

Director's Report
to the
Management Advisory Board



Centre
for the Study
of Co-operatives



Brett Fairbairn
Director



November 2002





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—as well as financial assistance with operations and nonsalary expenditures.

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



Overview and Highlights

Special Note from Centre Faculty and Staff Regarding
An Honour for Our Director



SSHRC Project Update



Other Research Update



The Seminar Series



Publications



Staff News



Scholars Update



Visitors

▲ Special Note from Centre Faculty and Staff ▲
Director Honoured with Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal!

Faculty and staff at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives are extremely proud to note that at a ceremony in Saskatoon on 13 November, Brett was presented with The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. The presentation was made by Lieutenant-Governor Lynda Haverstock. The medal commemorates the 1952 accession of Queen Elizabeth II, and is awarded to people whose personal achievements "have made a significant contribution to Canada, to their community, or to their fellow Canadians." The medal is part of Canada's national honours system and is conferred by the Governor-General in the name of the Queen (for more information see www.gg.ca/honours/golden-jubilee_e.asp). About four hundred of these medals are to be awarded in Saskatchewan.

In introducing the presentation, Saskatchewan's Chief of Protocol, Michael Jackson, noted Brett's contributions at the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and as Chair of Saskatchewan Archives Board.



▲ SSHRC Project Update

Activity surrounding this huge research project—"Co-operative Membership and Globalization: Creating Social Cohesion through Market Relations"—seems to permeate every aspect of the centre's existence. We employed four student researchers (Dinah Amankwah, Rob Dobrohoczki, Colin Leinenweber, and Myfanwy Van Vliet) for the summer to write background papers; besides their usefulness for the project, one of these will be published as an occasional paper and two others will be made publicly available in the library as research reports. Most centre personnel were involved on and off for weeks in the planning and preparations for the 24–26 October conference "Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Busi-

ness Strategies,” which involved presentations, discussion, and planning around the research program and an exploration of methodologies. And out of the conference we are planning a book, preparations for which Brett and Nora have well underway. A current focus is a comprehensive dissemination of the notices for MA and PhD student awards, part of the grant, in the hope of attracting some new graduate students to the centre. Also underway are preparations for ethics review of research tools and protocols.

▲ Other Research Update

In addition to the four students working on the SSHRC project during the summer, we had three others researching a variety of topics. Karla Radloff finished her paper on CCF government policy and Aboriginal co-operative development in the North; Jill McKenzie completed a collaborative project with the university and Saskatchewan Archives to identify archival co-op resources; and Sara Shymko helped update and revise the community-based land trust model feasibility report first published by the centre in 1993. All of these will find their way into the centre’s publications program in one way or another, whether as occasional papers or research reports. Karla has stayed on for the year as an MA student, and Jill as a part-time researcher, working with Brett on his history of FCL, which will supplement his 1989 book *Building a Dream: The Co-operative Retailing System in Western Canada, 1928–1988*.

▲ The Seminar Series

The Centre Seminar Series resumed in September with a presentation by Centre Scholar Eric Howe titled “An Examination of the Financial Return to Education for Aboriginal People in Canada.” This was followed in October by Centre Scholar Jim Randall’s “Research Partnerships between Universities and Communities: A Question of Trust?” We were fortunate to have visiting scholar Zhu Shufang, a professor from the Chongqing Technology and Business University in China, with us in October as well, and she honoured us with a seminar on issues and research in the new rural co-operatives in China. Murray gave a presentation in November on “The Future of Co-operatives: Failures, Transformations, and Adaptations,” and Lou is scheduled for the December time slot. The overheads from the first four of these presentations are available on our website at <http://coop-studies.usask.ca/Newsevents/centrenews.html>.

▲ Publications

The flurry of research activity over the past year, in addition to others Nora hasn't had time to turn her attention to, has created 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
- ▲ the role of social cohesion in the adoption of innovation and selection of organizational form by farmers interested in value-added activities
- ▲ the role of co-operatives in promoting social cohesion
- ▲ a guide to co-operative material in provincial archives
- ▲ CCF government policy and Aboriginal co-operative development in the North

We also have three booklets in the works: the long-awaited *Up a Creek with a Paddle: Excellence in the Board Room* by Ann Hoyt; *Is It the End of Utopia? The Israeli Kibbutz at the 21st Century*, a keynote address at the 2002 CASC meetings by Uriel Leviatan from the University of Haifa; and Brett's *The Role of Farmers in the Future Economy*, a presentation he made to the Agricultural Producers of Saskatchewan in June. Some of the above are in a more finished state than others and we expect to have several of them out before the next director's report. Please see Nora's section for more details about activities in the Communications Department.

▲ Staff News

Apart from the arrival and departure of our seven summer research students, things have been unusually stable among faculty and staff. Carol remains on maternity leave until January 2003; Cindy Hanson, her replacement, continues to work for us on a half-time basis looking after the administrative details of the SSHRC project. Other staff members are filling in with various library

duties in Carol's absence; the only service we are not able to offer is research and reference.

One of our summer students, Jill McKenzie, has stayed on part time working with Brett on his history of FCL, and one of our former student researchers, also a co-op intern, Julie Gibbings, will be returning in December to work on a part-time basis on a yet-to-be decided topic. In addition, we will be joined in January by a new MA student, Angela Wagner, funded by one of the SSHRC project scholarships.

Another of our student researchers, Sara Shymko, embarked on a co-op internship this fall as a business development officer in Kampala, Uganda. She will be working for the CCA and their partner organization, the Uganda Co-operative Alliance, helping farmers with marketing strategies and information.

▲ Scholars Update

Centre Scholars continue to be involved in centre and co-op-related activities. Two scholars—Eric Howe and Jim Randall—gave seminar presentations this fall. Isobel Findlay remains heavily involved in the SSHRC project planning; she is one of the cluster leaders, spent many hours reading background papers produced by our summer researchers and providing critical feedback, participates in regular meetings related to the project, and contributed as a presenter and participant at the recent conference. Louise Clarke also attended the conference, leading one of the breakout workshops, and remains involved with Quint's Core Neighbourhood Development Strategy. Ian MacPherson was a conference participant as well. Nora and Roger have an ongoing relationship with the Community-University Institute for Social Research, co-directed by Centre Scholar Jim Randall. Roger is on the planning committee for the upcoming CUexpo conference, "Community-University Research: Partnerships, Policy, and Progress," while Nora has been involved with editorial and production work and also participated in the hiring process for an editorial assistant. Dan Ish, a former director at the centre and the author of several centre publications, made a recent research trip to Indonesia for co-op consultations; he and Eric Howe also made presentations to two of our recent co-op study tour groups.

We are pleased to announce that a new scholar has joined us—Rob Norris from U of S International. And a final note—Leslie Biggs and Jill Hobbs are currently away on sabbatical.

▲ Visitors

The centre has hosted a diverse mix of visitors since the last director's report. Herr Ulrich Werner of the Southwest German Co-operative Federation, who visited us in January and August 01 and March 02, returned in September this year with a large delegation of journalists and co-op leaders. The plan is to produce a series of newspaper articles and a short video about the network of co-ops in Prince Albert and their role in the community.

We also hosted officials from a number of regional governments within Ukraine as well as from the country's Ministry of Agriculture.

We have had three delegations from China. On a CIDA/CCA sponsored Public Policy Options Program (PPOP) study tour hosted by former centre board member Bill Turner, senior officials from the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Co-operatives (ACFSMC), plus some elected government people, spent a week in Saskatchewan in September/October touring co-op facilities in the province and participating in discussions and presentations by centre faculty and sector officials. Professor Zhu Shufang, a visiting scholar from the Chongqing Technology and Business University in China, who has been here twice before and authored a centre occasional paper, spent 14–18 October in Saskatoon discussing her research in rural development and co-operatives with centre faculty and staff. She also presented a seminar to the university community during her visit. Finally, a second large group on another PPOP tour came through in early November, this time midlevel managers and officials from the ACFSMC in Beijing and region, as well as two managers of local, new “specialized co-operatives,” one of which deals with hogs, the other with persimmons. Like the first group, they made a number of study tours to co-ops around the province, and also took part in presentations from centre faculty, CCA, FCL, Sask Wheat Pool, CUC, and Sask Pork.

Teaching, Research, Publications, Presentations, and Administration

Brett Fairbairn

▲ Teaching

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

History 288.3: Co-operatives in the World

Brett has one new graduate student in German history and three currently working on theses (in German history, Prairie history, and co-ops), as well as two new graduate students organizing programs to start next year.

▲ Publications

“Self-Help and Philanthropy: The Emergence of Co-operatives in Britain, Germany, the USA, and Canada from the mid-19th to mid-20th Century,” in a volume on Philanthropy and Patronage in 19th-century Germany, the USA, Britain, and Canada, ed. Thomas Adam, University of Indiana Press (contract signed).

“Membership, Organization, and Wilhelmine Modernism: Construction of Economic Democracy through Co-operation,” in *Wilhelminism and its Legacies: Crisis, Continuity, and the Meanings of Reform in Germany, 1890–1930*, eds. Geoff Eley and James Retallack, Berghahn Books (in press).

“A Century of Prairie and Saskatchewan Farm Co-operatives: Philosophy, Organization, and History,” in proceedings from the Territorial Grain Growers’ Association Centenary Symposium, University of Regina, 25 November 01 (forthcoming).

“‘Betweenness’ as Characteristic of the Teacher-Scholar: Interdisciplinarity, Internationalization, and the Research-Teaching-Extension Intersection,” in *What Is a Teacher-Scholar? Symposium Proceedings, November 9 & 10, 2001*, Gwenna Moss Teaching and Learning Centre, 2002.

“Cooperatives and Economic Transformations in the United States and Canada,” for volume edited by Chris Merrett, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (forthcoming).

▲ Presentations and Extension Education

“Features of Successful Co-operatives,” to CIDA Public Policy Options Program Chinese Study Tour #2, Saskatoon, 4 November 02.

“The Co-operative Retailing System,” to CIDA Public Policy Options Program Chinese Study Tour #2, Saskatoon, 4 November.

“The Role of Research as an Engine for Co-operative Innovation and Growth: Perspectives from a Co-operative Researcher,” A Cooperative Futures Roundtable—Creating Knowledge for Cooperative Growth and Innovation: Building Research Capacity and Coordination, Cooperative Development Forum, Minneapolis, 18 October.

“Co-operative Research and Education in Canada,” to CIDA Public Policy Options Program Chinese Study Tour #1, Saskatoon, 30 September 02.

“Membership and Social Cohesion: Policy Implications of the Role of Co-operatives in Rural Canada,” to Social Cohesion in Rural Canada and the Role of Co-operatives: An Interdepartmental Workshop in the Social Cohesion Network Series, Ottawa, 23 September 02.

“Credit Unions and Community Economic Development: Canada-Germany Comparisons,” to Delegation from the GENO-Verband (South-West Germany), Saskatoon, 16 September 02.

“Farmers and their Co-ops in the Future Economy: A Canadian Perspective,” seminar on Defining Model Rules and Management Measures for the Rural Specialized Co-operatives in China, Fangshan, Beijing, China, 12 July 02.

▲ Other

In addition to his responsibilities as director of the centre, Brett is a director and chair of the Saskatchewan Archives Board; editor of the CASCnet list-serve; a member of the Department of History’s Self-Study Committee for Systematic Program Review; a member of the University Renewals and Tenure Appeal Panel; and principal investigator for the SSHRC grant.

Murray Fulton

▲ Teaching

Economics 231.3: Economics of Co-operatives

Murray is doing a major revision of his notes for this class; the notes and course material are available at

<http://coop-studies.usask.ca/murray/Econ231/Econ231.html>.

▲ Research

Murray submitted an application to 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.

He wrote a discussion paper for the Saskatchewan Pulse Growers that outlined a number of options for their Variety Release Program. The paper focusses on the strategies that might be undertaken by a producer-owned organization that has to manage a wide variety of intellectual property.

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

With Dinos Giannakas: “Innovation Activity in a Mixed Oligopoly: The Role of Cooperatives,” paper submitted to the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

With Dinos Giannakas: “Inserting GM Products into the Food Chain: The Market and Welfare Effects of Different Labeling and Regulatory Regimes,” paper submitted to the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*.

▲ Presentations

“The Future of Co-operatives: Failures, Transformations and Adaptations,” to the University at the Library Seminar Series, 29 October 02; Murray will also be giving this presentation as part of the Centre's Seminar Series, 21 November 02.

“Cognitive Processes, Networks and Identity,” to Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Business Strategies conference, Saskatoon, 24–25 October 02. Murray also chaired an IT workshop at the conference.

“Agriculture and Canada’s Standard of Living,” to TD Forum on Canada's Standard of Living, Ottawa on 8 October 02.

Michael Gertler

▲ Teaching

Sociology 204.3: Rural Sociology
Sociology 302.3: Sociology of Agriculture

▲ 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.” His intention is to expand the project to include farmers’ markets in other parts of the province.

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

As a co-investigator, Michael helped prepare the application for a CURA Completion Grant (SSHRC), “Community-University Institute for Social Research: Assessing Partnerships, Policy, and Progress.” If the proposal is funded, Michael will join the Community Economic Development module of this project.

▲ Presentations

Guest for *Country Line* (TV), on “The Future of the Country Fair,” and again on the question, “Can Small Towns Handle Big Business?”

Interviewed also for CBC TV *Market Place* (airing 19 November 02) on issues arising from the discontinuation of the Gem canning jar lids.

Invited resource person for “Beyond Factory Farming: National Conference on Intensive Livestock Operations,” workshop on Effects on Communities and Culture, Saskatoon, 9 November 02.

“Co-operative Membership: Towards a Holistic Perspective,” to Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Business Strategies conference, Saskatoon, 25 October 02.

“Women in Co-operatives and in Agriculture: Observations Based on Canadian and International Experience,” to All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives Policy Tour, Saskatoon, 4 October 02.

“Betting the Farm: Social Impacts of Changes in Land Legislation and Tenure in Saskatchewan,” to the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, 14–18 August 02.

With JoAnn Jaffe: “Reframing the Eco-Social Nexus: Sociological Contributions to Sustainable Rural Development,” to the Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Chicago, 14–18 August 02.

▲ 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.

He also reviewed a number of manuscripts for the journals *Rural Sociology* and *Agriculture and Human Values*, and for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives–Manitoba.

Cristine de Clercy

▲ Teaching

Political Studies 898.3: Methods of Co-operative Study

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.

▲ Research

Over the last few months, Cris has continued working on several existing projects, expanding a study of the regulatory regimes around the dissemination of opinion poll information, which has resulted in a second paper that will be submitted for publication shortly. In connection with her Canadian Institute for Health Research Development grant, intended to assist in authoring a full grant proposal, Cris has undertaken related research at the University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia this fall. She is also busy revising for publication a co-authored study of the GM debate in western Canada completed last year.

In new research, she attended the social cohesion project meetings held in conjunction with the Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Business Strategies conference in Saskatoon 24–26 October. The meetings and the formal conference helped to lay the groundwork for a co-authored study of urban co-ops and credit unions. Cris also participated as co-investigator in two initial proposals sent to SSHRC's Initiative on the New Economy Collaborative Research Program. One, initiated by Ian MacPherson at BCICS, focusses on co-operatives and the new economy, while the second is based at the U of S and concerns the impact of technological change in the agricultural and life science sectors.

She is working on a chapter titled "Women and the Public Sphere," to be published in a centenary collection of essays about Saskatchewan edited by Professor Jene Porter in Political Studies.

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.

▲ Publications

With Greg Marchildon, Allan McHughen, and Don Gilchrist: *The GM Industry in Western Canada*. Regina: Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, forthcoming 2003.

Review of *Political Leadership*, by Howard Elcock, *Canadian Public Administration*, forthcoming

▲ Presentations

Panelist, "Roundtable on Democratic Reform in Canadian Governments," Graduate 990 Seminar, University of Saskatchewan, 14 November 02.

"Where Do We Go From Here? Challenges and Opportunities in Project Research Questions and Methodological Objectives," summary commentary for the Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Business Strategies conference, Saskatoon, 25 October 02.

"Considerations in Crafting a Modern Government Relations Strategy," to Canadian Co-operative Association, Saskatchewan Region, Saskatoon, 1 August 02.

▲ 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

Although not in the classroom this term, Lou is responsible for the MBA program in the College of Commerce, and is currently shepherding the passage of the new program through all and sundry levels of approval.

▲ Research

Lou participated in a study tour of Mondragon in Spain in October. She also attended the Third World Congress on Rural Women in Madrid, 22–24 October as part of a joint US–Canada delegation of women involved in co-operative development.

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.

▲ Publications

“Aboriginal Co-operatives in Canada: A Sustainable Development Strategy Whose Time Has Come,” *Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development* 3 (1), 02.

▲ Presentations

“Rethinking the Role of Co-operative Values and Principles,” to Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Business Strategies conference in Saskatoon, 24–26 October 02.

“Perspectives on the Third World Congress on Rural Women and the Implications for Co-operatives,” to Chinese delegation hosted by Bill Turner, Saskatoon, 8 November 02.

And Lou will be co-facilitating with Daniel Côté at the Institute of Co-operative Studies meetings in Kelowna, 28–30 November 02.

▲ 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 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. She has also recently become a member of the Canadian Adaptation for Rural Development steering committee for the Phase Two,

Activity Two, Leader Development Program meetings in Ottawa. The committee will be involved in piloting three sessions of the Leader Development Program in Canada in March.

Nora Russell

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

- ▲ writing, design, layout, and print supervision of the annual report
- ▲ writing, design, and layout of the centre's employment equity committee annual report
- ▲ writing nine entries on co-operatives for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*
- ▲ learning Dreamweaver, a web authoring tool, and updating the centre's website, which had lain unattended for several months since Carol left in May; Nora is responsible for this now until Carol's return
- ▲ designing, preparing, and supervising prepress on a number of items for the SSHRC conference in October, including the brochure sent out to prospective participants, posters acknowledging sponsors, researchers, and co-op representatives, contributors' bios, name tags, agendas, the evaluation letter for inclusion in the registration kit, and formatting overheads and handouts for various participants

Smaller projects have included:

- ▲ preparing ads for centre seminar series;
- ▲ updating student packages summarizing courses, awards, library, publications, and seminar information for distribution to classes
- ▲ reviewing applications for CUISR's editorial position and leading the interview process
- ▲ editing board minutes for Patty
- ▲ formatting Centre Scholar Eric Howe's seminar presentation for posting on the website
- ▲ designing and preparing PowerPoint presentations for a number of individuals for presentation at seminars and conferences

- ▲ preparing materials for our books to be included in the U of S Extension Press's new catalogue

Reprints:

- ▲ *Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture: A Study in Multiparty Negotiations* (two reprints since last director's report)
- ▲ *Credit Unions and Community Economic Development*
- ▲ *New Generation Co-operative Development in Canada*
- ▲ *New Generation Co-operatives: Responding to Changes in Agriculture*
- ▲ *The CUMA Farm Machinery Co-operatives*
- ▲ *Farm Machinery Co-operatives in Saskatchewan and Québec*

Nora is particularly pleased about a new initiative undertaken with University Extension Press, which produced its first proper catalogue for marketing purposes a few months ago. The new edition is going to include a page devoted to books published by the centre. We are featuring *Canadian Co-operatives in the Year 2000*, the *Report on Aboriginal Co-ops*, Marj Benson's law casebook, *Conflict, Co-operation, and Culture*, and the *NGC Resource Materials* binder. It is a pilot project for both units, and it will be interesting to see whether we sell more publications through this more conventional channel. With a mailing list of seven thousand (as compared to the centre's eleven hundred) we will certainly be getting more exposure.

Equally exciting is the prospect of the book that will come out of the presentations made at the recent SSHRC conference. Nora sent out a general letter thanking contributors to the conference and introducing the idea of the book, followed by more personalized letters including a draft table of contents and preliminary suggestions about individual contributions. She has requested confirmation of participation by the end of November and set a deadline for submissions of 31 December. Both Nora and Brett feel it is critical to get the book out as soon as possible, while the topic is timely, and also to act as a validating incentive to researchers and sector participants.

Nora participated in the centre's recent conference on co-op membership and globalization, and also took part in a grammar/writing refresher workshop facilitated by Centre Scholar Isobel Findlay.

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

Carol is on maternity leave and plans to return to the centre in January 2003. She remains in touch with the library and the SSHRC project, and attended the October project conference.

Roger Herman

Work on Roger's master's thesis is ongoing. 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. He also continues to field inquiries related to NGC development, and recently had discussions with Saskatchewan producers interested in the model, with a business development officer in the Maritimes involved in the formation of an NGC, with Government of Alberta business development staff planning an NGC workshop in Edmonton this winter, with a professor of agricultural economics at the University of Kansas who is exploring the use of NGCs in Canada, and with students from a government relations class in the College of Commerce.

Roger attended the recent centre conference "Co-operative Membership and Globalization: New Directions in Research and Business Strategies," and participated in the cluster research team meetings for the SSHRC project held at the same time.

He is responsible for the co-ordination of the centre's seminar series, which, since the last director's report, has seen four presentations on a variety of subjects from Centre Fellows and Scholars; another is due in December.

Cindy Hanson

Over the past several months, Cindy's main activities at the centre have focussed on the management of the SSHRC project. In the summer she supervised the student researchers, and most recently, her efforts have been concentrated on co-ordinating the national conference and the cluster meetings that took place 24–26 October at Wanuskewin Heritage Park and at the centre.

Cindy works at the centre on a term, part-time basis, which will conclude 31 December. She also works half time as acting director of the Indigenous Peoples Program at the Extension Division, U of S. In her spare time she is team-teaching an educational foundations course as a sessional lecturer.

In September, she spent two weeks in Nepal completing a former contract as a gender training advisor on a CIDA project, which arose from her work with Community Choices Consulting Inc., a company of which she is a principal, which assists organizations and institutions in managing and developing community-based programs.

Patty Scheidl

In addition to regular day-to-day responsibilities as the office manager, Patty has been kept extremely busy over the past several months dealing with visitors to the centre and SSHRC project activities.

She spent a great of time during the summer making arrangements for the large German co-operative group that came in September. This involved room bookings, arrangements for meals and refreshments, dealing with audio-visual needs, preparing presentation folders, and collecting various publications for each of the visitors. She also organized an informal meeting during their visit for the discussion of agricultural issues, and made arrangements for Michael Raine, a reporter with *The Western Producer*, to be present.

She devoted days in September and October to helping with the SSHRC conference, assisting Karen in sending out the registration brochures, preparing and assembling materials for the conference packages, responding to inquiries, depositing cheques for registration fees, as well as other miscellaneous tasks that arose.

She made arrangements for the Chinese group that arrived in October, booking rooms, assembling presentation folders and publications, and providing information for host Bill Turner regarding suitable restaurants and places of interest for these visitors during the week. Immediately after that group left, she was involved in preparations for the visit of Professor Zhu Shufang, who was here from the 14th to the 16th. She assisted Karen in sending out Professor Zhu's seminar announcement, made arrangements for her to meet with various centre personnel, made lunch reservations and room bookings for the meetings, and made arrangements with Payment Services for the reimbursement of Professor Zhu's travel expenses.

Patty maintains the centre's monthly financial statements as well as the various research accounts. In this capacity, she spent much of September and October working on the centre's year-end financial statements and getting them ready for the annual report.

She is responsible for making travel arrangements for faculty and staff attending conferences and workshops. She also makes the arrangements for all the meetings at the centre, which includes co-ordinating the schedules of everyone involved, booking rooms, preparing whatever paperwork is necessary, and arranging for refreshments. She also assists Karen in the preparation and dissemination of the monthly seminar series announcements, newsletters, and other mailouts.

Carol's ongoing absence has meant increased responsibilities for a number of people at the centre, but Patty and Karen in particular have taken on additional daily administrative duties while she is on leave.

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. 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.

This past several months Karen has also been busy assisting Patty make arrangements for our many visitors and helping Cindy and Nora with many aspects of the SSHRC conference, including the mail-out of the registration brochure and the assembly of conference supplies and registration kits.

Karen's responsibilities in the library have increased considerably in Carol's absence. In addition to her usual duties of processing returns, keying in records in preparation for cataloguing, and labelling, Karen, with Patty's assistance, will be handling 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. 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.