

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board



Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives



Brett Fairbairn
Director



March 2003





The Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is an interdisciplinary teaching and research institution located on the University of Saskatchewan campus in Saskatoon. It is supported financially by the co-operative sector—Credit Union Central of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Federated Co-operatives Ltd., Co-operative Trust, The Co-operators, and the CUMIS Group—the Government of Saskatchewan, and the University of Saskatchewan. The university not only houses our offices but provides in-kind contributions from a number of departments and units—Agricultural Economics, History, Management and Marketing, Political Studies, and Sociology, among others—as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

We acknowledge with gratitude the ongoing support of all our sponsoring organizations.



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Overview and Highlights

▲ Centre Retreat and Planning Session

Centre personnel and a number of Centre Scholars met 30-31 January at Wanuskewin Heritage Park for an intense day and half retreat and planning session precipitated in part by the necessity to prepare a document for the university's Integrated Planning process. We also used it as an opportunity to do some long-range strategic planning for the centre in preparation for contract renewal, which is coming up next year. The strategic plan, which covers the next five years, involves some ambitious new initiatives around graduate-level education and research, as well as strengthening our academic profile nationally and internationally. These major plans rest fundamentally on the strength of the centre's established core competencies, and a number of supporting activities will add value and substance to both the new main initiatives and our core functions.

▲ SSHRC Project Update

Since the last director's report we have undertaken a comprehensive dissemination of the notices for MA and PhD awards in the hope of attracting some new graduate students to the centre, and have begun to receive inquiries. Preliminary research is underway into methodologies and data collection for each cluster, and cluster co-ordinators are engaging in collaborative exchanges with partner organizations. The various ethics reviews of research tools and protocols are well underway. And Carol has prepared a one-page promotional piece that will be distributed to all participants to help raise awareness of and enthusiasm for the research in their particular communities.

Three of the student papers prepared during the summer in connection with the SSHRC project were in revision over the fall. Two of these (one on consumer identities and co-op membership and the other on networking diversity) will be published as research reports and made available in the resource centre. The other, which deals more specifically with social cohesion, will be an occasional paper.

Our new SSHRC-funded student, Angela Wagner, is working with Cris and Centre Scholar Morris Altman in connection with their research on consumer co-operatives and credit unions for cluster one. Karla Radloff continues to work on the project alongside her MA program in Political Studies. And History MA student and former co-op intern Julie Gibbings is doing background research for a number of clusters, as well as preparing an annotated bibliography for cluster three, “Co-operatives and Aboriginal Cultures.”

Submissions for the proposed book based on the October conference are coming in slowly. We currently have only five in hand, although have been assured that others are working on their contributions.

▲ Other Research Update

Jill McKenzie is in the process of revising her paper on co-op archival material, and continues to work part-time with Brett on the update to his 1989 history of Federated Co-operatives Ltd., *Building a Dream*.

▲ CARD II Project

The centre is heavily involved in the CCA-sponsored Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development Phase II project (CARD II). The initial phase (CARD I) involved a series of regional forums across the country during the fall and winter of 2000–01, which examined the challenges facing agricultural co-ops and concluded with proposals for solutions and strategies. All centre personnel participated in the Saskatchewan Region Forum, either as organizers, presenters, or facilitators in group activities. Lou and Brett are major players in the Leadership Development Program portion of CARD II, targeted towards agricultural co-operatives. Lou is on the advisory committee and also has a role in co-ordination and delivery; she is developing conceptual material and two case studies for the “Leadership and Networking” module of the program; and she will be a resource person for a “Train the Trainer” session prior to delivering her material at the pilot in Guelph. Brett is preparing a module on democratic functioning in co-operatives as well as a large case study, and is also involved in training and delivery. In another module, Murray worked with AgEcon graduate Kim Sanderson on a study of agricultural trends and innovative agricultural co-operatives.

▲ The Seminar Series

Lou's seminar, "Mondragon: From Humble Beginnings to Industrial Giant: Can They Remain True to Their Roots?" concluded our fall session of the seminar series. Martin Chicilo, manager of community development at the Saskatoon Credit Union, followed up on Lou's topic in January with a presentation titled "Building Mondragon in Saskatoon? The Community First Development Fund of Saskatoon—Fostering Co-operative and Business Development with Community Partners." Brett's contribution in February—"Linkage, Transparency, and Cognition: Three Strategic Concepts for Co-ops"—was based on his new centre booklet, and coming up in March, Centre Scholar Louise Clarke will discuss "Winning Ways: How Can Work Organization and Employment Relations Contribute to the Success of Co-operatives?"

▲ Publications

Since the last director's report in November, the centre has published two research reports and two booklets, with a third booklet out with the author for editorial approval. Michael's research report, *Beyond Beef and Barley: Organizational Innovation and Social Factors in Farm Diversification and Sustainability*, originated from an Agricultural Development Fund grant from Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food, and Rural Revitalization. Roger's *The Role of Social Cohesion in the Adoption of Innovation and Selection of Organizational Form: An Examination of Saskatchewan's Value-Added Agricultural Sector* is a research report prepared with the aid of a grant from the Co-operatives Secretariat, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The two new booklets are both Brett's work. The first, *Three Strategic Concepts for the Guidance of Co-operatives: Linkage, Transparency, and Cognition*, is the result of nearly a decade of discussion and exchange in the centre's interdisciplinary environment. The second, *The Role of Farmers in the Future Economy*, is based on a speech he gave to the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan in June 2002.

We were finally able to obtain an electronic copy of the long-awaited *Up a Creek with a Paddle: Excellence in the Board Room* by Ann Hoyt, which Nora has edited and returned to the author for approval. With luck it will be out this spring. And there are a number of research reports and occasional papers in the works as well. See Nora's section in this report for more details.

▲ Staff News

We were delighted to welcome Carol back from maternity leave in January. Her replacement, Cindy Hanson, left us in December for a position in the Extension Division's Professional Development and Community Education Programs, where she is filling in for someone on sabbatical.

One of our former student researchers, also a co-op intern, Julie Gibbings, returned in December from Guatemala and is working for the centre on a part-time basis doing background research for the SSHRC project. And we were joined in January by a new interdisciplinary MA student, Angela Wagner, who will be funded by one of the SSHRC project scholarships.

Finally, we congratulate Murray on his recent appointment as the director of the Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law, and the Environment.

▲ Scholars Update

Centre Scholars continue to be involved in centre and co-op-related activities, particularly the SSHRC project. As one of the cluster co-ordinators, Isobel Findlay remains heavily involved in the project planning. New Centre Scholar Morris Altman is working with Cris in cluster one, while Ian MacPherson is part of the project co-ordination group as well as being involved with the research in clusters three and four. Louise Clarke continues her advisory role with Quint's Core Neighbourhood Development Strategy, and will be giving a presentation in the Centre Seminar Series later in March. As a member of the planning committee for their upcoming conference, Roger has an ongoing relationship with the Community-University Institute for Social Research, co-directed by Centre Scholar Jim Randall. Titled "Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy, and Progress," the conference has attracted the participation of a number of centre staff, fellows, and scholars.

We were extremely pleased to have Rob Norris, Isobel Findlay, Gordon Barnhart, Louise Clarke, and Dan Ish participate in the recent centre retreat and planning session. And a final note—Leslie Biggs and Jill Hobbs are currently away on sabbatical.

▲ Visitors

In early February, Brett met with Medy Chumaidi Djufrie, minister/counsellor, Rumondang Sumartiani, vice-consul and head of consular affairs, and Sylvia Shirley Malinton, vice-consul, all from the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia. The connection was orchestrated through Rob Norris, a new Centre Scholar, who is the co-ordinator of Communications and Program Development for U of S International.

Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, and Administration

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

Undergraduate

History 288.3: Co-operatives in the World

This class began in January with its highest enrolment so far, approximately thirty-five students. It is popular with students in International Studies, History, Political Studies, and Education, among others, and draws more students each time it is offered.

Graduate

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

Brett is teaching this to Angela Wagner, a master's student in Geography, who is the newest graduate student funded by one of the SSHRC scholarships.

One of Brett's students, Jeff Korte, successfully defended his Master's thesis on 2 December 2002. It concerned intelligence and strategy in the final stages of the Second World War.

Brett was a member of the examining committee for History MA student Laura McNaughton, who on 17 December 2002 successfully defended her thesis on CCF agricultural settlement policy following the Second World War. Laura was previously an undergraduate student of co-operatives in Brett's classes, and worked as a research assistant at the centre for a project on the history of rural-development policy in Canada. Her thesis touched substantially on the development of co-operative farms in the northern fringe of the grain belt.

Brett has a new master's student in modern German history, and a continuing student nearing completion with a thesis about the lives of farm women in Saskatchewan in the 1950s.

He is on the advisory committees for a number of students including Karla Radloff (Political Studies), who is working on co-operative development in northern Saskatchewan with funding from one of the SSHRC scholarships.

▲ Research

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

He is currently conducting interviews and documentary research for his future book on the history of Federated Co-operatives Limited and the co-operative retailing system from 1982 to the present. He is assisted by student researcher Jill McKenzie, who has been working ten hours a week collecting and summarizing documents, part of this in space provided at Federated's home office.

Brett is also involved in the Leadership Development Programme of the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development, Phase II (CARD II) programme, administered by the Canadian Co-operative Association. This will involve preparation, training, and delivery of modules and case studies at meetings in Guelph in March, Saskatoon in April, and possibly elsewhere.

▲ Publications

Three Strategic Concepts for the Guidance of Co-operatives: Linkage, Transparency, and Cognition, Centre booklet, January 2003.

The Role of Farmers in the New Agriculture, an adaptation of a speech to the Agricultural Producers' Association of Saskatchewan, Centre booklet, March 2003.

Brett heard from Professor Zhu Shufang that the Chinese translation of his 1989 book on the history of the co-operative retailing system in western Canada, *Building a Dream*, has now been completed, a publisher located, and that the book is to appear in 2003, likely in August.

▲ Presentations

"Features of Successful Co-operatives," presentation to CIDA Public Policy Options Program (PPOP) Chinese Study Tour #2, Saskatoon, 4 November 2002.

"The Co-operative Retailing System," presentation to CIDA Public Policy Options Program (PPOP) Chinese Study Tour #2, Saskatoon, 4 November 2002.

"Strategic Orientation in Co-ops: Linkages and Transparency," opening presentation to the Directors Track of the 2003 National Council of Farmer Cooperatives annual convention in Hawaii, USA, 16 January 2003. The audience for this workshop consisted of approximately 150 directors drawn from the fifty largest agricultural co-operatives in the USA. The presentation was well received; the idea of transparency met with a particularly enthusiastic response from a number of directors.

"Collaboration and Interdisciplinarity," History Department Workshop, University of Saskatchewan, 24 January 2003.

"Linkage, Transparency, and Cognition: Three Strategic Concepts for Co-ops," Centre for the Study of Co-operatives seminar series, 13 February 2003.

Brett was also a speaker at the opening of an exhibition of Everett Baker photographs at the Dunlop Gallery in Regina, 7 March 2003.

▲ Other

In addition to his responsibilities as director of the centre, Brett is a director and chair of the Saskatchewan Archives Board. He continues as a member of the History Department's self-study committee for Systematic Programme

Review, and also as a member of the university's Tenure and Promotion Appeals panel.

A large amount of his time since November has been occupied with activities related to planning. This includes preparing for the centre's retreat on 30–31 January, writing up the draft plan developed at the retreat, meeting with various individuals, networking with departments and others about Integrated Planning, and responding to the university's new policies on centres.

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

Brett attended a variety of co-operative-sector meetings, including an FCL fall conference in November and CCA region conference in January.

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

Undergraduate

Agriculture 112.3: Introduction to Agriculture
Agricultural Economics 498.3: Follow the Grain

Graduate

Agricultural Economics 842.3: The Industrial Organization of the Food Industry
This course spends a week or two examining the role of co-ops.

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

▲ Research

Murray has submitted a proposal entitled "Transformative Change in Biosphere Greenhouse Gas Management" to SSHRC/BIOCAP. If successful,

the research will involve the development of a network of researchers from across Canada to look at the changes that are likely to occur and would have to occur in order for the agriculture and forestry sectors in Canada to play a major role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

Murray also has another application with SSHRC for a three-year Standard Research Grant entitled “Co-operative Structure, Corporate Governance, and the Failure of Agricultural Co-operatives.” The study will examine the difficulties encountered by a number of large agricultural co-ops, including Sask Wheat Pool, Agricore, Dairyworld, Farmland Industries, and Agway.

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

▲ Publications

“Implicit Contracts and the Gray Market for Fertilizer in China,” jointly authored with Konstantinos Giannakas and Xiao Yunlai, forthcoming in *Current Agriculture Food and Resource Issues*.

▲ Administration

In January Murray received a three-year appointment as the director of the Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law, and the Environment (CSALE). CSALE’s main areas of interest over the next three-to-five years will be greenhouse gases and food health and safety. That same month he also became chair of the Interdisciplinary Committee of the College of Graduate Studies and Research. The programme currently has nearly twenty-five students, a number that is expected to grow rapidly over the next few years.

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 206.3: The Community

Sociology 402.3: Advanced Seminar in the Sociology of Agriculture

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

▲ Research

Michael continues to work on his CUISR-funded project titled “The Economic and Social Importance of the Saskatoon Farmers Market Co-operative in the City and Region.”

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

And he is a collaborator on the CURA Completion Grant (SSHRC), “Community-University Institute for Social Research: Assessing Partnerships, Policy, and Progress,” \$400,000 awarded over two years. Michael is connected to the Community Economic Development module of this project.

▲ Publications

With JoAnn Jaffe and Lenore Swystun, *Beyond Beef and Barley: Organizational Innovation and Social Factors in Farm Diversification and Sustainability* (Project of the Agriculture Development Fund, Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food and Rural Revitalization) Centre Research Report.

▲ Presentations

“Report on the Member-Vendor Survey Results,” to Saskatoon Farmers’ Market Co-operative AGM, 20 November 02, Saskatoon.

▲ Administration and Other

Michael is chair of the Library Committee and a member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Sociology, for 02–03. He is a member of the Administrative Committee, Land Use and Environmental Studies, College of Arts and Science, a member of the Endowment Committee of the Rural Sociological Society, and chair of the Science Liaison Committee for Prince Albert National Park.

Cristine de Clercy

▲ Teaching

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

▲ Research

With Morris Altman of the Department of Economics, Cris is currently undertaking basic research necessary for her work in cluster one (Urban Co-operatives) for the Centre's SSHRC project on social cohesion, globalization, and co-operatives. The cluster one research is focussing on comparing credit unions and retail co-ops located in Calgary, Vancouver, and Saskatoon.

A year ago, Cris was awarded a Canadian Institute for Health Research Development Grant to help her author a full grant proposal for CIHR research funding. Due 1 March, the proposal focusses on questions about how public inquiries consult citizens. A portion of the study concerns how health care co-operatives communicate with their members.

▲ Publications

Review of Political Leadership, by Howard Elcock. Canadian Public Administration, 45 no. 4 (Winter 2002), forthcoming.

▲ Presentations

"Should Governments Regulate the Publication of Public Opinion Polls?" Political Studies Graduate 990 Seminar, 25 February 2003.

▲ Administration

Co-ordinator for Research Cluster One, Centre project on "Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations."

Lou Hammond Ketilson

Lou remains on leave from the centre and continues to work as associate dean in the College of Commerce, but nevertheless carries on her interest in co-operative topics.

▲ Teaching

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

▲ Research

Lou is the academic co-chair of the Community Economic Development module of the Community- University Institute for Social Research, which was recently awarded a SSHRC completion grant. Isobel Findlay, Michael Gertler, and Warren Weir joined her as research collaborators in the CED module for the grant application.

And she is a co-investigator for the SSHRC-funded project, “Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations,” under the leadership of Brett Fairbairn. As part of the cluster on Co-operatives and Aboriginal Cultures, she is currently developing information regarding methodology and data collection for the ethics application.

▲ Extension

Lou sits on the advisory committee for CARD Phase II, a leadership development program (LDP) targeted towards agricultural co-operatives. She is developing conceptual material and two case studies for the “Leadership and Networking” module of the program, and will be travelling to Guelph 22 March to act as a resource for the “Train the Trainer” session prior to delivering her material at the LDP pilot in Guelph. The Saskatchewan pilot will be offered in early April. She and Brett will be sharing oversight of this pilot, as well as delivering module material.

In November 02 she co-facilitated the 2002 Institute for Co-operative Studies in Kelowna with Daniel Côté.

▲ Administration

Lou continues her term as associate dean in the College of Commerce, which, in addition to general administrative duties, includes responsibility for graduate programs and the directorship of the Centre for International Business Studies. She is also on the President's SSHRC Committee and the University's IT Committee.

Nora Russell

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

- ▲ editing, layout, design, and prepress of Michael's *Beyond Beef and Barley: Organizational Innovation and Social Factors in Farm Diversification and Sustainability* (research report)
- ▲ editing, layout, design, and prepress of Roger's *The Role of Social Cohesion in the Adoption of Innovation and Selection of Organizational Form: An Examination of Saskatchewan's Value-Added Agricultural Sector* (research report)
- ▲ editing, layout, design, and prepress of Brett's *Three Strategic Concepts for the Guidance of Co-operatives: Linkage, Transparency, and Cognition* (booklet)
- ▲ editing, layout, design, and prepress of Brett's *The Role of Farmers in the Future Economy* (booklet)
- ▲ editing of Ann Hoyt's *Up a Creek with a Paddle: Excellence in the Boardroom* (booklet); this is with the author for approval and should be published this spring
- ▲ reading the four student papers connected to the SSHRC project and making editorial suggestions for revisions

Despite publishing the above four documents, with a fifth in the works, there remains a significant backlog of occasional papers and research reports in the publications department. Topics include:

- ▲ Saskatchewan's Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation (edited and with author for revisions)

- ▲ a comparison of agricultural co-operatives in Germany and western Canada
- ▲ student co-operatives in North America
- ▲ the Desjardins Movement in Québec
- ▲ co-operatives and farmers in the New Agriculture
- ▲ a guide to co-operative material in provincial archives
- ▲ CCF government policy and Aboriginal co-operative development in the North
- ▲ Consumer Identities and Co-operative Membership
- ▲ Social Cohesion through Market Democratisation: Alleviating Legitimation Deficits through Co-operation
- ▲ Networking Diversity: Including Women and Other Under-Represented Groups in Co-operatives

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

Smaller projects have included:

- ▲ preparing ads for centre seminar series
- ▲ formatting Carol's promotional piece on the SSHRC project
- ▲ preparing announcement for Rob Norris's appointment as new Centre Scholar for *On Campus News*
- ▲ editing and formatting board minutes for Patty
- ▲ reviewing Jill McKenzie's research on co-op archival material and providing feedback regarding changes and additions; also requested expansion of entries that would be suitable for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*
- ▲ preparing piece on graduate and undergraduate education for the retreat and strategic planning session
- ▲ updating website, until Carol's return
- ▲ preparing a variety of centre-related materials for placement in CUISR's library, including information on the SSHRC project and a recreation of the out-of-print *Co-ops and Community Economic Development*

Reprints:

- ▲ *Against All Odds: Explaining the Exporting Success of the Danish Pork Co-operatives*
- ▲ *Adult Educators in Co-operative Development: Agents of Change*
- ▲ *Co-operative Development: Towards a Social Movement Perspective*

Nora has seen the final proof of University Extension Press's new catalogue, which includes a page devoted to books published by the centre (*Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000*, *A Report on Aboriginal Co-ops*, Marj Benson's law casebook, *Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture*, and the *NGC Resource Materials* binder). We are looking forward to the printed version and are interested to see how it may affect our publication sales. Even having our name on a page of a catalogue with a circulation of seven thousand will certainly increase awareness of the centre.

The centre was recently approached by the University of Calgary for permission to reproduce one of our publications, *A History of Saskatchewan Co-operative Law, 1900–1960*, for a project titled *Our Roots/Nos Racines: Canada's Local Histories*, which is a comprehensive collection of Canadian local histories made freely available on the Internet. This is a massive project, involving many universities, historical organizations, and individuals across the country, and to date 300,000 pages of English and French local histories have been digitized and will soon be available to the public. We are pleased to have centre publications represented in the collection and Nora has sent our publications list to organizers to see if there might be more they would like to include.

Nora attended a workshop on Dreamweaver, a web authoring tool. As co-chair of the centre's Employment Equity Committee, she attended a Human Rights Commission seminar on The Duty of Reasonable Accommodation and prepared materials for circulation in the office. She also attended the annual review and planning session for campus Employment Equity Working Committees.

Nora has many items on her to-do list—a regular newsletter, the special newsletter to the sector, several occasional papers, research reports, and booklets, including the background papers to the SSHRC project written by summer researchers. Nora also prepares the director's report.

Carol Shepstone

Since returning in January from a whirl-wind maternity leave, Carol has been busy with the SSHRC research project and with catching up on library business. The catch-up has been quite manageable thanks to the co-operative efforts of all her colleagues in her absence.

She has processed the backlog of library items into the collection, submitted orders for new books, dealt with the mail, and answered outstanding research and reference inquiries. In addition, she has had a busy term assisting undergraduate students with their research for various co-op and development related courses, and providing research direction for numerous graduate students working on courses and SSHRC research.

The SSHRC project continues to move ahead following the fall conference, with the current focus being on preparations for further partner consultation, followed by field research and data collection. Carol has been busy preparing the data collection and research methodology documents for ethical review, and working with Patty to formalize budgeting processes. Cluster co-ordinators have begun meeting regularly to share progress and discuss administrative details. Scholarship notices were distributed again in late December and inquiries are beginning to come in. Carol is currently working in consultation with the College of Arts and Science in preparing the web site to communicate the research project's progress and findings.

The recent software upgrade for web site management has improved the process for administering the centre's site, and Carol is looking forward to taking advantage of the improved features it offers. Software and hardware upgrades for desktop machines and the server have also meant new learning opportunities for use and system administration, and many meetings with IT Services staff.

Since returning, Carol has prepared centre research project profiles for various community development, rural, and social policy research databases. She has also been actively monitoring new opportunities for research funding and is currently preparing the 2003 U-Step applications for U of S summer student funding.

Carol has registered the Resource Centre as member of the newly launched Virtual Reference Canada, a national professional reference service initiated and organized through the National Library of Canada. This is a free refer-

ence service, which combines the resources and expertise of institutions across the country to create a comprehensive network of information centres through a single public point of access. The Resource Centre's participation as an "answering member" will help to expand the centre's profile as a key source for co-operative information and research in Canada.

Carol continued with her professional commitments during her leave and is pleased to still be actively involved in the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board, the Special Libraries Association, the Saskatchewan Library Association, and with the Saskatoon Special Libraries Network.

Roger Herman

Roger's major preoccupation since the last director's report is his master's thesis. Titled "The Diffusion of Innovation in Saskatchewan Agriculture," it examines producer-owned terminals, community-based hog initiatives, and New Generation Co-operatives.

Despite the demands of his thesis, Roger has also been involved in a number of other activities. He continues to work with the planning committee for CUISR's 2003 conference on community-university partnerships; responds to ongoing inquiries related to New Generation Co-operative development; and is participating in planning the cluster two—"Changing Boundaries"—research for the SSHRC project.

Roger attended the "Profiting from Agricultural Change" conference, and participated in an Agriculture "Value Chain" workshop, both in Saskatoon.

He is responsible for the co-ordination of the centre's seminar series, which, since September, has seen seven presentations on a variety of subjects from Centre Fellows, Scholars, and other interested participants. Four more are scheduled this term.

Patty Scheidl

In addition to regular day-to-day responsibilities as the office manager, much of Patty's time from mid-December to well into the month of January was spent organizing various meetings in connection with the centre retreat,

attempting to co-ordinate the busy schedules of centre staff, fellows, scholars, and board members in search of an appropriate date and time. Once a date was determined, many hours were spent canvassing various establishments to determine their suitability as a venue. This also involved making the necessary arrangements for the supper at Nora's on Thursday evening.

Patty was also responsible for collating the responses to Brett's questionnaire to participants regarding the agenda for the retreat. She prepared this information for the pre-retreat discussions at a centre staff meeting, which she also organized.

Over the past three months, she has organized a number of other meetings for the Centre, one being the round-table discussion with all staff members prior to the retreat and planning session.

On a regular basis, Patty maintains the centre's monthly financial statements as well as all the research accounts. In February she received some specialized training in the Excel program, which was geared to the SSHRC accounts for which she is responsible.

Other duties have included sending out schedules and firming up a date for the next management advisory board meeting, preparing the minutes of the last meeting, and pulling together the board packages for the meeting in March.

Patty has spent a considerable amount of time since the last director's report dealing with suppliers and service people regarding equipment repair, upgrades, and purchases; she has made travel arrangements for Brett for a number of conferences; she prepared and sent out invoices to our sponsors for the third-quarter dues, and deposited the cheques as they arrived; she assisted Karen in sending out the SSHRC PhD scholarship letters to contacts across Canada; and on an ongoing basis she helped Karen send out the seminar series announcements via fax, e-mail, and regular mail.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen continues to work for the centre half-time. Her regular duties include reception, paperwork, cash reports, filing, xeroxing and printing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, keeping track of stock for reprint possibili-

ties, as well as invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills. Karen is also responsible for sending out the monthly seminar series announcements and periodic newsletters, updating the database, whatever mailouts are required, and helping to prepare packages for the advisory board meeting.

Since the last director's report she has been responsible for several large mailouts, including the annual report, notices of the SSHRC awards, and the Youth Forum posters. She has also recently sent out several unusually large publication orders.

Karen took on many new responsibilities in the library while Carol was on maternity leave. In addition to her usual duties of processing returns, keying in records in preparation for cataloguing, and labelling, Karen, with Patty's assistance, handled the routing of new serials, table of contents and notification of new items e-mails, circulation, helping with searches, checking the newspapers for clippings, maintaining the vertical files, and updating the bulletin board. Since Carol's return, Karen has been an invaluable help sorting out the backlog of work that accumulated in her absence—shelving, filing, copying materials for the vertical files, and getting new books ready for circulation.

Karen also works half-time in the College of Dentistry.

Karla Radloff

Karla is a master's student in political studies and the first recipient of one of the centre's SSHRC graduate scholarships. As a summer researcher this year, she wrote a paper on co-operative development in northern Saskatchewan during the reign of the CCF government (1944–64). She is currently taking classes and working on her master's thesis, which focusses on government policy and co-operatives in the Canadian North.

Jill McKenzie

Jill is a fourth-year English and history major who spent the summer working for the centre on an archival guide to co-operative sources in the university and provincial archives. At the same time, she was helping Brett with the research on his upcoming book on Federated Co-operatives Limited. Jill will

be continuing to research the book through the school year, and hopes to have her archival guide available for use in the near future.

Angela Wagner

Angela completed an honours BA in December, and is currently an MA student in Geography. Our second SSHRC-funded graduate student, her thesis will focus on geographical implications of membership and identity in urban consumer co-operatives. As part of the conditions of her scholarship, she is working part time at the centre as a research assistant for Cris and Morris Altman, in connection with their research on consumer co-operatives and credit unions.

Julie Gibbings

Julie has worked for the centre as a research assistant in the past, recently completed a term as a co-op intern in Guatamala, and is currently pursuing an MA in History. She is working part-time for the centre on background research to the SSHRC project, and preparing an annotated bibliography for cluster three, “Co-operatives and Aboriginal Cultures.”