

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board

Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives

Brett Fairbairn
Director

November 2000

Highlights

New Generation Co-operatives Pilot Project

One of the most exciting projects at the centre relates to its involvement in the national research on co-operative development sponsored by CCA/CCC. This project, mentioned in previous reports, has now entered its active phase. Funded by the Canadian Adaptation for Rural Development (CARD) Program of the Rural Secretariat, Department of Agriculture, Government of Canada, it has involved a preliminary research component undertaken by Murray, Daniel Côté, and Julie Gibbings, and has now moved onto the second stage—a pilot project on new generation co-operatives in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The project will determine, implement, and assess methods and approaches to strengthening the agriculture and agri-food sector through application of the new generation co-operative model.

It will identify and address knowledge gaps within the professional infrastructure required for NGC development. Specifically, it will survey the legal, accounting, and business-development sectors for levels of understanding of this unique business model, and provide resources and professional development opportunities to address any gaps. Researchers will be working closely with a select number of agricultural producer groups on pilot projects, with the intention of helping those groups develop value added agri-food ventures using the NGC model. Murray will oversee the pilot; Roger is co-ordinating this component; and they will both be assisted by the research skills of Heather McNeill (see below in Staff News). This is a six-month project, slated for completion by the end of March 2001.

In connection with this project, the Saskatchewan regional forum, titled “Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach,” will be held in Saskatoon, 27–28 November. The centre is both a sponsor and participant. Leading up to a national forum in Winnipeg in February 2001, this is one of eight forums to be held across the country during November and December; it will involve local players who will examine the challenges facing agricultural co-ops, and propose solutions and strategies.

Publications

The centre is particularly pleased about the publication in August of *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000: Memory, Mutual-Aid, and the Millennium*, a significant collection of essays by co-op researchers from across the country on the past, present, and future of the co-op movement in Canada. Nora has been working on it for the past eighteen months and is relieved to finally see a finished product. We have also had a very positive response to the publication of a series of three booklets on farm machinery co-ops written by Murray and Andrea Harris.

Extension

On October 24, As part of our ongoing commitment to extension activity, Brett organized and a number of centre personnel participated in an event titled “The Co-operative Retailing System in the New Millennium: Co-operative Adaptation and the Role of Directors,” an all-day director-development workshop for the board of Federated Co-operatives Ltd. Brett, Cristine, Murray, and Lou all made presentations around the general theme of the challenges currently facing consumer and producer co-operatives. See Lou and Cristine’s sections for more details.

Ongoing Research and Future Possibilities

With Lou and Ian MacPherson as co-principal investigators, the centre is involved in a major research project examining Aboriginal communities and their use of the co-op model. A joint project involving the centre, the British Columbia Institute for the Study of Co-operatives, CCA, CCC, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, research is nearing completion. See Nora’s report, below, for more details.

The centre has collaborated with Jean-Pierre Girard of the Guy-Bernier co-op chair at Université du Québec à Montréal in a proposal for research on co-operative and community health-care delivery models. The proposal was to the Rural and Remote Health Initiatives Fund of Health Canada. If funded, it would produce documentation on co-op and association-based health services in various regions of Canada, basically providing models and analysis that could help the co-op sector and government guide development

strategies. The research would be collected by survey, with the centre handling Saskatchewan as one regional component. We are waiting to hear if the proposal has been accepted.

Dot.co-op TLD Approved!

We just received the news on Friday, 17 November, that after massive lobbying from the co-op movement worldwide, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers has approved .co-op as one of seven new Top Level Domains (TLD) names. This will give the co-operative movement a highly visible, new global Internet identity, offering the alternative of a trusted, ethical business sector to the ubiquitous .com sites. Brett, along with more than five hundred other supporters from co-op organizations around the world, wrote a strong letter of endorsement for the application, noting, among other things:

Co-operatives are not only an important business sector, especially in areas like agriculture and popular savings and credit: they are also the largest social movement in the history of the world. Worldwide there are currently three-quarters of a million official co-operative organizations, whose members include at least seven hundred million people in almost one hundred countries. This—surely!—is the kind of global sector for which a TLD should be reserved.

Moreover, the abundance of co-operatives in both developed and developing countries ensures that such a domain name will bridge the global divides of North and South as well as East and West. Co-operatives are dedicated not only to economic development, but also to education and international co-operation. A co-operative TLD is an opportunity to use the internet to create a global, virtual community centred on issues of participatory development, education, and trade.

Staff News

There was a lot of activity in staff comings and goings over the past few months. Brett officially took over as our new director on 1 July in a seamless transition from Murray's directorship. Murray has assumed responsibilities as head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, but continues his association with the centre as a CSC Fellow and spends as much time here as he can, as well as teaching a class on co-ops and conducting major research projects on co-operative issues.

We were extremely pleased to announce the appointment of a new faculty member on 1 July as well. Cristine de Clercy, from the Department of Political Studies, moved into a new bridging position funded by the centre

but headed towards a permanent position in Political Studies. Cris wasted no time making herself at home and has restored centre coffee consumption, which fell off dramatically with Byron's departure, to a respectably high level.

Byron, as mentioned, formally left the centre at the end of June, having secured independent funding for his various research projects. He intends to maintain his connections with the centre, but his work over the past few months has kept him out of the country for much of the time. We have heard many reports via e-mail (including pictures) of his travels.

Michael returned to the centre at the end of August from research leave in Central America, where he was conducting fieldwork on the role of rural co-operatives in the sustainable development of agriculture and regional economies. It is good to have him back among us.

A very sad note for the centre is that Marianne, who has been on maternity leave for the past year, has decided after much thought not to return to paid employment but rather to devote herself to her family for a few years. We respect her decision but will miss her terribly nevertheless. Anticipating Marianne's return, her replacement, Jo Anne, unfortunately for us accepted a position with the Office of Alumni and Development and left in early September. Wendy Farrington then joined us on a temporary, part-time basis to help Karen run the office until we can find a replacement for Marianne. The job posting has gone out and we hope to have someone in place in January.

We had two summer researchers with us this year: Hannes Mesecke, an agricultural economics student from the Humboldt University of Berlin, who worked on a project with Brett comparing German and western Canadian agricultural co-operatives; and Julie Gibbings, who assisted Murray with the preliminary research component of the CCA/CCC-sponsored CARD proposal. They both left the Centre in September. Hannes's research will result in an occasional paper.

Heather McNeill, an MSc student in Agricultural Economics, joined us in October to work with Murray and Roger on the New Generation Co-op Pilot Project component of the CCA/CCC-sponsored CARD project. She will be with us for the next six months.

And Christina Petrisor, a fourth-year student in political studies, came to the centre in November to work part-time for a couple of months helping Carol with day-to-day operations in the Resource Centre.

The Seminar Series

Our monthly seminar series, intended to highlight current and ongoing research by centre personnel as well as complementary work by others, got underway at the beginning of term. Murray's presentation was on adaptation in agricultural co-operatives, which grew out of the CCA/CCC-sponsored CARD project he has been working on since the summer; Lou talked about her work on aboriginal co-operatives in Canada, an ongoing project with CCA/CCC, the Assembly of First Nations, and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; and Michael will discuss his recent field-work in Costa Rica on co-operatives and the challenge of sustainable rural development. There are more seminars planned for the rest of this term and into the next. Check the website for up-to-date information.

Teaching, Research, Presentations, Publications, and Administration

Brett Fairbairn

Teaching

HIST 287.3: Origins and Development of Co-operatives in Europe

MBA 898.3: History and Dynamics of Co-operative Movements

Brett is supervising two PhD and five MA students, all of whose theses are in progress:

Rochelle Smith, PhD (Interdisciplinary) "Co-operatives in Transition." (Co-supervisor)

David Olivier, PhD (History) "The German Navy and Cruiser Warfare, 1865-97." (Supervisor)

Rob Angove, MA (History) "Resistance to National Socialism." (Supervisor)

Chris Garrish, MA (History) "The Demise of the Orderly Marketing System: The British Columbia Fruit Growers Association, Single-Desk Selling and the Coming of the Agricultural Land Reserve." (Supervisor)

Jennifer Milne, MA (History) "Rural Depopulation in Saskatchewan: The Experiences of Women." (Supervisor)

Jeff Korte, MA (History) "The German Alpine Redoubt, 1945." (Supervisor)

Cory Penno, MA (History) "Newspaper Nobility: Junker Identity and the Kreuzzeitung in the 1880s and 1890s." (Supervisor)

He is also serving as an advisory committee member for three MA students:

Roger Herman, MA (Interdisciplinary) “The Unique Challenges of Co-operative Management.” (Committee)

Laura McNaughton, MA (History) “Prairie Agriculture and the Veterans’ Land Administration.” (Committee)

Dave Rogers, MA (History) “Adenauer and the Berlin Blockade.” (Committee)

Research and Publications

“The Co-operative Tradition in Canada,” commissioned for *Facing the Future: Co-operatives, Civil Society and the Future of Public Services*, ed. John Restakis and Evert Lindquist. IPAC (Institute of Public Administration of Canada), forthcoming.

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

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

“Introduction”; “Raiffeisen and Desjardins: Co-operative Leadership, Identity, and Memory”; and “Ordinary and Exceptional: Leadership in Prairie Consumer Co-operatives, 1914–1945,” in *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000: Memory, Mutual Aid, and the Millennium*, ed. Ian MacPherson, Brett Fairbairn, and Nora Russell (Saskatoon: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, 2000).

“Community Values, Democratic Cultures? Reflections on Saxony’s Place in the German Co-operative Movement, 1849–1933” in *Saxony in German History: Culture, Society, and Politics, 1830–1933*, ed. James Retallack (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000).

Review of Jan Palmowski, *Urban Liberalism in Imperial Germany: Frankfurt am Main, 1866–1914* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1999), in *German History* 18, 3 (2000), pp. 390–1.

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* XXXV, 2 (August 2000), pp. 349-52.

Review of Simone Lässig, *Wahlrechtskampf und Wahlreform in Sachsen (1895–1909)* (Weimar etc.: Böhlau Verlag, 1996), in *German History* 18, 2 (2000), pp. 271–73.

Presentations

Brett, along with Ian MacPherson, organized a panel on the history of Co-operatives and the State at the International Congress of Historical Sciences in Oslo, Norway, in August. Panelists presented papers concerning the history of co-operatives, co-operative law, and government policy in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, the Czech Republic, the Commonwealth countries, Canada, India, Japan, and Australia. At Ian and Brett's instigation, the International Co-operative Alliance scheduled its European forum on co-operative research to follow on in Oslo immediately after the co-operative conference. Brett presented papers at both conferences:

August 2000: "Success of the Prussian Model? The State and the Expansion of the German Co-operative Movement, 1889–1914" to Roundtable on Co-operatives and the State, International Congress of Historical Sciences, Oslo

August 2000: "Rewriting Co-operative History? Social-Movement Models and the Development of Co-operatives in Society" to International Co-operative Alliance European and International Co-operatives Research Conference titled The Co-operative Impulse: Past, Present and Future, Oslo

24 October 2000: Brett was a workshop organizer and presenter at "The Co-operative Retailing System in the New Millennium: Co-operative Adaptation and the Role of Directors," an all-day director-development workshop for the board of Federated Co-operatives Ltd. Other participants were Cristine de Clercy, Murray Fulton, and Lou Hammond Ketilson of the U of S.

Brett's session within the workshop was "The World-Wide Failure of Consumer Co-operation: Trends, Exceptions, and Structural Issues"

21 October 2000: "How the Credit Union Came to Nokomis," presentation to 60th anniversary celebration of Nokomis Savings and Credit Union, Nokomis, SK

Administration

Brett finished his term as Director of Graduate Studies in History on 30 June, and on 1 July became director of the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives.

He has been reappointed as Chair of Saskatchewan Archives Board for 2000–2002. As chair, he is representing the archives in developing a proposal for a thematic, shared archival facility in Saskatoon, focusing on Aboriginal, legal, and northern issues. This proposed archival centre is also connected to a university Priority Determination proposal for an Indigenous Peoples and Justice programme.

Brett continues to run CASCnet, a list-serve dedicated to co-operative research and issues.

Murray Fulton

Teaching

Econ 231.3: The Economics of Co-operatives

Murray is supervising the following students:

Amalia Yiannaka—PhD; Carl Potts—MSc; Heather McNeill—MSc;
and Lynette Keyowski—MSc

He is co-supervisor of the following:

Leif Carlson—MSc; Rochelle Smith—PhD; and Roger Herman—MA

And a committee member for the following:

Stavroula Malla—PhD; Chris Garrish—MSc; Eric Larson—MSc; Ira Altman—MSc;
and Robin Darcy—MSc

Research

Murray's major research efforts during the summer and fall have been in two areas. One is the research paper on the future and relevance of Canadian agricultural co-operatives that he wrote for CCA/CCC as part of the background research component of the CARD project (see "Highlights," above, for more details). The title of the overall paper, co-authored by Daniel Côté, is

“Canadian Agricultural Co-operatives: Critical Success Factors in the 21st Century.” Murray’s section of the report is titled “Response and Adaptation: Canadian Agricultural Co-operatives in the 21st Century.”

Murray has also been working on a paper that examines the market impacts of genetically modified foods on both producers and consumers.

Publications

With B. Larue and M. Veeman, “Competitive Impacts of State Trading Enterprises,” in H. Michelman, J. Rude, J. Stabler, and G. Storey, *Globalization and New Agricultural Trade Rules for the 21st Century*, Lynne Rienner, forthcoming.

“Traditional versus New Generation Co-operatives,” in N. Walzer and C. Merrett (eds.), *A Co-operative Approach to Local Economic Development*, Greenwood Publishing Group, forthcoming

With K. Giannakas, “Efficient Redistribution Using Quotas and Subsidies in the Presence of Misrepresentation and Cheating,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 82(2): 347–59, forthcoming.

With K. Giannakas, “The Economics of Coupled Farm Subsidies under Costly and Imperfect Enforcement,” *Agricultural Economics*, 22: 75–90, forthcoming.

Presentations

10 October 2000: “Adaptation in Agricultural Co-operatives,” one in a series of seminars presented monthly by the centre

Administration

On 1 July 2000, Murray became head of the Department of Agricultural Economics, with all the administrative responsibilities that that entails

He is the principal researcher overseeing the CCA/CCC-sponsored CARD New Generation Co-operatives Pilot Project. See “Highlights” for more details.

Michael Gertler

We welcomed Michael back to the Centre in late August, after a six-month research leave in Central America, where he was conducting research on the role of rural co-operatives in the sustainable development of agriculture and regional economies. He is presenting an initial report of his findings in the centre's seminar series on 21 November 2000.

Teaching

SOC 204.3: Rural Sociology

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

Research

From April-June 2000, Michael carried out a field study of resource-sector co-operatives in rural Costa Rica.

In October 2000 (with Prof. Diane Martz from Geography), Michael was awarded a \$3,000 Community University Institute for Social Research Student Internship to study the city and regional impacts of the Saskatoon Farmers Market Co-operative

Presentations

28 May 2000: "(Eco) Co-operatives: Strategic Advantages of Environmental Management and Sustainable Development," presented at the First National Workshop for Co-operatives in the Forestry and Natural Resource Management Sector, in Heredia, Costa Rica, sponsored by the International Co-operative Alliance, the Food and Agriculture Organization "Forests, Trees, and People Project," and the Consejo Nacional de Cooperativas

July 2000: Michael was a resource person for a four-week, CIDA-sponsored training seminar on sustainable regional development in Heredia, Costa Rica. As part of his participation, he lectured on the social and organizational dimensions of sustainable development, including the role of co-operatives and similar associative organizations.

2 August 2000: "Rural Co-operatives and Sustainable Development," presented at the X World Congress of Rural Sociology, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

21 November 2000: "Towards a Deeper Green: Co-operatives and the Challenge of Sustainable Rural Development in Costa Rica," one in a series of seminars presented monthly by the centre

Lou Hammond Ketilson

Teaching

COMM 345.3: Business and Public Policy

Lou served as the external examiner for the following two MA students, both of whom have successfully defended their theses:

Dianne Moebis, MA (Agricultural Extension)

Sama Kiriwandeniya, MA (Sociology) "Promoting Gender Emancipation through Credit Co-operatives: A Study of the SANASA Movement in Sri Lanka"

She is also a committee member for the following:

Barbara Gustafson, MBA (Commerce) "Saskatchewan Credit Union Leadership for the Future"

Roger Herman, MA (Interdisciplinary) "The Unique Challenges of Co-operative Management"

Gordon Sayers, MBA (Commerce) "Metis Co-operatives in Saskatchewan"

Research

Research is nearing completion on the study 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 the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Lou is co-principal investigator, along with Ian MacPherson.

Presentations

Lou has made a number of presentations based on her research into aboriginal co-operatives. Titled "Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: Current Situation and Potential for Growth," she presented it to the following groups:

14 September, in Edmonton, to senior administrators, provincial, federal, and territorial, responsible for co-operatives

24 October, to FCL's Board of Directors, to whom she also made a presentation on federative structures

2 November, in Saskatoon, to participants in the centre's seminar series

4 November, in Regina, to the Worker Co-operative Federation Conference

In connection with her work on aboriginal co-operatives, she attended the National Chiefs' Think Tank on First Nation Economic Development, 30-31 October, in Banff

Administration

Lou is 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.

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

Cristine de Clercy

Centre personnel were extremely pleased to welcome Cristine into the fold on the first of July, and she is reportedly very happy with her appointment as a Centre Research Fellow. Since her appointment, Cris has worked on finishing several projects and focussing on new co-op related research initiatives.

Teaching

POLITICAL STUDIES 110.6: Introduction to Political Studies

In anticipation of curricular program changes underway, Cristine is working to facilitate the creation of a one-term course titled "Women, Development and Co-operatives."

She is a committee member for one MA student, Jason Aebig, whose topic is political party emergence and reform. And in September, she served as the external examiner for Barbara Gustafson's MBA thesis, "Saskatchewan Credit Union Leadership for the Future," for the College of Commerce

Research

Extending her doctoral work on how political leaders exercise leadership, Cristine is beginning a study of anti-leadership. Working initially at the theoretical level, this project focuses on learning why community leaders fail to adopt measures necessary for collective action and social betterment.

As well, she has been invited to participate in a large study of health systems in Saskatchewan, an initiative of scholars at the Saskatchewan Institute for Public Policy. Cristine plans to explore public opinion about the health food safety systems and the regulation of genetically modified foods.

Presentations and Extension

August 2000: (with Peter Ferguson) "Why the Polls Were Wrong: Opinion Poll Interpretation, Reporting and Methodology in the 1999 Saskatchewan Election," presented to the Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Québec City

August 2000: Chair, Comparative Politics Panel on "Policy Change in Welfare States," Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Québec City

August 2000: Discussant, Political Behaviour/ Sociology Panel on "Political Leaders, Information and Signalling," Canadian Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Québec City

31 August – 3 September 2000: "A Structural Analysis of Presidential Appeals from Ford to Clinton," a poster session presented to the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

21 September 2000: (with Peter Ferguson) "Why the Polls Were Wrong in the 1999 Saskatchewan Election," Political Studies 990 Graduate Seminar talk, University of Saskatchewan

16 October 2000: "Pollsters and Hucksters, or Why the Supreme Court is Wrong in the Thompson Newspapers Decision," a presentation to the Department of Political Science's honours class in Canadian Government, University of Regina

24 October 2000: "Power, Representation, and Local Autonomy in Federated Systems," a professional development talk given to the board of directors of Federated Co-operatives Limited, in Saskatoon

Media Commentary

From 1 July to 1 November 2000, Cristine participated in thirty-six separate interviews with local and national media organizations, requiring a total of twenty-four hours of time. An important part of community outreach and extension service, most of these interviews concern municipal and provincial issues, policy problems, and elections.

Administration

Responsible for scheduling speakers for the Political Studies 990 Graduate Seminar, Cristine has arranged for speakers on topics related to agriculture and bio-technology in the Fall 2000 term. Speakers such as Dr. Peter Phillips from the U of S and Dr. Neils Gerard Roling of Wageningen University in the Netherlands have given substantive talks that have been of interest to Political Studies students as well as graduate students affiliated with the centre. She is also hoping that inviting speakers from the University of Regina will help forge stronger links between the two provincial universities.

Cristine is also in charge of the Political Studies Visiting Lecturers' Committee.

Byron Henderson

Byron left the centre at the end of June after obtaining long-term funding to pursue research projects in the area of information technology and its application in various social and economic settings. His first major undertaking has kept him not only away from the centre but out of the country for much of the past four months, though he has every intention of continuing his association with colleagues here as a CSC Fellow.

Nora Russell

Nora has completed a number of major projects since the last director's report in June. At the top of her list, of course, is the completion of what has come to be called The Millennium Book, *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000: Memory, Mutual-Aid, and the Millennium*. Since the last report, she dealt with author and proofreader changes and corrections, reformatted text, designed the cover, and dealt with prepress. The book was delivered in late August. Nora also completed work on the series of three booklets on machinery co-operatives written by Murray and Andrea Harris as part of an ADF-funded research project. The booklets have proven extremely popular and require reprinting after only being available for a month. In addition, Nora also wrote, designed, and dealt with prepress for the annual report, which, after some problems with the printer, was delivered in October.

Other editorial projects have included the editing and layout of 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. It has been proofread and is awaiting attention for corrections prior to printing. Nora's time has also been seconded by Lou and Ian MacPherson's "Report on Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada," a huge document with many authors that badly needed editing for consistency of usage, etc. At this stage she is just aiming for clean text, but at some point there will be a need for an overall design and layout, for which she has already produced a template.

At Brett's request, Nora has recently prepared a package of material for students at the U of S interested in studying co-operative topics. The package includes a list of classes at the undergraduate level with co-op content; information about graduate studies relating to co-ops and co-operation; a list of awards available to students undertaking studies with co-op content; a comprehensive library guide to information sources on co-operatives; and details about our monthly seminar series highlighting research on co-op topics.

Smaller projects have included preparing materials for the CCA's October Region Council meeting, at which Brett gave a presentation; preparing ads for the seminar series; editing and formatting the centre's employment equity plan, preparing ads for a variety of things for *On Campus News*; and updating the centre's display board for the upcoming CARD-funded Saskatchewan region forum titled "Agricultural Adaptation: A Co-operative Approach."

In between other projects, Nora has been attempting to do promotional work for The Millennium Book. She prepared a promotional sheet that was inserted in the more than four hundred annual reports sent out last month; an ad for *Prairie Dog Magazine*, the “Co-ops Week Supplement” to the *StarPhoenix*; and the ACE newsletter, and another ad for *The Atlantic Co-operator*, which has a circulation of more than 21,000 in French and English. The book was reviewed in Credit Union Central of BC’s *Enterprise Magazine*, their financial trade publication, in *The Atlantic Co-operator*, and has been promised a review by Peter Davies in the *Journal of Co-operative Studies*. Nora sent Ian promotional sheets and books to sell at the McGill Co-op Colloquium in September, and also promo material to Jean-Pierre Girard for the federal interministries co-op committee meeting in Ottawa in October. One hundred and twenty promo sheets will be inserted into the participant kits for the CARD Forum in Saskatoon 27–28 November, and Mary Ellen Mallet of CCA in Ottawa, planning for next year’s CCA Congress, has committed to purchasing 100–125 copies outright, plus wants promotional material and copies to sell at a proposed “co-op store” at the event.

The popularity of centre publications has required the usual number of reprints over the past few months. Nora has arranged for reprinting of the two-volume co-pub with the Co-ops Secretariat titled *Co-op Development and the State*; two occasional papers: *Encouraging Democracy in Consumer and Producer Co-operatives* and *Co-operatives and Their Employees: Towards a Harmonious Relationship*; three booklets: *Networking for Success, A Discussion Paper on Canadian Wheat Board Governance*, and *New Generation Co-operatives: Rebuilding Rural Economies*; the ever-popular centre memo pads; and coming up, as mentioned above, will be a reprint of the series of three booklets on machinery co-operatives.

Nora has attended two professional development workshops over the past few months, one on the competitive bidding process and another on electronic publishing and effective book-costing techniques put on by the Saskatchewan Publishers’ Group.

Nora has the usual pile of projects awaiting her attention, and is particularly anxious to get to four occasional papers that have been waiting in the wings for some time. She is responsible for the director’s reports on an ongoing basis, and also needs to do the fall newsletter, which may well become the fall/winter newsletter.

Carol Shepstone

Library

During the past four and a half months, the big project for the Resource Centre has been the automation of circulation. With fewer students on campus and a general drop in reference requests, the summer months were the perfect time to start this labour-intensive project. The new barcode and scanner system that tracks the circulation of library resources will reduce staff time spent on processing outgoing and incoming items, maintain better statistics to monitor usage and inform collection development, and make items easier to track, thus reducing the number of lost items and keeping more items available to potential users. The project has also provided an opportunity for some record clean-up, which will contribute to improved access to our resources.

With the resumption of classes, the increase in the volume of reference and research requests, the circulation automation project only partially completed, and the increasing demands on the time of Karen and Wendy in the office, much of the day-to-day work of the Resource Centre has fallen behind over the past couple of months. Carol is pleased to have the assistance of Christina Petrisor, a fourth-year political studies student with the U of S, to help with these tasks. Christina will be with us part time for two months and will assist with processing returns, filing, circulation automation, and a number of small projects that will add to the value of the Resource Centre. Her previous library experience and her commitment to her work are already proving to be great assets.

The summer months were certainly quiet for the library in terms of reference and research requests and overall circulation figures. The number of information requests in September equalled the entire number received during the summer months, bringing the total number of information requests for the period of July to 10 November to 107. As usual, these spanned the spectrum of topics, location of researchers, and level of interest. Requests included inquiries from Uruguay and Taiwan, local requests from the public seeking NGC start-up information, and research and interlibrary loan requests from summer researchers with the newly formed BC Institute of Co-operative Studies. From July to 10 November, the library has loaned more than 250 items to borrowers, registered approximately thirty-four new patrons, and received sixty-eight new titles.

The programming bug that has plagued the web version of the library catalogue has been temporarily remedied by the software vendor agreeing to host the centre's catalogue on their own server. This will allow complete access to *correct* catalogue records, while the vendor continues to work toward resolving the software bug for the next release of the MAC-version software upgrade.

A number of new features have been added to the Resource Centre's services to promote awareness and access to information. The new acquisitions e-mail alert continues to be a successful and popular tool for co-operative researchers both on and off campus. The list of recipients continues to grow, as does the interest in borrowing resources. A table-of-contents alert service has also received a positive response from centre staff and faculty. It is proving particularly useful for those who may not be physically present in the centre to enjoy easy access to the print journals.

In addition to the above activities, Carol has been busy providing research assistance to centre faculty in preparation for course instruction, and for all staff as they pursue their research and publish the results. She has also assisted with the promotion of centre publications and contributed to the Co-op Week supplement, while continuing to work on her own ongoing research projects. Other promotion and out-reach activities have included ongoing contact with the university libraries community, professional advice and information sharing with the new Community-University Institute for Social Research, and communication with special library and information units within the co-operative sector.

Web Site

Carol has made some significant revisions to the web site in order to provide easier navigation through increased content. She added a "special topics" section, which highlights various research projects and publications, and provides easy access to co-operative issues of current interest. The special topics currently featured include a collection of pages providing information on new generation co-operatives, and a section highlighting the new series of three booklets on farm machinery co-operatives. Other changes focus attention on additions to the Resource Centre, including a selection of electronic resources providing links to publicly available full-text documents, and key journals relevant to co-operative research. Carol has also placed an emphasis

on encouraging web visitors to seek information through e-mail reference, or via the frequently asked question (FAQ) pages that will be developed from these questions.

Professional Development

Carol attended a number of co-operative and library related professional development workshops and conferences during the last few months. These have included the Canadian CED Network's Prairie Policy Input Forum; The Future of Scholarly Communication, organized by the University of Saskatchewan; the Saskatchewan Publishers' Group workshop on electronic publishing; and various professional development sessions offered through the University of Saskatchewan Libraries' continuing education 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.

Roger Herman

Roger spent most of August and September riveted to his computer screen toiling over Excel files, updating the sectoral analysis of Saskatchewan's co-op sector completed by the centre in 1998. The results have been passed on to the Department of Economic and Co-operative Development.

Effective 1 October, he assumed the role of co-ordinator of the CARD-funded New Generation Co-operatives Pilot Project (see Highlights section, above, for more details). Into his second year as an interdisciplinary graduate student at the centre, Roger's involvement in the NGC project will help him to gather information for his thesis.

With Rocky, Roger continues to co-ordinate the centre's seminar series as well as the in-house discussion group. He took on the task of gathering information on scholarships available to students studying co-operatives, which has been included in a newly developed package for students interested in the study of co-operative topics. And he has recently been appointed to the CARDS-sponsored SCCD Value Chain Project Steering Committee.

Rochelle Smith

Having passed all the preliminary hurdles, Rocky's formal thesis proposal was accepted by her committee in August and she is now in the process of writing it. She hopes to have it completed before she returns to Economic and Co-operative Development on 1 April 2001. The working title of the thesis is "Existence and Persistence: The Evolution of Co-operatives from a Systems Perspective." Members of her committee include Murray, Brett, and Michael from the centre, and Dan Ish and Marj Benson from College of Law.

As a result of her research activities, Rocky was able to contribute case studies to the paper written by Murray, Daniel Côté, and Julie Gibbings, one of our summer researchers, for the CARD/CCA/CCC joint project (see Highlights section, above, for more details). Part of the preliminary research component, it is titled "Co-operative Adaptation: The Response of Canadian Agricultural Co-operatives to Internal and External Pressures."

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 the directors of the Community Health Clinic, serving on the Member Services Committee.

Jo Anne Ellis

Anticipating Marianne's return from maternity leave, Jo Anne left the Centre in September for a position with the Office of Alumni and Development. During her year with us, Jo Anne ran the office with cheerful efficiency and we miss her a great deal. Until we find a replacement for Marianne, she has generously agreed to come in on an overtime basis and provide help with financial matters and other items requiring her expertise.

Before she left, she finished the enormous task of rekeying the 356-page *Making Membership Meaningful*, which is out of print but still in demand. Once Nora has inserted the tables and done some basic formatting, the document will be burned onto CDs and made available to the public.

Karen Neufeldt

Karen continues to work for the Centre on a half-time basis, providing support in general office duties as required. Since Jo Anne left, she has been

running the office in the mornings on her own, handling with quiet competence the inevitable flurry of activity and minor emergencies attendant upon the start of term. In addition to her regular duties over the past few months, which include reception, paperwork, filing, xeroxing, invoicing and mailing publication orders, as well as invoicing telephone, fax, and xerox bills, Karen has been kept busy sending out the monthly seminar series announcements, updating the database, sending out the annual reports, and preparing packages for the advisory board meeting. She also continues to be an enormous help to Carol in the library, reshelving returned items, keying in skeletal records for backlogged items in preparation for cataloguing, and helping with the automation of the circulation system. Karen also works half-time in the College of Dentistry.

Wendy Farrington

Wendy came to us in September to work half time on a temporary basis until we find someone to replace Marianne. She runs the office in the afternoon performing general office duties, with minor supervision from Karen and Jo Anne helping to familiarize her with operations at the Centre. Since we learned that Marianne will not be returning, Wendy has also been recruited to provide administrative support for the CARD-funded New Generation Co-operatives Pilot Project, working with Murray, Roger, and Heather (see below). As part of her role, she is responsible for the financial reporting to the CCA. Wendy will be with us, at least in this capacity, until the pilot project is completed in March.

Hannes Mesecke

Hannes came to us from the Humboldt University of Berlin, a result of one of Brett's contacts during his sabbatical year in Germany. He spent several months with us as a summer researcher working with Brett on a comparison of Canadian and German agricultural co-operatives. Hannes returned to Germany in October. The results of his research will become one of the centre's occasional papers once Nora has an opportunity to turn her editorial eye to it.

Julie Gibbings

Julie, our other summer researcher, is an interdisciplinary graduate in International Studies from the U of S. She was hired to work with Murray on the preliminary research component of the CARD project, which is examining the various effects of change on Canadian agricultural co-operatives. Some aspect of her work, too, may become an addition to the centre's occasional papers series.

Heather McNeill

Heather joined us in October and is working with Murray and Roger on the CCA/CCC-sponsored New Generation Co-op Pilot Project. Her main role is to develop resource materials on the financing, legal, business, and governance requirements of NGCs. She 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.

Christina Petrisor

Christina, a fourth-year student of political studies, came to the centre in November and will be with us part time for two months. She will assist Carol in the library with a few of the day-to-day operations that have fallen behind as a result of added pressures connected with the beginning of term and workloads in the front office.