICA Research Committee conference in Victoria at the end of May. He distinguished himself by ordering copies of every one of the centre's publications.

Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, and Administration

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

History 288.3: Co-operatives in the World

History 898.3: History of Co-operatives in Canada (Special-Topics Class)

Both these classes ended in April.

Brett is supervising a new interdisciplinary PhD student, Warren Weir, whose topic is "A Co-operative Model for Community Economic and Political Development in First Nations Communities in Saskatchewan." He has two MA students, one working in modern German history, and another nearing completion on a thesis about the lives of farm women in Saskatchewan in the 1950s. He is on the advisory committees for a number of students, including Karla Radloff (political studies), who is working on co-operative development in northern Saskatchewan with funding from one of the SSHRC scholarships.

▲ Research

Brett is involved in all aspects of the SSHRC strategic grant as principal investigator, working with Carol and the cluster co-ordinators.

His major project for the next six months is the history of Federated Co-operatives Limited and the Co-operative Retailing System since 1982. His aims for the book are to show how the system has achieved organizational success through the way it works together, and to give readers a sense of what it is like to be a participant—a manager, member, staff person, or elected leader—in the system.

From March to June 2003, he has conducted more than sixty in-depth interviews with people currently or formerly in the system, producing more than one thousand pages of handwritten interview notes as well as tapes currently being transcribed. He has made about one dozen research trips (five in Saskatchewan, four to Alberta, one each to BC and Manitoba) to visit dozens of co-ops and communities. Meanwhile, his research assistant, Jill McKenzie, has worked through FCL minutes, reports, and newsletters to document important events in the system's history.

Brett anticipates that his research will overlap and contribute to other research underway at the centre, including the SSHRC social cohesion project and the CARD II leadership development program.

▲ Publications

“Everett Baker and the Culture of Co-operation in Saskatchewan,” essay for the catalogue guide *Everett Baker: Picturing a Utopian Reality. A Photographic Insight into the Co-operative Movement in Saskatchewan 1941 to 1964*, ed. Heather Smith. May 2003, forthcoming.

Building a Dream: The Co-operative Retailing System in Western Canada, 1928–1988 (Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1989) has been translated into Mandarin for distribution in China.

▲ Presentations

“Everett Baker and the Culture of Co-operation in Saskatchewan,” speech for the opening of the exhibition *Everett Baker: Picturing a Utopian Reality*—A

Photographic Insight into the Co-operative Movement in Saskatchewan, 1941 to 1964. Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, 11 March 2003.

“Democratic Functioning and Member Cohesion: A Matter of Economic Success,” Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development, Phase II (CARD II) Leadership Development Program. Guelph, Ontario, 23 March 2003. Brett was both speaker and facilitator at this conference.

“Communications, Culture, and Co-operative Structures: Liminal Organizations in a Liminal Age,” at Mapping Co-operative Studies in the New Millennium: A Joint Congress of the International Co-operative Alliance Research Committee and the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation, University of Victoria, 29 May 2003.

“The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan,” roundtable on Aligning Research Interests: Experience from Co-operative Research Centres, at CUexpo International—Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy, and Progress, Saskatoon, 8 May 2003.

Brett's planned trip to China with CCA in April was cancelled due to SARS. Brett, along with Bill Turner, was to present at a symposium on Chinese agricultural co-operative development and policy in Beijing, and to a series of research institutes and co-operative meetings in various locations.

▲ Extension

Brett had a major role in the Leadership Development Programme of the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development, Phase II (CARD II) project, administered by the Canadian Co-operative Association. This involved preparation, training, and delivery of modules and case studies at meetings in Guelph in March and Saskatoon in April.

▲ Administration and Other

In addition to his responsibilities as director of the centre, Brett is a director and chair of the Saskatchewan Archives Board. He continues as a member of the History Department's self-study committee for Systematic Programme Review, and also as a member of the university's Tenure and Promotion Appeals panel. During March, he was the internal reviewer for the Systematic Program Review of International Studies on campus.

Brett is involved in a variety of discussions concerning international projects, including the ongoing CIDA/PPOP project in China, as well as possible new projects in Mongolia and/or Indonesia. Centre Fellow Michael Gertler is also involved in the former, while Centre Scholar Dan Ish is implicated in the latter.

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

Agriculture 112.3: Introduction to Agriculture

Agricultural Economics 498.3: Follow the Grain

Agricultural Economics 842.3: Industrial Organization of the Food Industry

These classes ended in April.

Murray is also working with a number of graduate students, including Roger, who is completing his MA on organizational innovation and adaptation.

▲ Research

Since the last director's report, Murray has received news of two successful grant applications. His proposal entitled "Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management" received \$611,000 over three years from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the BIOCAP Canada Foundation, which funds projects examining climate change and the environment and how it interacts with the economy. The work will involve a network of researchers across Canada who will look at the changes likely to occur and that would have to occur in order for the agriculture and forestry sectors in Canada to play a major role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

Murray received another \$99,000 under SSHRC's three-year Standard Research Grant program for a project titled "Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives." The study will examine the difficulties encountered by a number of large agricultural co-ops, including Sask Wheat Pool, Agricore, Dairyworld, Farmland Industries, and Agway.

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

▲ Publications

With Konstantinos Giannakas, “Inserting GM Products into the Food Chain: The Market and Welfare Effects of Different Labeling and Regulatory Regimes,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, forthcoming.

▲ Presentations

With Konstantinos Giannakas, “Leadership, Agency and Member Commitment in Co-operatives,” at the conference Vertical Markets and Co-operative Hierarchies: The Role of Co-operatives in the International Agri-Food Industry, Bad Herrenalb, Germany, 12–16 June 2003.

With Konstantinos Giannakas, “Co-operatives and Innovation Activity,” presented at the same conference.

With Amalia Yiannaka, “The Strategic Role of Patent Breadth Decisions and Entry Deterrence,” at the Food System Research Group Conference, Madison WI, 25–26 June 2003.

▲ 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.

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community

Sociology 402.3: Advanced Seminar in the Sociology of Agriculture

These classes ended in April.

Michael is supervising one MA student in Sociology and is a committee member for another. He is also a committee member for three Interdisciplinary PhD students, two PhDs in and one MA in Geography, and one MSc student in Environmental Engineering.

▲ 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.”

He is a co-investigator for the centre’s SSHRC-funded project, “Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations,” under the leadership of Brett Fairbairn.

▲ Presentations

“Civilizing Globalization,” panel presentation at the Changing the Climate Graduate Student Conference, May, Saskatoon.

“Community Engagement: Promises, Premises, and Practicalities,” Human Services Integration Forum, May, Saskatoon. In addition to this presentation, Michael served as a resource person for this two-day workshop, providing commentary on linkages and a summary and wrap-up statement.

“Documenting the Social and Economic Importance of the Saskatoon Farmers’ Market,” presentation for roundtable Both Sides Now: Insider Perspectives on Community-University Research Collaboration in CED, CUexpo Conference, May, Saskatoon.

“Co-ops in Space: Enterprise and Community in the New Regional Economy,” at the Mapping Co-operative Studies in the New Millennium Conference, May, Victoria.

▲ Extension

“Community Owed Investment Return,” *The StarPhoenix*, 7 June 2003.

▲ Administration and Other

Michael is chair of the Library Committee and a member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Sociology, for 02–03. He is a member of the Administrative Committee, Land Use and Environmental Studies, College of Arts and Science, a member of the Endowment Committee of the Rural Sociological Society, and chair of the Science Liaison Committee for Prince Albert National Park. He has also just been appointed secretary of the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation.

Cristine de Clercy

▲ Teaching

Cris is supervising Karla Radloff's MA thesis on the relationship between governmental regional development initiatives and co-op development, and she is a committee member for James Cairns's MA thesis on the Bloc Québécois, both in progress for the Department of Political Studies at the U of S.

▲ Research

Cris continues the basic research for cluster one of the centre's SSHRC project, which compares credit unions and retail co-ops in Calgary, Vancouver, and Saskatoon. In March she visited Vancouver and Victoria to consult key co-op sector partners and researchers at our sister centre, the BC Institute for Co-operative Studies (BCICS). This summer she is supervising two students working on cluster one research, part of which involves surveying local government officials to determine how they perceive co-ops in community development activities.

In early March, Cris submitted a full grant proposal for Canadian Institute for Health Research funding. The proposed research focusses on how public inquiries consult citizens, and two case studies concern how health care co-operatives connect to their members.

In early May, Carol and Cris coauthored an application for support through the President's Internal SSHRC Grant program to research how to archive statistical information on the co-op sector.

Cris is a collaborator on the BCICS grant application to SSHRC's Initiatives in the New Economy Collaborative Research Funding program. In the first

round, the proposal's Letter of Intent, titled "Co-operatives and the New Economy: The Chief Points of Contact," was approved with high marks. Submission of the full grant application will occur in June of 2003.

▲ Publications

"Organized Interest Groups and the Debate Over GM Food," in Cristine de Clercy et al., *A Survey of the GM Industry in Saskatchewan and Western Canada*, Regina: Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, 2003.

With Alan McHughen, "The Future of the GM Industry in Western Canada: Threats and Opportunities," in Cristine de Clercy et al., as above.

With Peter Ferguson, "The 2000 Canadian Election and the New Elections Act Poll Reporting Provisions: Contra Professor Durand, the New Law Has Merit," critical response article, *Canadian Public Policy*, forthcoming.

Review of *Political Leadership*, by Howard Elcock. *Canadian Public Administration*, 46, 1 (spring 2003): 139–41.

▲ Presentations

Chair, panel session, "Co-operatives and the State," at CASC's Mapping Co-operative Studies in the New Millennium Conference, Victoria, 27–31 May.

With Peter Ferguson, "Section 326 of *The Elections Act*: An Effective or Redundant Regulatory Intervention?" seminar, Department of Political Science, University of British Columbia, 17 March 2003.

▲ Administration and Other

Cris is the co-ordinator for research cluster one of the centre's project on Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations.

She was recently elected a director of the Canadian Political Science Association board for 2003–05, and is chair of the "Law and Public Policy" section at the Canadian Political Science Association 2004 annual meetings in Winnipeg.

Cris is also on the board of the Saskatoon Credit Union.

Lou Hammond Ketilson

▲ Teaching

Lou is part of the teaching team this July in the Bologna Summer Program for Co-operative Studies in Italy. This is a summer program sponsored by CCA, BC region, and the University of Bologna.

▲ Research

Lou is the academic co-chair of the Community Economic Development module of the Community-University Institute for Social Research, which was recently awarded a SSHRC completion grant.

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

▲ Presentations

“Aligning Research Interests: Experience from Co-operative Research Centres,” roundtable discussion, CUexpo conference, Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy, and Progress, May, Saskatoon.

“Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: Explorations of Identity and Membership,” CASC conference, Mapping Co-operative Studies in the New Millennium, May, Victoria.

“Women in Business Co-operatives,” roundtable discussion at International Women’s Policy Research Institute Conference, Washington, DC.

▲ Extension

Lou was part of the advisory committee for CARD Phase II, a leadership development program (LDP) targeted towards agricultural co-operatives. She developed conceptual material and two case studies for the “Leadership and Networking” module of the program, and in late March was a resource person for the “Train the Trainer” session prior to delivering her material at the LDP pilot in Guelph. The Saskatchewan pilot was offered in early April. She and Brett shared oversight of this pilot, as well as delivering module material.

▲ Administration and Other

Lou's term as associate dean in the College of Commerce comes to an end 30 June. In addition to general administrative duties over the past five years, this position has included responsibility for graduate programs and the directorship of the Centre for International Business Studies. She will be taking some time on administrative leave and returning to the centre in the New Year.

Lou is on the President's SSHRC Committee and the University's IT Committee.

Nora Russell

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

- ▲ editing, layout, and design of Ann Hoyt's *Up a Creek with a Paddle: Excellence in the Boardroom* (booklet), published in May
- ▲ editing, layout, and design of Uriel Leviatan's *Is It the End of Utopia? The Israeli Kibbutz at the Twenty-First Century*, published in May
- ▲ writing and layout for the spring newsletter
- ▲ preparing a poster session for the CUexpo conference, sponsored by the Community-University Institute for Social Research
- ▲ editing, layout, and design of Murray Fulton and Kim Sanderson's *Co-operatives and Farmers in the New Agriculture* (occasional paper); this has been proofread and is awaiting final formatting prior to publication, which will be in July

Nora is particularly pleased to report that Centre Scholar Marj Benson's new casebook based on her class in multiparty conflict resolution is well underway. The first edition, *Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture: A Study in Multiparty Negotiations*, sold very well for the centre, having a captive audience of students for whom it was required reading. Marj and Nora had initially planned a revised and updated second edition, but it turns out that there is significant new material based on two years experience with the class, so this will be a completely new volume.

As usual, there remains a significant backlog of occasional papers and research reports in the publications department. Topics include:

- ▲ Saskatchewan's Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation (edited and with author for revisions)
- ▲ a comparison of agricultural co-operatives in Germany and western Canada
- ▲ student co-operatives in North America
- ▲ the Desjardins Movement in Québec
- ▲ a guide to co-operative material in provincial archives
- ▲ CCF government policy and Aboriginal co-operative development in the North
- ▲ Consumer Identities and Co-operative Membership
- ▲ Social Cohesion through Market Democratisation: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation
- ▲ Networking Diversity: Including Women and Other Under-Represented Groups in Co-operatives

The latter three are directly related to the SSHRC project and have top priority.

Smaller projects have included:

- ▲ preparing ads for centre seminar series
- ▲ redesigning, yet again, the scholarship notices for the SSHRC grant
- ▲ examining dozens of old floppy disks for centre archival material that needed to be transferred to more appropriate storage disks
- ▲ editing and formatting board minutes for Patty
- ▲ cleaning up and reformatting all Lou's leadership survey materials from the 1998 Impact Study for Cris's use in the SSHRC project
- ▲ preparing a new mock-up of the centre's web page for distribution at the Agriculture Institute of Management in Saskatchewan (AIMS) conference in the spring; AIMS purchased five hundred copies for conference participants, a significant contribution to raising the centre's profile
- ▲ updating promotional sheets for the centre's presentation folders
- ▲ redoing front matter for a number of reprints

- ▲ preparing a print copy of the Impact Study update for distribution through the library, as demand was significant; we had previously been referring interested researchers to the website, but a number of people seem to prefer to borrow it from the library

Reprints:

- ▲ *Co-operative Development: Towards a Social Movement Perspective*
- ▲ *Community-Based Models of Health Care: A Bibliography*
- ▲ *Working Together: The Role of External Agents in the Development of Agriculture-Based Industries*

University Extension Press's new catalogue was launched in May. It includes a page devoted to books published by the centre—*Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000, A Report on Aboriginal Co-ops, Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture*, and the *NGC Resource Materials* binder—which Extension will be distributing for us on a trial basis. We are thrilled to have a page in a catalogue with a circulation of seven thousand, which will certainly increase awareness of the centre among the public.

Nora recently attended two conferences—CUexpo: Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy, and Progress, in Saskatoon, for which she prepared and presented a poster presentation, and the CASC/ICA Research Committee conference in Victoria.

Nora has many items on her to-do list—the special newsletter to the sector, several occasional papers and research reports, rounding up submissions for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*, and pressuring participants in the fall SSHRC conference to deliver their chapters for the proposed book. Nora also prepares the director's report.

Carol Shepstone

SSHRC Project Activities

The SSHRC project has Carol focussed on the second phase of the ethics review process, which includes preparing additional submissions of survey tools and more detailed outlines of research methodologies. Continued meetings of U of S cluster co-ordinators have helped develop the next phase

of the research and continue to inform the work of various clusters. Carol is also involved in the preparation of the ethical review documents required for the northern research projects, particularly necessary for cluster three research. The SSHRC team meeting held during the CASC/BCICS conference in Victoria was a great opportunity to bring many of the researchers together to discuss the research as a whole and the work of specific clusters.

SSHRC-related scholarship postings were revised yet again, this time highlighting relevant disciplines and including a personal note from Brett. This approach generated more interest in the scholarships and a number of new inquiries. Four and one-half summer student positions have been funded from the student training portion of the grant funds, and much of Carol's time over the last few weeks has been spent in the selection and orientation of students, and ongoing supervision and research assistance.

The creation of the social cohesion website has also taken a high priority on Carol's desktop, and she continues to work with Arts and Science IT staff to develop an informative and useable public and project team website.

Other Research

A number of other research projects are also in various stages of development. Carol and Cris have been researching and developing proposals for a national co-operative statistical database. In addition, Carol is working on the requirements for an on-line journal hosted by the centre. She has provided assistance in discussions of the centre's involvement in the Initiatives in the New Economy grant proposal in process at the BC institute. She has been closely involved with the work of Michelle Kowalski, a contract researcher preparing case studies on the Hullabaloo worker co-operative, providing supervision and assistance with ethical review submissions. Carol also prepared two successful U-Step applications, one providing funding for background research on co-op statistics (feeding into both the existing social cohesion project and the potential database project), the other for a joint project with the university archives to develop a virtual exhibit dealing with the Sask Wheat Pool papers.

The Website

The centre's website is now accessible using our new usaskstudies.coop URL as well as the existing usask address. Carol is in the process of requesting pro-

posals for a visual design revamp of the centre's main site. In the meantime, centre activities and publications are keeping the site active, current, and well used.

The Resource Centre

Research and reference questions have been as varied and interesting as always, including information on social accounting, board diversity in co-operatives, the workings of housing co-op boards, Anand-pattern co-operatives in India, and information on Arctic co-ops, as well as many other topics. Inquiries came from students, faculty, and local stakeholders such as Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association. Requests originated from locations in Alberta, Ontario, and British Columbia, while some very lucky interlibrary loan items got to travel to Ireland.

Student intern Luke Sather, from the SIAST Library Technician training program, spent a three-week practicum in the Resource Centre this May. Luke was a great asset, assisting with processing, filing, cataloguing, shelving, weeding, current awareness services, and the processing of donations.

The resource centre collection continues to grow, with an emphasis on materials concerning social cohesion and literature related to the various areas of interest around the SSHRC grant. The centre has recently received a number of generous donations, which will help to fill in important collection gaps. Donors include Harold Chapman, Dan Ish, George Melnyk, and Trevor Shepstone.

Conferences

Carol has been an enthusiastic participant in the 2003 spring conference season. Along with other centre personnel, she attended Mapping Co-operative Studies in the New Millennium, hosted by BCICS at the University of Victoria. Other high points include the AGM and strategic planning session for the Multitype Library Board; convening the Saskatchewan Library Association spring seminar on Recruitment and Retention Issues for Saskatchewan Libraries; and the joint Canadian Library Association / American Library Association conference in Toronto at the end of June.

Roger Herman

Roger is into the home stretch of preparations for his master's thesis, which he is scheduled to defend 12 August. Titled "The Diffusion of Innovation in Saskatchewan Agriculture," it examines producer-owned terminals, community-based hog initiatives, and New Generation Co-operatives.

In addition to basically full-time work on his thesis, Roger has also managed to juggle a number of other activities. In March, he facilitated a day-long planning meeting in Regina for a Co-operative Development Initiative that included Francophone and Anglophone representatives from provincial governments, and provincial and national co-operative associations in the three prairie provinces. He played a major role on the planning committee for CUISR's May conference on community-university partnerships, for which he also co-ordinated a round-table discussion on how co-op centres determine and implement their respective research agendas. He continues to respond to inquiries related to New Generation Co-operative development, and is participating in planning the cluster two—"Changing Boundaries"—research for the SSHRC project.

At the recent Mapping Co-operative Studies CASC conference in Victoria, Roger presented a paper based on his thesis research and also chaired a session.

He is responsible for the co-ordination of the centre's seminar series, which, since September, has seen ten presentations on a variety of subjects from Centre Fellows, Scholars, and other interested participants. Roger himself will be presenting the results of his thesis research at the end of June, and there are plans for two other seminars during the summer.

Patty Scheidl

As office manager, Patty is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the centre, but she also takes on many additional duties as they arise, and the past few months have been particularly busy.

She assisted Michelle Korven with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association's press conference held 31 March in the Theatre Room, preparing the paperwork and making arrangements for refreshments.

The majority of Patty's time in April and May was spent making travel arrangements for upcoming conferences for centre faculty and staff. This involved co-ordinating flight schedules, accommodation, and conference registration for nine centre personnel who attended the CASC conference in Victoria at the end of May. She also made travel and accommodation arrangements for Karla Radloff and Jill McKenzie, who attended the Building Co-operative Futures International Youth Forum in Victoria just prior to the CASC conference. Once these conferences were over, Patty processed the travel expense claims for centre personnel and the co-applicants associated with the SSHRC project who attended the CASC conference.

In addition, she has made numerous arrangements for Brett in conjunction with the research for his book on FCL's recent history. This involved booking flights, car rentals, and accommodations for various locations in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan through April, May, and June.

Patty spent a great deal of time making the arrangements for Brett's trip to Beijing in mid-April, which ended up being cancelled due to SARS. As a result, she had to spend even more time working with the travel agent to gather the documentation required to process the insurance claim for the cancellation.

She made travel arrangements for Lou to attend Arctic Co-ops's AGM in Winnipeg at the beginning of May; handled registration for several staff members and some visitors who were involved in the CUexpo conference in Saskatoon 8–10 May; and organized Carol's travel plans to Toronto at the end of June to attend the Canadian Library Association conference. As in other cases, she processed travel expense claims for everyone involved.

She assisted in faxing out the advertisements and collecting the applications for the student research positions connected with the SSHRC project. She contacted the applicants to set up interview times, and made copies of each application for committee members for the interviews. Once decisions were made, she processed all the paperwork for hiring four summer students, made arrangements for office space, ordered keys, and informed the new recruits about various office procedures.

We have one summer researcher, Michelle Kowalski, who is working out of Calgary on a case study for the SSHRC project. Patty handles her travel expense claims and payroll forms as well.

Patty continues to maintain the centre's monthly financial statements as well as the SSHRC project accounts and other faculty research accounts. She

worked on financial projections until the end of June to help Brett prepare for next year's proposed budget; assisted Brett with the preparation of the Integrated Planning documents and provided the information to Dan Ish in the College of Law; helped Karen distribute the mailouts for the seminar series announcements (six since January) via fax, e-mail, and regular mail; and set up various meetings for Brett and other faculty as required.

On an ongoing basis, Patty makes all the arrangements for the Management Advisory Board meetings, which include co-ordinating a suitable date for everyone involved, preparing the minutes, assembling the board packages and couriering them out ahead of time, getting parking passes, booking rooms, and ordering lunch.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen works for the centre half time, assisting Patty in the office and Carol 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 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.

Since Patty reduced her position to .8, Karen has taken on extra responsibilities, running the office on her own during Patty's absence.

Since the last director's report she has handled the mailout for the spring newsletter and several large publication orders. She also prepared the mailout of information on the Norm Bromberger bursary to universities across the country, collected and copied the applications as they came in, and co-ordinated their distribution to those responsible for making decisions on award winners (Canadian Co-operative Association, Credit Union Central, and the centre).

Karen has a number of regular responsibilities in the library as well—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 continues to work half time in the College of Dentistry.

Karla Radloff

Karla is a master's student in political studies and the first recipient of one of the centre's SSHRC graduate scholarships. She completed the course work for her degree in April and is working on her thesis, which focusses on government policy and co-operatives in the Canadian North. She is working part time with Carol this summer, catching up with the clippings files, and also compiling a comprehensive bibliography of sources for the SSHRC grant, with the object of creating a searchable database. In addition, Karla is working part time for the Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association (SEDA) on a CUISR- funded community economic development survey of SEDA's membership.

Karla attended both the International Co-op Youth Conference at the University of Victoria and the CASC conference that followed, where she presented a paper based on her thesis research.

Jill McKenzie

Jill is a fourth-year English and history major who spent last summer working for the centre on an archival guide to co-operative sources in the university and provincial archives, which we intend to make available to researchers in due course. She has been assisting Brett throughout the past year with the research for his upcoming book on Federated Co-operatives Ltd. With her part in that complete, she began work this spring, in conjunction with the U of S archives, on the virtual archival gallery being created with materials from the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool collection recently donated to the university. Funding for this project comes through the university's U-Step program.

Like Karla, Jill attended the International Co-op Youth conference in Victoria.

Angela Wagner

Angela, our second SSHRC-funded graduate student, is doing an MA in geography. Her thesis will focus on the geographical implications of membership and identity in urban consumer co-operatives. As one of the conditions of her

scholarship, she is working part time for Cris and Morris Altman on cluster one of the SSHRC project, which is examining co-operative consumer identities in urban communities.

The U-Step program has provided additional funding for her to research statistical data collection in the co-operative sector. To this end, she is searching Canadian and American Internet sources, with the goal of creating a statistical database for public access at the centre.

Stéphanie Boissard

Stéphanie is an international student from France. She did her undergraduate degree at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Rennes, and also studied at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, where her interest was in Aboriginal land rights. She has just completed an MA in political studies at the University of Saskatchewan with a thesis titled "Conflicting Discourses in Canadian Aboriginal Politics: A Case Study of the First Nations Governance Initiative." Her research interests are nationalism and minorities, indigenous rights at the national and international level, and contemporary political theory, particularly post colonial.

She is working this summer with Lou and Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay on cluster three of the SSHRC project, Aboriginal Cultures and Co-operation. So far, she has done some bibliographic research on the influence of Oblate Missionaries in the development of Aboriginal co-operatives and has started working on the theoretical links between identity, culture, and organizational membership as applied to the co-operative context.

Laura Patterson

Laura is working on an interdisciplinary MA in rhetoric and culture and has an undergraduate degree in English literature. With her extensive experience in oral and written communications, she was the obvious candidate to work on co-operative communications and social cohesion for the SSHRC project. She will be spending the summer analysing publicly available documents, including annual reports and their accompanying letters, newsletters, press releases, websites, and brochures from a variety of co-operative organizations.

Greg Wagner

Greg has just completed an honours degree in Regional and Urban Development with a minor in economics. He has also finished the first three years of the commerce program. He is working with Michael this summer profiling partner co-ops and their respective “boundaries and regions” for cluster two of the SSHRC project, Co-operative Membership and Changing Boundaries of Community. He will be studying the Prince Albert region in Saskatchewan and the Interlake region in Manitoba, mapping changes in co-op “boundaries” over time, and providing information about key transition points in co-op development in the respective areas. This background analysis will be a foundation for planning the interview phase of the study, and should also offer useful information to the partner co-ops. In addition, it is hoped that the study will provide a useful template with which to profile and compare co-op development in different regions.

Kim McKechney

Kim is a fourth year political studies student with interests in globalization, co-operatives, and international politics. He is working with Cris on a survey of municipal government leaders and their perceptions of co-operatives, and is also investigating local government attitudes towards co-operatives within the framework of the larger SSHRC project that focusses on co-operative membership and social cohesion. This research falls into cluster one, Co-operative Consumer Identities in Urban Communities.

Kim has recently accepted one of the four internship positions offered annually by the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly. We congratulate him for this significant achievement.