

Director's Report  
to the  
Management Advisory Board

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Centre  
for the Study  
of Co-operatives

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Brett Fairbairn  
Director

March 2001

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# Highlights

## *New Generation Co-operatives Pilot Project*

After six months of intense work, the pilot-project phase of this initiative investigating possibilities for new generation co-operative development in Saskatchewan and Manitoba is nearing completion. Funded by the Canadian Adaptation for Rural Development Program of the federal Department of Agriculture's Rural Secretariat, the intent of the project is to determine, implement, and assess methods and approaches to strengthening the agriculture and agri-food sector through application of the new generation co-operative model. Deliverables from the project include a video presentation as well as written resources documenting the research and findings.

Activities around this initiative included the "New Generation Co-operatives Experts Workshop" held on 6 March in Saskatoon. Organized by Roger, who is co-ordinating the project with the assistance of Heather McNeill, it attracted approximately seventy professionals—lawyers, accountants, business consultants, and provincial government officials. They heard presentations on legal and by-laws questions, accounting and taxation, and securities issues facing NGCs, following which the presenters answered questions and discussed points raised by the professionals in the audience. As a result, Saskatchewan now has a larger cadre of professionals with technical knowledge to aid NGCs.

## *Agricultural Adaptation Workshop*

The centre was also involved as both sponsor and participant in another workshop—one of eight regional forums held across the country during November and December, leading up to a national forum in Winnipeg in February 2001. The Saskatoon event was held 27–28 November and titled "Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach." Like the other workshops, it involved local players examining the challenges facing agricultural co-ops and concluded with proposals for solutions and strategies. All centre personnel took an active part as either organizers, presenters, or facilitators in group activities.

### *Upcoming Research Activities and Future Possibilities*

The centre was successful in its application to the University Summer Student Employment Program to hire a student to research the possibility of organizing students interested in co-operatives and establishing student co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan. The research will involve investigating other student co-ops around the world, forging relationships with those that may provide some useful connections, liaising with existing student organizations on campus here to determine unmet needs, and forming and recruiting members for a new organization for U of S students interested in co-ops.

We are now actively involved with the Community-University Institute for Social Research (CUISR), and have in partnership with CUISR hired MBA student Neville Fernandez, a former student of Brett's, to do a preliminary study of REDAs in Saskatchewan. He will be working with Carol on a lit review, a history of REDA policy in the province, and researching other examples of this type of organization in North America.

The centre is proposing to undertake an exciting project that we hope will eventually see the digitization of the entire run of *The Co-operative Consumer* newspaper. Industry Canada is offering grants under Canada's Digital Collections program, an initiative of the government's Youth Employment Strategy, towards digitization of significant Canadian materials. Given the importance of this newspaper to the history of the province and the region and to co-operative history in the West, and the government's push to increase Canadian content on the Web, we have a strong chance of getting a grant. The project will involve scanning, indexing, and the creation of a database, which will be an invaluable resource to researchers. It will employ three people on a rotating basis over a six-month period. Money brought into the centre through Nora's work on the Aboriginal Co-ops project will cover equipment needs, allowing us to contribute significantly to the preservation and availability of Canadian materials at no direct cost to the centre.

We are also applying for a strategic research grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for a project we have titled "Co-operative Identities in the Twenty-First Century: Membership and Social Cohesion." If successful, it will involve many partners, including both individuals and organizations, across the country and around the world, and three years of work.

### *Extension*

Brett and Murray have been meeting on an ongoing basis with a group called the Prairie Alliance for the Future (PAFF), who are looking at regional rail co-ops. The centre and the Department of Agricultural Economics will be hosting a small conference for them in early April, the intention of which is to help them think through issues facing agriculture, and options for transportation and marketing through multistakeholder or co-operative structures. Participants, besides the academics from the department and the centre, include producers, and academics and consultants from various other provinces and universities.

### *Publications New and Forthcoming*

Since the last director's report, a number of documents have been in various stages of production. *Against All Odds: Explaining the Exporting Success of the Danish Pork Co-operatives*, an addition to our booklets series, was published in January. Nora completed the editing, design, and layout of Lou and Ian MacPherson's *A Report on Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: Current Situation and Potential for Growth*, an enormous project sponsored by CCA/CCC, the Assembly of First Nations, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, which is due to be released shortly. Though not a centre publication in terms of distribution, we were responsible for the editing and production and are the copyright holders. Nora also has two occasional papers in process. "*An Educational Institute of Untold Value*": *The Evolution of the Co-operative College of Canada, 1953-1987* is nearing completion and will be available in early April. And Rocky's paper on deposit insurance in Saskatchewan, a history and analysis of the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation, is currently in editing.

### *Staff News*

After several months in limbo after Marianne decided not to return to work, we were extremely pleased to welcome a new office manager into our midst. Patty Sheidl came to us at the beginning of January after twenty years of service in the College of Education, where she held a variety of positions, the most recent being at the Centre for School-Based Experiences. We were fortunate to find someone with such a broad background; Patty took over the

office with great competence and has managed to adapt herself to the eclectic bunch who reside here with apparent ease. A cheerful disposition helps!

We are nearing completion of the process to fill the bridging position funded by the centre but headed towards a permanent position in Political Studies. Interviews have been held and we are awaiting the announcement of the department's final decision.

Byron, who formally left the centre in July but maintains connections with us, has joined the National Cooperative Business Association based in Washington, DC, as their Vice-President, .Coop. He will be responsible for putting the new Internet designation, .coop, into operation and directing the broad alliance group from the NCBA side. One of his first jobs is to finalize the ICANN (Internet Corporation for the Assignment of Names and Numbers) agreements, which will make use of his legal background. Although he will be nominally based in Washington, his first stretch will be in Europe so he can keep an eye on both the technical development in London and the alliance work with ICA.

In keeping with the centre's policy of encouraging scholars from abroad to undertake research projects with the interdisciplinary group here, we were happy to welcome Marcelo Barroso, a student of Agronomic Engineering from the Escola Superior de Agricultura "Luiz de Queiroz," Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil. Marcelo will be with us from January to May 2001, fulfilling the Professional Training component of his undergraduate degree. See Marcelo's section below for more details of his research.

Brett has approached a number of people whose research interests complement the centre's mandate regarding the possibility of becoming Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Scholars. These partnerships will greatly increase the interdisciplinary reach of the centre and contribute significantly to collaborative research projects in the future. The list is in the process of being finalized.

Heather McNeill, who joined us as a consultant in October to work with Murray and Roger on the NGC Pilot Project, will be doing additional research at the centre for another couple of months.

And Christina Petrisor, a fourth-year student who worked part time last fall helping Carol automate the circulation system and also with day-to-day operations in the library, finished her work at the centre in early January.

### *Visitors*

We had a visit 2–5 January from Herr Ulrich Werner, a senior manager of the Stuttgart-based southwest German co-operative federation, which is involved in both political/educational and economic functions on behalf of its members. The members include credit unions and agricultural supply-and-marketing co-ops, and their regional centrals. His intention was to familiarize himself with the Canadian co-op sector; to learn something about the importance of co-operatives in Canadian society and in community economies; to visit a credit union and an agricultural co-op; and finally, to investigate the possibility of leading a study team here at a later date. He is in fact planning to return with a delegation in the summer of 2002.

As mentioned in “Staff News,” above, we also have a Brazilian visitor, Marcelo Barroso, who is doing research here from January to May. See Marcelo’s section below for more details.

### *The Seminar Series*

Our monthly seminar series highlighting current and ongoing research by centre personnel, as well as complementary work by others, has offered a wide diversity of subject-matter over the past few months. Michael’s seminar in November, titled “Towards a Deeper Green: Co-operatives and the Challenge of Sustainable Rural Development in Costa Rica,” arose out of his recent fieldwork in Central America. Brett’s presentation in January, “Co-operatives Have No Social Goals—And Other Nonbinary Hypotheses: Reflections on Co-operative Theory,” challenged some entrenched conceptions regarding co-operative theory and principles. Harvey Brooks, a new Centre Scholar, talked to us in February about “Membership Segmentation: Strategies for Agricultural Co-operatives;” the paper examined the strategies that have been used by co-operatives and group marketing institutions dealing with differentiation of producers into distinct market segments. And Cris is giving a seminar in March titled “Co-operation, Federation, and Representation: How Federal Principles Serve the Purposes of Complex Co-operatives.” Her talk will explore the merits of organizing co-operatives in federated systems, particularly in the areas of managing organizational health and securing democratic ideals. Information about upcoming seminars and events is posted both to our website and to the university’s on-line bulletin board.

### *In-House Discussion Group*

Due to most faculty teaching responsibilities overlapping the lunch hour this term, our in-house discussion group, which normally meets at noon, has only managed one meeting since January. Byron came to talk to us about the dot.coop negotiations, of which he has become an integral part (see details under “Staff News,” above). During an intense couple of hours, he fielded many questions and as an insider, was able to clarify some of the issues surrounding the ICANN process.

## **Teaching, Research, Presentations, Publications, and Administration**

### **Brett Fairbairn**

#### *Teaching*

History 435.3: The Nazi State, 1933–38

Brett is supervising or co-supervising two PhD and five MA students, many of whom are currently writing drafts of theses and several of whom are approaching completion. Two are doing research on co-ops (Rochelle Smith and Chris Garrish, who is studying orderly marketing by BC fruit growers) and another student, Jennifer Milne, is researching the effects of rural depopulation and technological change on the roles of women in rural Saskatchewan.

#### *Research and Publications*

“How ‘Social’ Are Co-ops? Tensions, Transitions, and the Social Economy of Co-operatives in Canada.” Submitted to *Économies et Solidarités* (journal of CIRIEC-Canada), March 2001.

“Social Movements and Co-operatives: Implications for History and Development.” *Review of International Co-operation*. Forthcoming.

“A Preliminary History of Rural Development Policies and Programmes in Canada, 1945–1995.” Research Report to the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation, March 1998. Publication forthcoming with CRRF.

“Co-operative Values and the Cold War: The Rebuilding and Undermining of the German Consumer Movement, 1945–1955.” *Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics* 71, 4 (December 2000): 637–63.

### *Presentations*

“Co-operatives Have No Social Goals—And Other Nonbinary Hypotheses: Reflections on Co-operative Theory.” Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Seminar Series, 25 January 2000.

Brett was a facilitator at the final consensus-building session of the conference titled “Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach” (Saskatchewan Region Forum), Saskatoon, 27–28 November 2000.

### *Administration and Other*

Brett was reappointed chair of the Saskatchewan Archives Board for 2000–2002. He participated and SAB was a partner in the new Indigenous Peoples and Justice programme recently approved by university council.

He is director of the centre, with all the ongoing administrative and organizational responsibilities that that entails, and he continues to be actively involved in the History Department, where he is currently a member of the subcommittee searching for a new faculty member to teach Russian History.

He was a member of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council applications review committee for the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

He continues to moderate the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation listserv (CASCnet-1), which is dedicated to research on co-operatives and related subjects.

And he is on the programme committee for the Association of Co-operative Educators annual conference, August 2001, in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

## Murray Fulton

### *Teaching*

Agricultural Economics 842.3: Agricultural Market Organizations  
Agriculture 112: Agricultural Science. Murray is teaching a session in this first-year course in the College of Agriculture.

Murray is currently supervising five graduate students, two of whom (Rochelle Smith and Heather McNeill) are doing research on co-ops. Heather will defend her thesis by the end of April. He is also supervising an undergraduate thesis on the labeling of GMOs.

### *Research*

Murray continues to oversee the NGC Pilot Project. See Roger's section for more details.

### *Publications*

With Dinos Giannakas: "Consumption Effects of Genetic Modification: What if Consumers Are Right?" Accepted for publication, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

### *Presentations*

"Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach" to five of the CARD-sponsored regional forums across Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan Manitoba, and Newfoundland) as well as to the national symposium in Winnipeg in February.

With James Rude, Murray prepared and presented a paper titled "Concentration and Market Power in Canadian Agribusiness" for the NAFTA Policy Dispute and Information Consortium's 7th annual workshop, 14-17 February in Tucson, AZ.

He gave a presentation titled "Concentration in Canadian Agriculture" to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture annual meeting in Ottawa, 1 March, and then the next day gave another general presentation on his research work to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

On 5 March Murray participated in a workshop on NGCs with Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development personnel, and on 6 March, he made a presentation to the NGC Experts Workshop organized by Roger in Saskatoon.

### *Administration*

As head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, much of Murray's time has been taken up with standard department-head duties. Around mid-April, however, due to an unexpected resignation, Murray will step down from his present position in Ag Econ to become Acting Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. We wish him well in his new endeavours.

## **Michael Gertler**

### *Teaching*

Sociology 402/802: Advanced Seminar in the Sociology of Agriculture  
Sociology 206: The Community

Michael is supervising Teresa Forge's honours thesis titled "Farm Stress: Causes, Implications, Adaptations." He is also supervising two MA students, one MSc student, and is a committee member for three PhD candidates.

With Bernard Schissel, Michael was awarded a grant from the Agri-Food Innovation Fund, PFRA, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, for one of his graduate students, who is working on the topic, "Agricultural Practices and Water Quality: The Social Ecology of Resource Management."

### *Research*

Michael is continuing to write up the material on co-operatives and sustainable rural development that he gathered during his sabbatical in Costa Rica.

He is also working on a paper titled "Consumer Deskillling and the Transformation of the Agri-Food Industry," which he will present in June at the Agriculture, Human Values, and Food Systems conference in Minneapolis.

And work is ongoing on the study of the urban and regional impacts of the Saskatoon Farmers Market Co-op, for which he received a CUISR grant.

### *Presentations*

As a new member of the Virtual College of Biotechnology, Michael participated as a panellist in the public presentation “Should Genetically Modified Foods be Labelled?” at the U of S, 15 February 2001.

He also gave a public lecture titled “Social, Organizational, and Institutional Factors in Sustainable Rural Development” at the U of R, 6 March 2001.

### *Administration*

As a member of the Administrative Committee for the Land Use and Environmental Studies Program in the College of Arts and Science, Michael took part in preparations for the Systematic Program Review.

He has recently become a member of the Environmental Studies Association of Canada and also the International Sociological Association, RC40, Research Committee on Agriculture and Food.

He serves on the Graduate Studies Committee and the Library Committee in the Department of Sociology.

And he continues to be an active participant on the Science Liaison Committee of Prince Albert National Park.

## **Cristine de Clercy**

Cris is currently in a one-year term position as a Fellow of the centre.

### *Teaching*

Political Studies 110.6: Introduction to Political Studies

Cristine is currently finishing up the term with her first year Political Studies students, and is helping to advise them in their course selection choices for

next year. The centre's new information package titled "The Study of Co-operatives for Students at the University of Saskatchewan" has been very useful in this regard.

### *Research*

Cris's work on a GM food policy project, an initiative of scholars at the Saskatchewan Institute for Public Policy, will be completed later this spring.

She has several projects underway related to the co-operative sector, such as a study of government policy around New Generation Co-operatives and an in-depth treatment of Federated Co-operatives. Some early work on these topics will appear in conference papers to be given over the next year (see below).

### *Publications*

Cristine has completed several book reviews and sent out an article drawn from her doctoral work to a leading journal.

"Leadership and Uncertainty in Fiscal Restructuring: Ralph Klein and Roy Romanow." Article submitted to the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.

Booknote concerning *Cases in Public Policy Analysis*, 2nd ed., by George M. Guess and Paul G. Farnham. *Canadian Public Administration*.

Review of *Greed, Chaos and Governance: Using Public Choice to Improve Public Law*, by Jerry L. Mashaw, *Canadian Public Administration*.

### *Presentations and Extension*

In order to increase her knowledge and experience of co-operatives, Cristine ran for a position as board member of Saskatoon Credit Union. Although she was not elected, the experience was useful and will help with her research on leadership in credit unions.

From 1 November 2000 to 1 March 2001, Cris participated in thirty-nine separate interviews with local and national media organizations, requiring a total of nearly twenty-five hours of time. An important part of community

outreach and extension service, most of these interviews concerned the 2000 Canadian general election, provincial issues, and the NDP leadership race. These activities will decline over the next year in favour of devoting more time to research and publications.

Cris gave two talks this term:

“Public Administrators, Public Expectations, and Public Opinion,” an “Armchair Series” talk sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute for Public Policy, Regina, 17 January 2001.

“Co-operation, Federation, and Representation: How Federal Principles Serve the Purposes of Complex Co-operatives,” Centre for the Study of Co-operatives Seminar Series, 22 March 2001.

The following proposals have been sent out for consideration since the beginning of November; some have been accepted for conference presentation.

“Co-operation, Federation, and Representation: How Federal Principles Serve the Purposes of Complex Co-operatives.” Paper to be presented to the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation Annual Meetings, Québec, 28–29 May 2001.

With Peter Ferguson: “Pollsters and Hucksters: A Comparative Analysis of Opinion Poll Reporting in the 2000 Canadian and American Elections.” Paper to be presented to the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA., 30 August – 2 September 2001.

“Market Regulation Regimes and the Politics of Envy: The Case of New Generation Co-ops in North America.” Paper proposed for presentation to The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, San Antonio, TX, 19–22 November 2001.

With Doug Uhrke: “Leadership Credibility and Administrative Innovation in Canadian and American Local Governments.” Paper proposed for presentation to The Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, San Antonio, TX, 19–22 November 2001.

### *Administration*

Responsible for scheduling speakers for the Political Studies 990 Graduate Seminar, Cristine helped to co-ordinate the visits of two particularly distin-

guished scholars during the winter term. The 2001 Timlin Lecturer was Dr. Jane Jenson, professor of Political Science and director of the Université de Montréal/McGill University Institute of European Studies and Director of the Family Network of Canadian Policy Research Networks. Her lecture, titled “Social Citizenship in Twenty-First Century Canada,” took place on 6 February. Dr. William Coleman, professor of Political Science and director of the Institute on Globalization and the Human Condition at McMaster University, spoke on “Agricultural Biotechnology and International Regime Formation: An Assessment of the Prospects” on 16 March.

## **Lou Hammond Ketilson**

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

### *Teaching*

COMM 345.3: Business and Public Policy

Lou is a committee member for one MBA student, one interdisciplinary MA, and also an interdisciplinary PhD candidate.

### *Research*

Lou has completed the research on the massive project titled “A Report on Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: Current Situation and Potential for Growth,” a joint project involving CCA, CCC, the Assembly of First Nations, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Lou was co-principal investigator, along with Ian MacPherson. The report is presently in translation and due to be released in the near future.

### *Presentations*

Lou has made a number of presentations over the past few months based on her research into aboriginal co-operatives.

## *Administration*

Lou continues her term as associate dean in the College of Commerce, which involves a lot of general administrative duties. Her position also includes the directorship of the Centre for International Business Studies and responsibility for graduate programs.

She is on the President's SSHRC Committee, the University IT Committee, and is the university co-ordinator of the Community Economic Development module of the Community-University Institute for Social Research.

## **Nora Russell**

A great deal of Nora's time since the last director's report has been spent doing the editing, design, and layout of Lou and Ian's 400-page "Report on Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: Current Situation and Potential for Growth," which she completed in early March. Her work on this resulted in an unexpected chunk of money coming to the centre, which has been earmarked for a special project—Canada's Digital Collection Programme—outlined above in "Highlights."

Other editorial projects have included another centre booklet titled *Against All Odds: Explaining the Exporting Success of the Danish Pork Co-operatives*, by Jill Hobbs of the Department of Agricultural Economics. Nora also finished the editing and layout of the occasional paper on the history of the Co-op College of Canada; it is in the final stages of production and will be published in early April. She is currently working on the editing of Rocky's paper on Saskatchewan's Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation; it will be another occasional paper.

Smaller projects have included preparing ads for the monthly seminar series; with Carol, working on employment equity issues; helping Roger with some minor items for the NGC Experts Workshop; advising him regarding the written deliverables for the project; organizing, with Carol, the centre's contribution to campus activities surrounding March 21, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and providing editorial and layout advice to Carol on the preparation of the SSHRC grant proposal.

Activity on the reprint front has been unusually quiet this past term, with only the three machinery co-operative booklets ordered. Since it went out of

stock, we have had ongoing inquiries about reprinting *Making Membership Meaningful*, first published in 1995. A significant demand from the UK in the past few months has convinced us that a small reprint would be worthwhile; Nora will be dealing with this in the next month or so. We have also had a lot of interest in reprinting “The Green Book,” *Co-operatives and Community Development*. Because it is somewhat dated, we are giving this careful consideration; a revision might make more sense, but there are no firm plans as yet.

With other centre personnel, Nora took an active part in the November regional forum in Saskatoon—“Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach.” In January she attended, with Carol, a workshop on training for employment equity sponsored by the Saskatchewan Employment Equity Practitioners Association. And in April she will be mounting a display on the centre’s behalf at the Saskatchewan Library Association’s annual meeting.

Nora has a number of items awaiting her attention, including the two occasional papers in editing and production at the moment, and two others—Brenda Stefanson’s thesis on adult educators in co-op development and Hannes Mesecke’s paper comparing western Canadian and German agricultural co-operatives. A centre newsletter is long overdue, and the annual report is also looming.

Nora is responsible for the director’s reports on an ongoing basis.

## **Carol Shepstone**

### *Library*

Christmas break and fewer co-operative-specific classes in the second term has slowed traffic somewhat through the Resource Centre since the last director’s report. But the decline in volume has not reduced the variety of inquiries or range of organizations seeking the centre’s resources and expertise. A number of students in medicine, sociology, political studies, commerce, and the English as a Second Language extension program found useful information in the Resource Centre for exploring co-operative themes within their general course work. Over the last few months, many of the centre’s stakeholder organizations also took advantage of the Resource Centre’s research and reference services for both their own research and for their members and clientele.

Recent external requests for information came from a diverse audience, including the Lieutenant Governor's office, a local playwright, the federal Department of Finance, private consultants, law firms, youth-at-risk programs, community-shared agriculture projects, and recycling initiatives. Inquiries have been received from a wide range of locations—Peterborough, Prince Albert, Ottawa, Grand Forks (ND), Edmonton, North Battleford, Regina, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and as far away as Seoul, Korea. There was also a most unusual inquiry from a collector in the Netherlands requesting a sample of the centre's promotional neck-ties; though we do not stock such an item, we are thinking of sending him something anyway. External requests for information regarding NGC development and Saskatchewan's legislative environment also continue to arrive regularly from across Canada. Information about establishing worker co-operatives, community-shared agricultural models, and board governance responsibilities have also been of noted interest.

In January, we completed the automation of circulation. This means items are now checked out by means of a light pen, which reads a barcode attached to each circulation item. The electronic information system gives us the ability to automatically track all circulation functions, including due dates, fines, and use figures. The online catalogue continues to be hosted by our library software provider pending the resolution of software bugs. Patrons are pleased with the new display, and the updating process has been quite smooth. Due to equipment upgrades in the centre, two "new" computers have found their way into the library for public use, and their speed capabilities have made a considerable difference for access to on-and off-campus resources.

The collection has continued to expand in response to research interests and the growth of co-operative literature. Along with the usual new acquisitions, the Resource Centre also received more than ninety-five items from the Provincial Library's collection dispersal initiative. Many of these titles, particularly those of Saskatchewan interest, are part of the Provincial Library's Virtual and Extended Saskatchewan Collection program, which includes the centre in their online provincial catalogue as a resource location for these titles. The other large boost to our collection came from the closing of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool corporate library. These publications have yet to be processed into the centre's collection, but the estimated number of items is between 200 and 250. Both of these special acquisitions include many hard-to-find or out-of-print titles that fill gaps in our collection and add to the

depth of our research offerings. Our position as a research destination for co-operatives is enhanced by these additions and by the complementary relationship between our collection and the University Archives, which has acquired the bulk of Saskatchewan Wheat Pool's collection.

### *The Web Site*

The revisions of the web site, mentioned in the last report, have received positive responses from a number of researchers, both on and off campus. The majority of the additions over the last few months have dealt with the NGC Pilot Project and ongoing events. We have added in-house documents and also provided external links to related NGC information. Revisions and additions will continue over the next few months as the project gathers together the final documents and identifies key NGC information needs.

The most recent centre booklets—the series of three on machinery co-ops and the one on the Danish pork co-operatives—have been posted. And the report on Aboriginal Co-ops in Canada will also be available once it has been released to the public.

### *Research*

Recent work on grant proposals and ongoing research projects have been keeping Carol busy over the past few months. She is co-ordinating a preliminary research project that will be part of the centre's contribution to a larger, proposed Community-University Institute for Social Research study of Regional Economic Development Authorities. The project will get underway in April with the assistance of a student researcher. Work is progressing on the centre's database of innovative co-operative organizations, and we are exploring new digitization proposals with the goal of increasing Canadian co-operative web content and raising the centre's profile. As always, research support for centre staff and faculty continue to keep the days lively and ever interesting.

### *Professional Development*

Carol's recent conference and workshop attendance has included "Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach," a workshop on training for

employment equity sponsored by the Saskatchewan Employment Equity Practitioners Association, “New Generation Co-operatives Experts Workshop,” and “Writing Project Proposals,” as well as various sessions on digital resource and information management through the Universities Libraries professional development program.

### *Groups*

Carol continues to be actively involved with the Co-operative Network of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Special Libraries Network, and the Saskatchewan Libraries Association Conference Planning Committee. She has recently become a member of the Library Promotions Committee of the Multi-Type Library Board.

### **Roger Herman**

Most of Roger’s work over the past few months has been associated with his position as co-ordinator of the New Generation Co-operatives Pilot Project, which he assumed 1 October 2000. Roger was effectively seconded from his normal duties for the project. In this capacity he has co-ordinated an NGC Experts Workshop for approximately seventy professionals in the fields of law, accounting, business, and government; organized another workshop for approximately twenty Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development staff; met and/or worked with various producers groups using or exploring the use of the NGC model; presented a project update and facilitated small-group discussion at the “Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach” National Forum in Winnipeg in February; co-authored with Murray an article on NGCs and Community Economic Development for *Making Waves*, a community economic development publication; co-ordinated the development of a video of the NGC Experts Workshop for distribution to professionals interested in working with NGCs; co-ordinated a general NGC awareness campaign among professional groups (lawyers and accountants) in Saskatchewan; and worked in collaboration with Saskatchewan Economic and Co-operative Development to establish and make available a comprehensive package of resources for NGC development to be used by producers, development officers, or professionals working with producer groups.

Roger successfully co-ordinated a grant application under the University Summer Student Employment Program to hire a student to explore student

co-operative development at the U of S. And he has also applied for a summer student under the Centennial Student Employment Program (decision pending) to have a student conduct a review of the Saskatchewan NGC Act and to provide a comparative analysis of Saskatchewan Legislation with that of other Canadian jurisdictions

With Rocky, Roger continues to co-ordinate the centre's seminar series as well as the in-house discussion group. Though he has had little time to spend on his studies, he is still registered as an interdisciplinary MA student at the centre; his involvement in the NGC project will help him to gather information for his thesis.

## **Rochelle Smith**

Rocky is well into the writing of her interdisciplinary PhD dissertation and hopes to get the bulk of it done before she returns on the first of May to her position in the Policy Division at Economic and Co-operative Development in Regina. The working title of her thesis is "Existence and Persistence: The Evolution of Co-operatives from a Systems Perspective." Rocky's dissertation proposes a new way of examining how co-operatives adapt and evolve, based on recent developments in complexity and systems theory. It includes a number of profiles and case studies of co-operatives and credit unions, primarily in Canada, but with a few from Europe and the United States. The conclusions will demonstrate that co-operatives, and, indeed, co-operation will continue to exist and persist as long as there are market failures; individual co-operatives and credit unions, however, may not survive. Rocky anticipates presenting some practical ways for co-operatives and credit unions to examine and understand their own strategies for survival. Members of her committee include Murray, Brett, and Michael from the centre, and Dan Ish and Marj Benson from College of Law.

Rocky continues, with Roger, to organize the centre seminar series and the in-house discussion group. She also carries on as a member of the board of directors of the Community Health Clinic, serving on the Member Services Committee.

Rocky has been with us for almost four years now; it is difficult to imagine the place without her. She is going to have to teach someone The Dance of Joy, the really bad arabesque she does in moments of madness, and how to impersonate Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd.

## Patty Scheidl

Patty came to the centre at the beginning of January as our new office manager. Her previous experience includes twenty years in the College of Education, where she worked in various capacities, most recently in the Centre for School-Based Experiences.

Besides the regular day-to-day duties since she began work at the centre, Patty has been involved with a number of special responsibilities: getting the budget up to date and entering information into the database since the November statement, which involves transferring funds to the different research accounts; going through the research accounts and updating expenditures that occurred since the November statements; assisting Roger with the NGC Experts Workshop by sending out letters to participants, preparing name tags, sending faxes, and printing a seminar listing; and assisting Brett in sending out letters to Centre Scholars confirming their appointments. She organized travel schedules and information for Dr. Ulrich Werner, our German visitor, who plans to bring a group here in the summer of 2002. With Karen's assistance, she assembled agenda items for the March Advisory Board Meeting, and also helped out with the mailing of the monthly Seminar Series announcements.

Meetings are another of Patty's specialties. She has spent a lot of time organizing meetings for a variety of occasions, which can be a logistical nightmare given the busy schedules of everyone who works here. She has been meeting herself with people at the Campus Computer Store to obtain information and quotes on computer equipment for the centre's Capital Equipment Request, and was then responsible for preparing the formal request to the Capital Equipment committee. On another computer front, she made arrangements for a technician to come and change the server and hook-up a couple of computers.

Patty reports that the past few months have flown by as she tackles the learning curve of her new working environment, and she continues to look forward to new challenges. Everyone else has been impressed by her tremendous energy and competence, her ability to learn quickly, and above all the smooth manner in which she has fit into the centre's team.

## **Karen Neufeldt**

Karen works for the Centre on a half-time basis, providing support in general office duties as required. Her regular duties include reception, paperwork, cash reports, filing, xeroxing and printing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, keeping track of stock for reprint possibilities, as well as invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills. She is also responsible for sending out the monthly seminar series announcements, updating the database, whatever mailouts are required, and helping to prepare packages for the advisory board meeting. She continues to help Carol in the library, reshelving returned items, keying in skeletal records for backlogged items in preparation for cataloguing, labelling, and copying material for the vertical files. This past month she assisted Roger and Heather with administrative details connected to the NGC Experts Workshop, and she has been an enormous help over the past few months to Patty, our new office manager, helping to familiarize her with office routines and responsibilities at the centre.

Karen continues to work half-time in the College of Dentistry.

## **Wendy Farrington**

Wendy worked for us half time from September to December on a temporary basis until we found a permanent office manager. She was also recruited to provide administrative support for the NGC Pilot Project, working with Murray, Roger, and Heather. Though she left the centre at the end of December in anticipation of Patty's arrival, she will be helping in a minor capacity with the NGC pilot until it is completed.

## **Heather McNeill**

Heather joined us in October and is working with Murray and Roger on the NGC Pilot Project. Her main role is to develop resource materials on the financing, legal, business, and governance requirements of NGCs.

She assisted Roger with preparations for the Experts Workshop and also helped to prepare the binder of material for participants. She will continue

work on the set of resource materials about NGCs until the end of March, when she will undertake new research activities for a different project.

Heather is also finishing her MSc in Agricultural Economics at the U of S. Her thesis examines the relationship between an NGC and its members with respect to specific investment.

### **Marcelo Barroso**

Marcelo bravely left the warmth of his home in Brazil to join us at the centre at the beginning of January; he will be here until the end of May. He is in the last term of his five-and-a-half-year undergraduate degree in Agronomic Engineering at the Superior School of Agriculture “Luiz de Queiroz,” University of São Paulo. He came to do what his programme refers to as Professional Training—five to six months working, researching, and/or studying away from his home university. Choices can include another university, a company, or an organization, in Brazil or abroad. The training counts as credits towards his degree.

Under Roger and Michael’s direction, Marcelo is doing research on co-operative movements, corporate social responsibility, social capital, and societal marketing. His final paper will be titled “Social Marketing in Agricultural Co-operatives in Saskatchewan, Canada.”

### **Christina Petrisor**

Christina, a fourth-year student of political studies, came to the centre in November and worked part time for a few months. She assisted Carol in the library with the day-to-day operations that had fallen behind as a result of added pressures connected with the beginning of term, workloads in the front office, and the automation of the circulation system. Christina finished her work with us in January.