

**Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board**

**Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives**

**Lou Hammond Ketilson
Acting Director**

June 1998

Centre Overview and Highlights

The Impact Study

The Social and Economic Importance of the Co-operative Sector in Saskatchewan IS FINALLY DONE! We held a press conference and reception on 8 May to celebrate its release, which was well attended by representatives of the co-operative sector, the government, and the university. The event received good media coverage from CBC Radio and TV, *The Western Producer*, and the *StarPhoenix*. Janice MacKinnon, minister of Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development, was present to announce the release of the study, accompanied by Deputy Minister Fraser Nicholson. Leroy Larson from Saskatchewan Wheat Pool kindly agreed to act as master of ceremonies for the afternoon. After the months of work that went into the project, it was gratifying to have it generate so much positive interest.

Advance copies of the final document have been made available to the meeting of the Senior Government/Co-operative Officials Working Committee in Regina, 4 June, and to the CCA Region Council meeting on the 15th. The camera-ready went to the Co-operatives Directorate for the main print run on 9 June and will be available to the public soon afterwards.

The Women in Co-operatives Forum Proceedings

Having been relegated to the back burner for some time due to the demands of the Impact Study, the *Proceedings* from the successful “Women in Co-operatives” Forum held last November in Moose Jaw are also finished and will be available from CCA in the near future.

Community Economic Development Symposium

The Centre was a partner in organizing and presenting the symposium “Financing Community Economic Development: Partnerships, Policies, and Practices that Work,” held 23–24 April 1998 in Regina. The project featured

several top-flight speakers and workshop leaders from the co-operative and credit union sector in Canada. Marianne handled much of the paperwork for the conference and was present to deal with registrations on site at the Hotel Saskatchewan. The Centre display and information packages generated considerable interest at the event. Other partners included Saskatchewan Council for Community Development, University of Saskatchewan Extension Division, Saskatchewan Social Services, Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development, Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration, and Western Economic Diversification Canada.

A Successful Grant Proposal

This spring, Murray, Brett, and Michael jointly received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for a three-year project entitled "Co-operatives in Transition: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Member-Based Organizational Behaviour and Decision Making." The funding will help support the research of Rochelle Smith, the Centre's interdisciplinary PhD student, who had a major role in preparing the grant proposal.

Visitors to the Centre

Sigismundo Bialoskorski Neto, a professor from the University of Sao Paolo in Brazil, spent three weeks with us in April doing research at both the Centre and Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. He also spent a couple of days with Murray in Vancouver and, determined to sample as much of North America as he could, went skiing for the first time in his life. Sigi fit right in at the Centre and we were all sad to see him go. Murray and Leroy Larson from Sask Wheat Pool will return the visit in October.

Dr. Eustace Renner from Sierra Leone met for a day with faculty and staff to explore the possibility of making connections with co-ops and credit unions in Saskatchewan to assist in co-operative development in Sierra Leone following the return of democratic government.

Lou will be meeting on 17 June with Eva Bedrnickova, from the Czechoslovakian Graduate School of Management in Prague.

We are planning an afternoon of presentations on 19 June for six visitors

from the National Dairy Development Board of India, who will be accompanied by Norm Bromberger, former CEO of Credit Union Central.

Dr. Vitaly Zinovchuk, senior researcher in Co-operative Studies, Institute of Agricultural Economics in Kyiv, Ukraine, will be coming in September.

Staff Changes

The Resource Centre was in limbo for six weeks following Leslie's departure, though Karen handled many on-going tasks admirably in her absence. In early June, Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins joined the staff as our new librarian and is busy familiarizing herself with her new job, and us! Welcome, Rachel.

The competition has ended for the co-op education position outlined in detail in the last Director's Report. Murray, Lou, and Michael will review the many applications we received and compile a shortlist of interviewees, although the actual interviews will not take place until Murray's return from Denmark in early July.

Lou has accepted the position of associate dean of Commerce, effective 1 July, although she will not be taking up duties until 1 Aug 1998. After much fretting by staff, she assured us that we were not losing her, but merely gaining Commerce.

Murray will return to the Centre in early July following six months' sabbatical in Vancouver and Denmark.

Teaching, Research, Presentations, Publications, and Administration

Murray Fulton

Murray is still on sabbatical at the University of British Columbia. His time at UBC is focussed on three main activities: teaching his co-operatives class; writing a text on the economics of co-operatives with colleague Jim Vercam-

men; and doing reading and writing on state trading enterprises for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. He has also done a number of conference presentations; details are below.

Teaching

Murray completed the second term of Econ. 231: The Economics of Co-operatives, which was taught to approximately a dozen students at the University of Saskatchewan via the internet.

Research

Murray and Jim Vercaemmen are working on a book on the economics of co-operatives.

Murray is also working with Bruno Larue (Laval University) and Michelle Veeman (University of Alberta) on a project for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada that will provide a framework for thinking about state trading enterprises, which are expected to be an important agenda item at the next round of World Trade Organization negotiations.

Presentations

In late April, Murray presented a paper titled “Economic Perspectives on Competitiveness Under WTO, NAFTA, and FTAA: A Discussion” at a conference in Lake Louise examining harmonization in the North American grain and livestock sectors. The conference was sponsored by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the American Farm Bureau, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Cargill, and a number of other organizations.

Murray, Kathy Baylis, Richard Gray, and Harvey Brooks collaborated on a paper entitled “The Public Policy Problem of Grain Transportation,” which Kathy Baylis presented at the Canadian Transportation Roundtable Conference in Edmonton at the end of May.

Other

Murray, along with Brett, spent 28 March–12 April in China, travelling the first week with a CCA group touring co-operatives, mainly in Shandong

Province, one of the most important agricultural areas in China. He spent the second week at the Southwest Agricultural University in Chongqing, where he, Brett, and Peter Apedaile presented a three-day workshop on agricultural policy and co-operatives.

In June, Murray will be at the Royal Agricultural University in Denmark, teaching a graduate course on the economics of co-operatives with colleague and former student Kostas Karantinis.

Brett Fairbairn

Research, Publications, and Presentations

Brett remains on sabbatical in Germany, doing research into the history of German co-operatives at the Bundesarchiv and the Verband der Konsumentgenossenschaften (consumer co-operative federation) in Berlin. The research concerns the situation of co-operatives in Communist East Germany, the reasons for the collapse of West German consumer co-operatives in the early 1990s, and the development of housing co-operatives.

In early April, Brett accompanied Murray in China, joined the CCA tour of rural co-operative-like organizations in Shandong Province, and delivered lectures at the Southwest Agricultural University in Chongqing, along with Murray and Peter Apedaile from the University of Alberta. His lectures in Chongqing concerned the origins of farm movements and co-operatives in Canada, the development of centralized marketing co-operatives, the development of decentralized retail co-ops and credit unions, and the role of the state in co-operative development. He also assisted Murray with a co-operative simulation game for the students.

Brett and Murray were impressed by the quality of the students, their eagerness, and their expertise in English. And although the prospects for co-operative development in China remain uncertain, there is hope because of the rapid progress of economic change. On the other hand, the state has still not let go, especially of agriculture.

Brett's study of the history of Canadian rural-development policy was presented by Michael to the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation's annual research seminar in May. CRRF is submitting a proposal for a more comprehensive, nation-wide study.

Brett has written half a dozen book reviews since he has been away for publication in a variety of national and international journals, including the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of Modern History*, the *Canadian Journal of History*, and the *International History Review*. Details are forthcoming in the next director's report.

In June, Brett will attend the annual conference of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Bonn. Later that month, he will be giving a lecture on "Co-operative Enterprises in East, West, and United Germany" at the Internationales Begegnungszentrum der Wissenschaft in Berlin.

Coming up in July is a presentation to the Gesprächskreis Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung, Freie Universität Berlin, on consumer co-operatives in the two Germanies after World War Two.

Michael Gertler

Teaching

Sociology 110.6: Introduction to Sociology

Sociology 204.3: Rural Sociology

Sociology 402.3/802.3: Advanced Seminar in the Sociology of Agriculture

Michael's MA student, Muditha Samadanie Kiriwandeniya (Sama), has initiated field research in Sri Lanka for her thesis, "Invisible Women' in the Collective Identity of People's Organizations: A Case Study of the SANASA Movement."

Michael served on the graduate committees of two students who successfully defended their theses this academic year:

Lesley Masuk, MA, Sociology: "Patriarchy, Technology, and the Lives of Hutterite Women: A Field Study."

Joanne Kowalski, MSc, Agricultural Extension: "The Influence of Extension on the Adoption of Soil Conservation Practices in The Brown Soil Zone of Saskatchewan."

He was also the external examiner on two other thesis defences:

David Quiring, MA, History: "Mennonite Old Colony Life: Under Siege in Mexico."

Pat Light, MSc, Industrial Relations and Organizational Behaviour:
“Formal Participation and Employee Influence: An Empirical Study
of Two Consumer Sponsored Health Care Co-operatives.”

Research, Presentations, and Publications

In mid-April, CBC Radio's Noon Edition featured a three-part series on the future of rural Saskatchewan. Michael was the studio guest during the call-in segment of the final show, on-location in Humboldt.

As wrap-up speaker for the symposium “Financing Community Economic Development: Partnerships, Policies, and Practices that Work,” 23–24 April in Regina, Michael provided “Reflections” on the workshops and plenary sessions.

May 7–10, he attended the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation (CRRF) Spring Workshop in St. Donat, QC. This was a working session with two dozen fellow researchers from across Canada who are together undertaking the New Rural Economy (NRE) study. In addition, Michael has initiated fieldwork for the three Saskatchewan rural community sites included in the NRE study organized under the auspices of CRRF. This work will continue throughout the summer.

With the rest of the drafting and editing team, Michael helped to complete *The Social and Economic Importance of the Co-operative Sector in Saskatchewan*, a report commissioned by Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development.

Michael presented a case study of the NRE research collaboration entitled “The New Rural Economy: Choices and Options” during a seminar session on Partnerships in Rural Development at The Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference held in Regina 5–8 June.

With collaborators at the universities of Saskatchewan and Regina, Michael was lead investigator and author of a report entitled *Beyond Beef and Barley: The Social Economy of Agricultural Diversification in Saskatchewan*. This research was supported by the Agriculture Development Fund, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food.

Administration

Michael continued as a member of the group organizing the symposium “Financing Community Economic Development: Partnerships, Policies, and

Practices that Work,” held 23–24 April 1998 in Regina, which the Centre sponsored, along with a number of other organizations (see Centre Overview for more details).

As a member of the Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology, and of the administrative committees for interdisciplinary programs in both Regional and Urban Development and Land Use and Environmental Studies, Michael continued to work on program and curriculum development issues in the College of Arts and Science.

Michael was an active member of the board of the Spadina Child-Care Co-operative, and as a member of its special projects committee, helped to inaugurate a hot lunch program for school-age kids.

Lou Hammond Ketilson

Teaching

Lou was a member of the thesis committee for Pat Light, MSc, Industrial Relations and Organizational Behavior. She successfully defended her thesis entitled “Formal Participation and Employee Influence: An Empirical Study of Two Consumer Sponsored Health Care Co-operatives.”

Research

Lou has been involved with two large research projects this term: *The Social and Economic Importance of the Co-operative Sector in Saskatchewan*, and the *Proceedings* from the “Women in Co-operatives” Forum held last November in Moose Jaw. Both will be available this month.

Presentations

Lou presented the findings of the Centre’s study *The Social and Economic Importance of the Co-operative Sector in Saskatchewan* to the Regina Co-operative Network Luncheon, 21 May in Regina.

She made a similar presentation in Regina on 5 June to the Senior Government/Co-operative Officials Working Committee.

Administration

Quite apart from her responsibilities as acting director of the Centre, Lou's administrative workload has been quite heavy this term, including meetings of the Nominations Committee of University Council; University Council itself; and the Whelan Visiting Lectureship Committee. There were also a number of transition meetings for the associate dean's position that she will assume in August, including a Strategic Planning meeting and meetings with the Advisory Board for the Centre for International Business Studies and the Working Committee for the Federal/Provincial Agreement on International Business Development.

She also organized and hosted an extremely successful four-day conference for the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada (ASAC), a national association of business school faculty and graduate students with a membership in excess of eight hundred. The more than three hundred conference participants represented all regions of Canada, along with centres in the US, New Zealand, England, and Mexico. Lou is the incoming president of ASAC, the first woman to hold that position. She will be representing ASAC at an international meeting of business schools in Madrid in July, where she will make a presentation on Canadian Business School Education, along with panelists from the US, Australia, and Europe.

Upcoming

Lou will be attending the Global Forum on Management Education in Chicago on 13 June.

She will also be a presenter in the Workforce 2000 session at the CCA Triennial Congress in Winnipeg at the end of the month.

Byron Henderson

Presentations, Publications, and Research

Since January of this year, Byron has been a consultant with the United Nations Development Programme, assisting them with the early stages of their global community technology centres project. In March, he travelled to

Egypt with the UNDP team to visit sites for their first technology centres, which will be located in rural Egypt. While in Cairo, he made a presentation to the annual meeting of the Egyptian Internet Society—Cainet '98—on the theme of “Virtual Communities and Virtual Economies” (for the slide set, see: <http://www.eoe.org/events/cainetslides/cainet.titleslide.htm>). He also gave a seminar at the Information Technology Institute entitled “The Middle-Tier: Java and the Educational Object Economy.”

In early April, Byron attended the Meetings of the Specialized Bodies of the International Co-operative Alliance, in Geneva, where he reported on the early progress of the Working Group on Network Technology for Communications and Trade, and worked with ICA staff on the new Virtual Co-operative Community for Education website, which has been supported by Apple Computer and the Educational Object Economy Project.

At the end of April, Byron attended meetings of the Educational Object Economy group in Cupertino to organize a collaboration with the California State University and Community College systems around the development of online education materials, curriculum, and communities.

Moving to the other side of the world, he then gave a series of presentations in Turkey to support the early stages of a large-scale introduction of information technology into the Turkish educational system. The first presentation in Ankara was to the 1998 Distance Education Symposium, where his topic was “Learning without Frontiers” (see: <http://www.eoe.org/FMPro?-db=NewsAndEvents.fp3&-token=news&-format=/newsandevents/NewsAndEventDetail.htm&-lay=all&-recid=69&-find>). The second presentation, at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, was entitled “Java and the Middle-Tier” (see: <http://www.eoe.org/FMPro?-db=NewsAndEvents.fp3&-token=news&-format=/newsandevents/NewsAndEventDetail.htm&-lay=all&-recid=75&-find>). Finally, he spoke at an invited meeting of key Turkish government officials, ministers, educators, journalists, and software developers on the topic “Investing in the Future: Technology and Education” (see: <http://www.eoe.org/FMPro?-db=NewsAndEvents.fp3&-token=news&-format=/newsandevents/NewsAndEventDetail.htm&-lay=all&-recid=70&-find>).

While in Turkey, Byron was interviewed by four Turkish newspapers and by Turkish national television. This education renewal project will see investment by the World Bank and the Turkish government of approximately \$2.5

billion US for the first five-year phase. It is attracting considerable attention both in Turkey and within the international development community as the largest technology project to be brought to the field of education—a groundbreaking model for many such projects in other parts of the world.

In May, Byron published a short article on the ICA's new Virtual Co-operative Community for Education project (see: <http://www.eoe.org/FMPro?-db=Objects.fp3&-token=libraryPapers&-format=/library/paperdetail.htm&-recid=35259&-lay=all&-Find>). At the end of May, he made a presentation at ASAC 98 in Saskatoon entitled "High Tech in the Classroom: The Components of Online Education" (a slide set will be posted shortly on the Apple EOE site).

Upcoming

In June, Byron will speak at a World Bank Round Table hosted by Apple Computer on the theme of Distance Education World Wide. He will talk about the Educational Object Economy and his experiences with the UNDP, the World Bank, and recently in Turkey. Also in June, he will speak to the CCA Congress in Winnipeg on the topic of Intellectual Property and Knowledge Management.

Through June, July, and August, Byron will be completing his consultancy work with the UNDP by creating a website on the theme of Community Technology Centres, jointly sponsored by the UNDP, the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, and the Educational Object Economy Foundation. It will serve as a research focus for activity in the area of community technology. During the same period, he will be working on a study titled "Developments in Online Education: Component Methods and Models," which will be published as one of the Centre's Occasional Papers and will form the background for the Centre's future work in online education.

Nora Russell

Since the last director's report in April, Nora has been almost exclusively pre-occupied with production work on the social and economic impact study—final editing, pulling the many drafts of the document together into a coherent whole, design and layout, proofreading, and supervising print production. An initial printing was done for a meeting of the Senior Government/

Co-operative Officials Working Committee on 4 June, and another for the CCA Region Council meeting on the 15th. Nora will be preparing an information package on the study for distribution at the CCA National Congress near the end of June in Winnipeg. Camera ready for the main print run of about six hundred copies will go to the Co-operatives Directorate the week of 8 June and will be available to interested parties soon afterward.

Nora has also been working on the *Proceedings* from the “Women in Co-operatives” Forum held last November in Moose Jaw, which she took on partly as a freelance project and partly as the Centre’s contribution to the final document. It is in its final production stages and advance copies will be ready for the CCA Region Council meeting 15 June in Regina.

Nora is responsible for the director’s reports on an on-going basis, and managed to produce three of them (November, April, and June) during the Impact Study Interregnum.

With the impact study *finally done* (yahoo!!), Nora will turn her attention immediately to the annual report and the spring/summer newsletter. A number of projects have been simmering on the back burner while the impact study consumed most of her resources. These include updating *Saskatchewan Co-operatives: A Record of Community Development*, a 1992 Centre publication on the history of co-operatives in the province; writing and editing a booklet with Lou on “Federations and Interorganizational Relations”; a write-up on co-operatives for the revised edition of Fung’s *Atlas of Saskatchewan*; and editing and layout on another of the Centre’s occasional papers, Murray and Andrea’s “Future Possibilities for Communication Services in Rural Communities.”

A new project planned for one of the Centre’s series of booklets is in the early stages of development. It involves a feasibility study for a car-sharing co-operative in Winnipeg and was undertaken by David Leland, who teaches a course in Co-operative Enterprise in the Business Administration Department of Red River Community College in Winnipeg.

Rochelle Smith

The Centre’s first interdisciplinary PhD student, Rochelle Smith, continues to perform class work on the economics and history of co-operatives. She

completed Michael Gertler's Advanced Seminar in the Sociology of Agriculture during the winter term.

Rochelle also continues to review drafts of the new Social Studies 7-9 curriculum on behalf of the Centre for the CCA. This project is one of a series undertaken under the Saskatchewan Department of Education—CCA Memorandum of Understanding on improving co-operative content in the K-12 curriculum.

Rochelle prepared the Centre's first successful Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council grant proposal, entitled "Co-operatives in Transition: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Member-Based Organizational Behaviour and Decision Making". The grant will provide approximately \$43,000 over three years for her thesis research.

She is also the 1998 recipient of the Lemaire Scholarship, a \$3,000 award administered by the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation.

Rochelle has been successfully elected to sit on the board of directors for the Saskatoon Community Clinic.

Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins

Rachel replaced Leslie Polsom as librarian in early June and is busy familiarizing herself with the Resource Centre. She was educated at the universities of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and has worked at the Utilities Library in Edmonton, Morecambe Public Library in Morecambe, England, with the U of S Library System, and Read Saskatoon. She is working half time for the Centre and half time for the Saskatoon Public Library System. Since at this writing she had only been with us for one day, we did not press her for a report.

Marianne Taillon

In addition to her regular duties as office manager, Marianne has continued to be involved in special events and activities.

She co-ordinated local meetings for our Brazilian visitor, Professor Sigismundo Bialoskorski Neto (Sigi) from the University of Sao Paulo, with

professors in Agricultural Economics and Roger Herman from CCA, as well as providing logistical support during his stay at the Centre for such things as photocopying, access to e-mail, local visits, shopping and errands, and arranging for office space and equipment.

Marianne arranged local visits for Dr. Eustace Renner from Sierra Leone, who spent time with us in April, and also a trip out to Prairie Centre Credit Union.

She helped to organize and also attended the symposium entitled “Financing Community Economic Development,” held 23–24 April in Regina, and assisted Catherine Paton of Social Services at the registration desk. She continues to receive and process payments and honorariums for this conference.

A tremendous amount of Marianne’s time at the end of April and early May was spent organizing the press release and reception held in the Diefenbaker Lounge 8 May for *The Social and Economic Importance of the Co-operative Sector in Saskatchewan*. She sent out the invitations, arranged for food and refreshments, and set up the Centre’s display for the event.

Marianne arranged for the posting of the librarian’s position, received the applications, and set up interviews. She also looked after the advertising for the Centre’s Education position, and accepted and distributed copies of the applications to Centre faculty prior to the selection process, which will take place in early July.

She organized the conference call on 20 May for the CASC scholarship committee, and assisted Lou with last-minute translation requests for the ASAC conference held 30 May–2 June.

And she has made arrangements for the 19 June visit from representatives of the National Dairy Development Board of India.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen continues to work for the Centre on a half-time basis, providing support in general office duties to Marianne, Rachel, and other faculty and staff as required, as well as making sure the office runs smoothly when Marianne is away. She is responsible for the phone and fax bills; for processing library and publication orders; dealing with payments as they come in;

and for enormous quantities of xeroxing. Karen has also been maintaining the library since Leslie's departure in mid-April and Rachel's arrival at the beginning of June. Entering uncatalogued materials into the system, ordering books, routing journals and other materials to faculty and staff, and dealing with circulation are just a few of the numerous tasks associated with her library work. Karen also prepared and sent out the packages for the CASC Scholarship Committee, and provided logistical assistance to various faculty and staff in connection with the Impact Study. She also works half time for the College of Dentistry.