

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board

Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives

Murray Fulton
Director

April 2000

Centre Overview and Highlights

Though it could hardly be construed as a highlight for the rest of us, topping the list of news in the director's report this term is the fact that Murray's tenure as director expires 30 June, at which point he will become the head of the Department of Agricultural Economics on campus. Although we congratulate him on his new appointment, his responsibilities will certainly diminish the time he is able to spend at the Centre and hence the ever cheerful, enthusiastic, and benign guidance that characterized his directorship here.

The Centre has organized and sponsored a number of workshops and symposiums over the past few months. The most recent, titled "New Models of Rural and Remote Telecommunication Service," was held 22 March 00 in Saskatoon. A variety of presenters, local, regional, and international, provided an excellent overview of the current regulatory environment, technological options for rural and remote areas, the concerns of local communities, and possibilities for new delivery models. Interest ran so high among participants that we are now in the process of planning follow-up conferences.

We sponsored a one-day New Generation Co-operatives training session at the Centre in January, aimed primarily at co-operative development officers, and followed that up in February with a meeting of what we are calling the New Generation Co-operatives Development Committee, which we hope will become the driving force behind NGC development in Saskatchewan. The group consists of representatives from the Centre, CCA, CUC, Sask Economic and Co-operative Development, SUMA, SARM, Federated, and a couple of independent consultants. Meetings with this group will be ongoing.

The Centre also participated in a major research symposium organized and sponsored by the Research Committee of Council on campus. All faculty attended and participated; Nora developed a new Centre display for the poster session and she and Carol took turns providing interpretive services.

Publications

The Centre is particularly pleased about activities in the publications area over the past few months. Since the last director's report we have published a major study titled *The SANASA Model: Co-operative Development through Micro-Credit*, by Dan Ish, Ingrid Fischer, Lloyd Hardy, and Ian MacPherson. Co-published with the Canadian Co-operative Association, it examines the historical, legal, financial, and social underpinnings of Sri Lanka's credit union movement.

We also published two booklets: Brett's *Prairie Connections and Reflections: The History, Present, and Future of Co-operative Education* and David Leland's *A Car-Sharing Co-operative in Winnipeg: Alternatives and Recommendations*.

And we unexpectedly, but happily, became involved in another co-publication, this time with the Co-operatives Secretariat, Government of Canada, who negotiated with us to do the production of *Co-operative Development and the State: Case Studies and Analysis*, by Brett Fairbairn, Laureen Gatin, and Garry Cronan and Jayo Wickremarachchi from the Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development. Nora did the design and layout; the study is published in three volumes, one of which is in French.

The co-pub with the Co-ops Secretariat interrupted Nora's work on the Centre-generated *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000: Memory, Mutual Aid, and the Millennium*, a collection of twenty-four essays focussing on the diversity of past and present leadership and also on the issue of how the Canadian co-op movement undertakes and adjusts to change. She has returned her attention to this and is aiming for a late spring publication.

Waiting in the wings is a series of three Centre booklets on a type of agricultural machinery co-op in Québec and how the model might usefully be applied in Saskatchewan, by Murray and Andrea, and *An Educational Institute of Untold Value": The Evolution of the Co-operative College of Canada, 1953-1987*, a research paper prepared by Jodi Crewe under Brett's supervision, which will be an addition to the Centre's occasional papers.

Staff News

After spending the fall term at the Centre, Michael is off again for a six-month research leave to Costa Rica and Chile, where he is studying the role

of rural co-operatives in the sustainable development of agriculture and regional economies.

Marianne is on maternity leave and will be returning to the Centre in October, though she has been making regular visits with the new co-op baby, Jonah. Her replacement, Jo Anne Ellis, has many years of experience on campus and is managing the office with cheerful efficiency.

Visitors to the Centre

Mario Carrier, on sabbatical in Edmonton from a research group in Québec, has established a working relationship with the Centre and has come to see us on a number of occasions, making ample use of the library while he's here, and also giving a few of us an opportunity to use our French.

Centre faculty spent some time with Elena Grigorieva from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Russian Republic, here researching a book on Canadian agriculture.

We had a visit from Terry Squire, CEO of The Co-operators, from Guelph; from Mary Pat MacKinnon of the Government Affairs and Policy Unit of the CCA in Ottawa; and from Lyndon Hillier, executive director of the Co-operatives Secretariat in Ottawa.

Rebecca McPhail, research manager with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, made an initial exploratory visit to the Centre recently to check out our holdings on aboriginal co-operatives. She intends to return sometime this summer.

Piet Van Loon from Arctic Co-ops in Fort McPherson, NT, spent some time with Murray and also in the library researching co-op management and training programs.

In early May we are expecting a visit from Craig Symes, who is with the Agricultural Industries Division of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry in Australia. He is planning to make use of our library resources as well as to meet with faculty and staff.

And if visa negotiations work out, we will have a summer researcher—Hannes Mesecke—in residence for four months beginning in May. He is an agricultural economics student from the Humboldt University of Berlin.

The Seminar Series

We have had two presentations in the Centre's seminar series since the last director's report. In November, Steve Cisler, a Community Specialist with Tachyon, Inc. in California, gave a presentation titled "Successful Community Networking Projects: The Hidden Formula." Steve is on the board of our Community-Centred Technology Programs and returned in March as a presenter at the Centre's symposium on rural and remote telecommunications service. And in early March, Sama Kiriwandeniya, here from Sri Lanka doing an M.A. with Michael, gave a seminar based on her research titled "Reasons behind Gender Gaps: Women's Participation in Credit Co-operative Leadership." Rocky and Roger have a number of other seminars lined up for the months to come.

The In-House Discussion Group

The in-house discussion group has met twice since the last report. In mid-December Byron attempted to explain to the rest of us the work he is doing on metadata (though the pizza we ordered for the occasion ensured perfect attendance, sadly the discussion did little to mitigate the confusion surrounding the topic). In February we met ostensibly to discuss youth involvement in co-ops, but under the influence of sugar highs induced by enormous chocolate chunk cookies and caffeine peaks from the Free Trade coffee samples, Centre personnel engaged in a near combative exchange on co-op education and the necessity for change in co-operative organizations. Murray and Rocky were mentioned in dispatches, and Roger lost his glasses in the shrubbery.

The Vi-Co Clock

Centre staff are thrilled to announce the rediscovery of a significant corporate artefact, the Co-op Vi-Co Clock. Found languishing between a filing cabinet and a stack of storage material, it has been restored to its former glory on the wall of the Resource Centre. With its cute little cowpersons and the familiar slogan "Only Co-op Could Make It So Good," it will no doubt precipitate a flood



of memories in co-operators of all ages. It does still work, but due to sparks and smouldering electrical parts, we only plug it in for special visitors. Private viewings can be arranged.

Teaching, Research, Presentations, Publications, and Administration

Murray Fulton

On March 17, the Department of Agricultural Economics voted to offer Murray the position of department head beginning July 1. With his term as director at the Centre coming to an end 30 June, he is pleased to take on this new challenge.

Teaching

Ag Econ 842: The Industrial Organization of Agriculture
Ag Econ 898: The Economics of Co-operatives

Presentations and Extension

December 3/99: "Economics of Quality Control: An Overview" to the Economics of Grading Conference held in Saskatoon

January 26/00: "The Saskatchewan Advantage" to the NGC conference held in Saskatoon

February 13: "Competitive Impacts of State Trading Enterprises" to the Globalization and New Agricultural Trade Rules for the 21st Century Conference held in Saskatoon. The paper will be published later this year in a book by Lynn Reimer.

February 25: (With Mike Cook), a presentation to the Member Relations Committee of Agricore, in Winnipeg

February 26: "Strategic Alliances and the New Agriculture" to the Agri-Business Management Development Program, in Saskatoon

March 14 and 15: Key resource person (with Mike Cook) in an NGC Training Program for NGC board members and CEOs sponsored by the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives at North Dakota State University. Murray also participated in a similar program December 14–15/99.

March 22: “An Overview of the Current Regulatory Environment” and “Organizational Change in Network Industries” to the New Models of Rural and Remote Telecommunication Service symposium sponsored by the Centre in Saskatoon. The first presentation was based on a paper written by Bill Peterson of Points West, which will become a Centre booklet.

March 24: “Determinants of Organizational Structure in Agricultural Production and Marketing.” Seminar in the Agricultural Economics Department at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln)

March 31: “The Effects of Biotechnology on Concentration and Structure in the Agricultural Inputs Industry.” Seminar to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) in Ottawa. This seminar is the final stage in a contract with AAFC looking at the effects of biotechnology on the structure of agriculture. The final report will be available to the public.

Publications

“The Economics of Coupled Farm Subsidies Under Costly and Imperfect Enforcement” in *Agricultural Economics* (with Dinos Giannakis)

“The Producer Benefits of Herbicide-Resistant Canola” in *AgBioForum* (with Lynette Keyowksi)

“Testing the Competitiveness of a Multistage Food Marketing System: The Canadian Chicken Industry” in *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics* (with Yongmei Tang)

“Member Commitment in Co-operatives” in *Finnish Journal of Business and Economics*.

Administration and Other Activities

Murray continues in his role as co-chair of the Research Committee of Council. Two of the activities of the committee this year have been the hosting of

a day and half symposium on campus—"Building Research Success at UofS"—and the release of a document titled "Increasing Research Intensiveness." The symposium was very well attended, indicating that there is substantial interest on campus in increasing research activity.

As a follow-up to the NGC conference, the Centre hosted a small meeting of people interested in encouraging NGC development in the province. This group agreed to work with CCA/CCC on their proposal to Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) for consultants that would be available to work with various parties involved in NGC development.

Murray and Daniel Côté have been approached by the CCA/CCC to write a background paper on the role of co-operatives in agriculture. The paper will be discussed in regional forums in the fall, culminating in a national conference. Funding for the project will be from CARD.

After stepping down last year as chair of the Publications Committee of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, Murray has taken on the job as editor of the new journal that he helped developed. *Current Agriculture Food and Resource Issues* will be published electronically. A key feature of the journal will be well-defined subject areas, each of which can develop its own subjournal. One of the sub-areas contemplated is co-operatives.

As a result of his role as vice-chair of the Agri-Food Council, Murray became involved in negotiations with the Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan over a new quota allocation policy. The negotiations were successfully completed in February.

Brett Fairbairn

Teaching

History 288.3: Co-operatives in the World

History 882.6: Graduate Seminar in Rural Social History (A number of the topics we looked at this term contained reference to co-operatives, including classes on agrarianism, populism, and changing nature of rural communities)

Brett continues to supervise eight graduate students, including two working on topics related to co-operatives

Publications

Brett and Murray are currently working on a co-authored essay that will examine the nature and importance of interdisciplinarity in the university.

Principal investigator, author, and co-author: *Co-operative Development and the State: Case Studies and Analysis*. Research report to the Co-operatives Secretariat, Government of Canada. The report included case studies of the role of government in co-op development in the US and Australia. The Co-ops Secretariat provided partial funding of \$12,500. The report was delivered in December 1999, and the Secretariat subsequently negotiated to have the Centre produce a published version. Nora has designed and laid out a three-volume set, including one in French, and publication will be in early April.

“Saskatchewan Wheat Pool,” entry commissioned for *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, ed. David Wishart.

“Economic Development and the New Role of Government,” accepted for inclusion in Howard Leeson (ed.), *Democracy in Saskatchewan: 2000 and Beyond*, forthcoming.

“Co-operative Values and the Cold War: The Rebuilding and Undermining of the German Consumer Movement, 1945–1955.” *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics*, forthcoming.

Ian MacPherson, Brett Fairbairn, and Nora Russell (eds.), *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000: Memory, Mutual Self-Help, and the Millennium* (Saskatoon: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2000).

“Introduction,” in *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000* (see above).

“Raiffeisen and Desjardins: Co-operative Leadership, Identity, and Memory,” in *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000* (see above).

“Ordinary and Exceptional: Leadership in Prairie Consumer Co-operatives, 1914–1945,” in *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000* (see above).

Book Reviews

Review of Jan Palmowski, *Urban Liberalism in Imperial Germany: Frankfurt am Main, 1866–1914* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999), in *German History*, forthcoming.

Review of Andrew J. Crozier, *The Causes of the Second World War* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997) and Randall L. Schweller, *Deadly Imbalances: Tripolarity and Hitler's Strategy of World Conquest* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), in *The Canadian Journal of History*, forthcoming.

Review of Simone Lässig, *Wahlrechtskampf und Wahlreform in Sachsen (1895–1909)* (Weimar etc.: Böhlau Verlag, 1996), in *German History*, forthcoming.

Presentations

“Institutions Matter: Reasons for the Current Level of Development in Rural and Northern Saskatchewan,” conference entitled “Balanced Approaches to Socio-Economic Development in Rural and Northern Saskatchewan,” Prince Albert, 14 March 2000. The Centre was a co-sponsor of the above event and Brett was a member of the organizing committee.

“The Role of the State in Co-operative Development: State–Co-operative Relations in the U.S.A.,” presentation to officials of Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development, Saskatoon, 13 January 2000.

Administration and Other

External Consultant: Review of M.A. programme in History at Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario, 1–3 March 2000 (for Ontario Council of Graduate Studies).

Member: Comité de Sélection de CIRIEC 2000 (Centre international de recherche et d'information sur l'économie sociale, publique et coopérative), selecting papers for international CIRIEC conference in Montréal in June 2000, October 1999–March 2000.

Moderator: Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation listserv (CASCnet-l) dedicated to co-operative research, September 1999–present.

Chair, Special Committee to Investigate the Management of the Programme of a Ph.D. student, College of Graduate Studies, February–March 2000.

Brett also continues as chair of the Saskatchewan Archives Board and director of graduate studies in History.

Michael Gertler

Michael was on a half sabbatical in Costa Rica and Chile from January to August 1999. During the 1999 fall term he fulfilled his teaching obligations for the entire academic year, and has now returned to Central and South America for another six-month leave. His sabbatical research project involves fieldwork on the roles of rural co-operatives in the sustainable development of agriculture and regional economies. He will be returning to the Centre in the summer.

Lou Hammond Ketilson

Despite the demands on her time as associate dean of Commerce, Lou's interest in and commitment to the Centre remain strong. She provided a chapter for the Centre's forthcoming book, *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000*, titled "Leadership in the New Millennium," and she, Nora, and Rocky have begun discussions concerning a collection of articles for a book on women in co-operatives.

The Canadian Co-operative Association's proposed research project on aboriginal communities and their use of co-operative models mentioned in the last Director's Report is going ahead. It is a joint project involving CCA, CCC, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Lou is co-principal investigator, along with Ian MacPherson.

And the Community University Research Alliance grant proposal for a Community University Institute for Social Research has also been successful. The development of the institute and its ongoing work will involve all Centre faculty. Lou is co-director of the community economic development module, along with Len Usiskin from the Quint Development Corporation.

Byron Henderson

In November Byron completed a paper for the Slovak Co-operative Union on Smart Cards and Electronic Commerce. He was to deliver the paper at the union's annual meeting, but was unable to attend due to a last-minute illness.

An invitation from Sao Paulo University (USP) led to Byron travelling to Brazil in December to assess a national online learning project. In the course of his visit, he proposed extensions to the project which, if funded, will lead to a collaboration between Sao Paulo University and the Centre. The project will support two important aspects of the Centre's online learning strategy: it will develop significant new tools for online learning, and it will extend a relationship with USP begun a year ago, which holds the prospect of serving as a foundation for the Centre's ongoing international co-op education project.

In January Byron was an invited advisor to the Community Health Education Foundation (CHEF) in Seattle, Washington. The purpose of the visit was to analyze the CHEF programs in the area of online education, and the visit is expected to lead to further collaboration in health, education, and technology.

While in Seattle, Byron was also named to the advisory board of FizzyLab, a Seattle data retrieval company. This position will provide a point of access to Seattle-area technology companies and to the crucial field of data infrastructure for e-commerce. That connection is expected to provide the Centre with key technology for use in a planned national co-operative resource database, a joint project of the Centre, the CCA, and the new University of Victoria Co-operative Institute.

In March Byron gave a luncheon presentation on Smart Cards to Saskatoon area co-operators. Also in March, he was part of the planning group that organized the Centre's successful symposium titled "New Models of Rural and Remote Telecommunication Service," Byron's work with companies in California led to Tachyon Inc. of San Diego sending Steve Cisler to the symposium as keynote speaker on new satellite technologies.

During February and March, Byron has been researching the area of data structures for online learning, under contract to the US government. This is at the core of work he proposed for Brazil and also for the planned national co-operative database. It will give the Centre and the University of Saskatchewan a leading role in the development of a key set of technologies for e-commerce and online learning in the next decade.

Nora Russell

The Communications Department has been extremely busy since the last director's report, with Nora completing editorial and production work on a number of projects and starting several others. Brett's *Prairie Connections and Reflections: The History, Present, and Future of Co-operative Education* was published in mid-November as one of the Centre's booklet series (ACE purchased four hundred copies of it); another booklet, David Leland's *A Car-Sharing Co-operative in Winnipeg: Alternatives and Recommendations*, was published in December; and *The SANASA Model: Co-operative Development through Micro-Credit*, a book that grew out of the SANASA case study by Dan Ish, Lloyd Hardy, Ingrid Fischer, and Ian MacPherson, was published in January. The first week of April will see the release of a three-volume work co-published with the Co-operatives Secretariat entitled *Co-operative Development and the State: Case Studies and Analysis*, a study by Brett Fairbairn, Lauren Gatin, and Garry Cronan and Jayo Wickremarachchi from the Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development. Though government year-end constraints meant there was not time to do a thorough edit, Nora cleaned up the manuscript, did the design and layout, and handled print supervision. She also continues to work on the Centre's major forthcoming publication, *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000: Memory, Mutual Aid, and the Millennium*, which will be published later this spring.

Nora spent a good deal of time in January designing and producing new materials for the Centre's display at the poster session during the Research Symposium on campus January 21–22. Designed to elucidate the nature of interdisciplinary studies, it also included a panel illustrating how interdisciplinarity could be usefully applied to one particular research area, in this case New Generation Co-operatives. This made the display a perfect fit for the NGC conference later that month organized by Sask Economic and Co-operative Development, in which all Centre personnel participated.

Smaller projects include designing and dealing with prepress and production of complementary Centre cards for inclusion in mailouts, Centre memo pads, a library brochure for broad distribution and a library "pathfinder" to help students at the UofS locate co-operative materials in a variety of publications, and an ad for the director's job for inclusion in *on campus News*. Nora also updated all the material for the Centre's presentation folders for the telecommunications symposium at the end of March.

Nora arranged for yet another reprint of Byron's *The Components of On-line Education: Higher Education on the Internet* and Murray and Andrea's *Working Together: The Role of External Agents in the Development of Agriculture-Based Industries*, both of which remain consistently in demand. She also had to order major reprints of the library brochure, the Centre's presentation folders, and the wildly popular Centre memo pads she designed last fall. In addition, because of the Co-ops Secretariat's significant order of the three-volume *Co-operative Development and the State: Case Studies and Analysis* (450 copies) and the necessity for a French cover, she redesigned the covers for the Centre booklet series and ordered a large number of shells for future use.

Coming up in the publications department we have a series of three Centre booklets based on Murray and Andrea's research on machinery co-ops in Québec. Nora has completed design and layout of the first one, which is out for review; the other two are awaiting editorial attention. She has the spring newsletter to prepare as well as the annual report in May-June; and three occasional papers: Jodi Crewe's work on the history of the Co-op College of Canada; Rocky's research on the role and significance of the credit union deposit guarantee corporation in Saskatchewan; and Brenda Stefanson's thesis, "Adult Educators in Co-operative Development: Agents of Change," all of which will need editing, design, and layout.

Nora is also responsible for the director's reports on an on-going basis.

Carol Shepstone

More than 480 items that have been backlogged waiting for cataloguing have now been added to the Resource Centre catalogue. Karen entered skeletal records on an excel spreadsheet, which was then uploaded into the Resource Centre database. These additional titles are now accessible through title and author searches while they await cataloguing.

Carol upgraded the library catalogue software without incident, although problems updating the web-accessible Resource Centre catalogue left it inaccessible for a couple of weeks. Updating has been uneventful since the problems were solved, and the inquiries we received during the interruption indicate that our web catalogue is used and was missed.

Carol has made changes to the catalogue that will facilitate searching, including cleaning up some library of congress subject headings and co-operative-specific instructions for the web version.

Reference

Since November, Carol has answered some seventy reference questions, including both short inquiries and more time-intensive research requests. The library has also enjoyed a steady stream of students and external researchers using the resources and facilities. She has received inquiries for research assistance from Australia, Ottawa, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, United Kingdom, and from students in Toronto, Pennsylvania, and Lethbridge, as well as local inquiries on community development issues, new generation co-ops, co-operative curriculum development, co-op legislation, First Nations co-operatives, worker co-ops, and housing co-operatives.

Carol produced a guide for students looking for co-operative information on the UofS campus. Though created with UofS students in mind, it is also applicable to library searches elsewhere, so she put it on the web for the convenience of students and other researchers.

The huge backlog of newspapers that accumulated between Rachel leaving in August and Carol's arrival in October has finally been cleared with the assistance of Jodi Crewe, who has been working on a contract with Brett. Articles and references relevant to co-operatives have taken their turns on the Current Awareness Board and then made their way into the vertical files.

Collection Development

The collection continues to grow, and with the addition of a portion of the backlogged items, the total number of records in the catalogue is around 4,250. More than thirty-five new book titles have been fully catalogued and added to the collection, along with countless vertical file additions of newspaper clippings, pamphlets, short articles, and news releases. Co-operative legislation also being updated.

Karen did an inventory of library holdings in annual reports, as well as the Centre's own circulating and reference publications. She also developed a table of contents for Brett's course reading binders.

Circulation

Since the last Director's Report, the library has lent more than two hundred items and processed approximately three hundred returns. Karen has done a wonderful job keeping on top of reshelving. Interlibrary loan has also been popular with researchers from across Canada and as far away as Mondragon University in Spain.

Promotion

Carol mailed out more than a thousand copies of the library brochure created by Nora to approximately 150 libraries and information centres across the country. She has already had some people indicate that they came to the Resource Centre because of the brochure, which we have also been distributing at conferences. The inclusion in the brochure of a brief publications list will also add to interest in Centre research.

Research/Other

Carol has been researching the history of telephone co-operatives in the United States; she is also working on a literature review focussing on co-operatives in rural development as part of the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation's New Rural Economy project. She compiled an initial draft of a bibliography for the International Studies class taught by Murray and Michael; she worked on a number of grant applications; and prepared for possible Y2K problems by doing cd rom backups of everyone's essential files.

Groups

Carol is the Centre's representative on Saskatoon Co-op Net; she is a member of a newly formed network/support group consisting of special libraries on campus and in Saskatoon; and she volunteered as a representative on the Electronic Document Delivery advisory committee of the Multitype Library Board with the Provincial Library.

Conferences

Carol has attended a number of conferences and workshops over the past few months, including sharing responsibilities with Nora interpreting the Centre's display at the UofS Research Symposium in January; she took part

in the Centre's New Generation Co-operatives conference and the follow-up in-house session for Sask Economic and Co-operative Development; a CCA workshop in Regina titled "Co-operatives in Theory and Practice"; and the Centre's "New Models of Rural and Remote Telecommunication Service" symposium.

The Website

Carol continues to add pdf formats of new publications to the site, as well as maintaining a current list of CSC symposium speakers and international conference listings. She has added material and made minor layout changes to some pages, including significant additions to the library section, which now has tips on how to find co-operative information sources in library catalogues and indexes. She has also added listings of publications recently received by the library.

Roger Herman

Roger continues working towards his Interdisciplinary Masters Degree researching the unique challenges of co-operative management. Most of his time these days is devoted to his class. He completed three during the fall term and is working on the final two classes this term, which will complete the coursework component of his studies.

He will be working on the sectoral analysis update of the impact study during May and June, and will begin the design of his research and data collection later this summer, with his plan being to convocate in spring 2001.

Roger participated in the Centre's NGC and telecommunications conferences, and will be attending the Association of Co-operative Educators annual conference in Minneapolis in May, where he will give a presentation on how the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives has had an impact on co-operative education.

With Rocky's assistance, Roger continues to co-ordinate our in-house discussion group, and he and Rocky are also responsible for co-ordinating the Centre's monthly Seminar Series (see details above in Centre Overview).

Rochelle Smith

Rocky's "Principal-Agent" paper for the 1999 ICA Research Committee Conference in Québec City will be published in an international co-operative journal. Her paper titled "Deposit Insurance in Saskatchewan: The Role and Significance of the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation" will be published as a Centre occasional paper as soon as Nora can turn her attention to it.

After successfully completing the two written phases of her PhD comprehensives in early October, Rocky endured the final assault—The Oral Exam—in December. She is now in the process of preparing a formal proposal and gathering research for her dissertation.

Along with Roger, she continues to be responsible for the organization of the Centre's Seminar Series and to co-ordinate our in-house discussion group. She is also on the Community Clinic's board of directors and is a member of its Political and Social Action Committee.

Jo Anne Ellis

In addition to her regular everyday office responsibilities, Jo Anne has lent her organizational skills to a number of special projects. She made all the arrangements (lunch, photocopying, mailing, etc.) for the November 1999 Board Meeting, for which she also took and transcribed the minutes. She handled the distribution of notices for the academic position, prepared application packages for the selection committee, and then took and transcribed the minutes of the committee's meeting. She also looked after the distribution of the notice for the director's position and prepared documentation for distribution to the selection committee.

She compiled a list of Saskatchewan libraries and Canadian university libraries and entered it on the database for Carol to use to distribute on-going news and information about the resource centre.

To the great relief of the rest of us, who have been knee-deep in this extraneous stuff for months if not years, she collected and prepared unused office equipment for disposal through surplus assets, and with Karen's help, catalogued office software and software documentation for possible disposal to the schools. Thank you Jo Anne and Karen!

She prepared and distributed personalized invitations to the Co-op Research meeting that was to be held on March 28, as well as making arrangements for coffee breaks and lunch. Unfortunately the meeting had to be rescheduled because of a number of unavoidable last-minute conflicts.

Jo Anne's largest responsibility this term has been the organization of the "New Models of Rural and Remote Telecommunications" Symposium held March 22. She designed the invitation, prepared the mailing list, processed registrations and payments, designed and prepared name tags and conference packages, presided over the registration desk, and attended the symposium to ensure that all arrangements went smoothly.

She made all the arrangements for the April board meeting and prepared packages for distribution to board members.

She is also in the process of arranging for Hannes Mesecke, a graduate student from Germany, to work at the Centre for four months this summer. Arrangements include visa negotiations, payroll, office space, and accommodation.

Finally, due to a significant number of requests for the Centre publication *Making Membership Meaningful*, which is out of print, Jo Anne has taken on the enormous task of rekeying this 356-page document, as time permits, so that it can be posted on the website or published in CD format. The original electronic files are inaccessible on a corrupted Sy-Quest disk.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen works for the Centre on a half-time basis, providing support in general office duties to Jo Anne and Carol, and other faculty and staff as required. She is also responsible for running the office when Jo Anne has an EDO or is otherwise away. Apart from her regular office duties the past few months, which include reception, paperwork, filing, and most of the office xeroxing, Karen has been kept busy sending out Centre newsletters and annual reports, updating the various mailing lists maintained by the Centre, mailing out invitations to the Seminar Series on a regular basis, invoicing and mailing publication orders, as well as invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills.

She has been an enormous help to Carol in the library over the past few months, responsible for reshelving several hundred returned items, preparing

inventories of a number of subcollections, and keying in skeletal records for nearly 500 backlogged items in preparation for cataloguing. Karen continues to work half-time in the College of Dentistry.

Jodi Crewe

Jodi has concluded her contract with Brett, preparing a research paper on the history of the Co-operative College of Canada, which was based in Saskatoon from 1955–1987. The research will be published as a Centre occasional paper.

Sama Kiriwandeniya

Sama has been associated with the Centre for the past two years, working on an M.A. in Sociology supervised by Michael. She successfully defended her thesis titled “Promoting Gender Emancipation through Credit Co-operatives: A Study of the SANASA Movement in Sri Lanka” in March, and was also a presenter in the Centre’s Seminar Series before returning to Sri Lanka.

