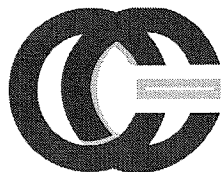


Director's Report to the Management Advisory Board
Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

November, 1996

Murray Fulton
Director



Centre for the Study of Co-operatives
University of Saskatchewan



Centre Overview

Dan Ish returned to the Department of Law in July, where he is currently the Acting Dean of Law.

Brett Fairbairn's promotion to Full Professor, Department of History, came into effect July 1, 1996.

In August, the Centre staff met for a one-day retreat at Queen's House, in Saskatoon, to review the year's research activity, and to set new research and publishing plans and priorities.

There were several visitors to the Centre, consulting with staff, including: Harvey Brooks, the newly appointed Co-operative Chair in Agribusiness and Marketing, at the University of Alberta; members of a grain co-op from Australia; and Heather Atkins, Rural Financial Counselor, from Victoria, Australia.

The physical separation of the Resource Centre from the Native Law Centre Library is being contemplated. This would entail constructing a wall between the two libraries. There are several benefits to the Centre should this renovation take place, including the security of the collection.

The Centre has an active interest in the regional co-operative sector. Brett Fairbairn prepared the Centre's nomination of Harold Chapman for an award of the 1996 Saskatchewan Co-operative Merit Awards Program. Harold Chapman was awarded the Saskatchewan Co-operative Enterprise Award at a ceremony on October 15, in Regina, attended by members of the co-operative and credit union community. Murray Fulton spoke at the ceremony about Harold Chapman's outstanding contribution. The award recognizes innovation, achievement and initiative in co-operative development. Harold Chapman was a longtime director of the Co-op College of Canada, and assumed various important roles with the ^{former} federal Ministry of Co-operation and Co-operative Development, ^{and FCC} through the 1940s to 1980s.

New People at the Centre

Michael Gertler, Department of Sociology, joined the Centre in July. This appointment re-establishes the full complement of four faculty at the Centre. The Centre is pleased to have Michael as part of their research team, and for this opportunity to support his individual contributions to co-operative studies, as well as to engage in collaborative research with him.

There are several new appointments to the Centre's Management Advisory Board. With the departure of Peter MacKinnon, John Brennan, and Glen McGlaughlin, the Board welcomed three new members: John Stewart (also named the Board's new Chair) (College of Agriculture), Lynne Pearson (College of Commerce), and Barry Senft (Saskatchewan Wheat Pool). They join Leslie Biggs (a relatively new appointment, from 1995) (Department of Sociology), Don Russell (Federated Co-operatives Ltd.), Tom Marwick (Government of Saskatchewan), and Gary Storey (College of Agriculture). Hartley Furtan (Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law & the Environment) replaced Gary, while Gary was on sabbatical leave in 1995/96 academic year. The Centre would like to thank leaving members for their work and support.

Research, Teaching and Publication

Paul McLaughlin (Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey, in Newark, New Jersey), a former visiting researcher at the Centre (summer of 1995), recently wrote an article on his research, entitled: "Resource Mobilization and Density Dependence in Cooperative Purchasing Associations in Saskatchewan, Canada," in *Rural Sociology* this spring (Vol. 61, no. 2, 1996, pp. 326-348).

"Leading the Way: Strategies for Creating Sustainable Communities into the Twenty-First Century", *Prairie Forum*: 1996, Oct. 31 to Nov. 2, 1996, Saskatoon. Brenda Stefanson and Murray Fulton, working with a committee, co-ordinated a full-day pre-conference workshop, entitled: "Producer-Owned Agricultural Processing Ventures: New Generation Co-operatives (NGCs)." Other organizing committee members were: Theresa Grob (Co-operatives Directorate, Saskatchewan Economic Development), Pauline Molder (Dept. of Agriculture Economics, University of Saskatchewan), Nial Kuyek (Saskatchewan Wheat Pool), Gavin Conacher (Agri-Food Equity Fund), and Brenda Machin (Saskatchewan Credit Union Central). The workshop offered an opportunity to learn the details of NGCs, an exciting, new (on the Canadian prairies) strategy for creating agricultural processing opportunities through grassroots involvement.

Murray Fulton

New Research Projects

Development of Agriculture Processing Co-operatives: A Research and Education Project. This is a joint federal-provincial (the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), and Partnership Agreement on Rural Development (PARDD)) and Centre funded project. Murray and Brenda have started their work on the project, described further in the write-up on Brenda Stefanson, later in this report.

Grain Transportation and Handling. Murray, along with James Vercammen (U.B.C.) and Richard Gray (Agricultural Economics, U. of S.), completed a major analysis of the grain transportation and handling industry in Western Canada. The results are published in *The Economics of Grain Transportation and Handling*, a 120-page publication. (Copies are available from the Department of Agricultural Economics, at \$23.50 plus tax, and shipping and handling.)

Options for Financing New Generation Co-operative (NGCs) Development: A Model for Financing NGCs in Saskatchewan. Murray and Brenda began their research on the second phase of their Credit Union Central project, to develop a model for financing NGCs in Saskatchewan that could be used by Saskatchewan's Credit Unions. Extensive discussions will take place with the credit union community. The model proposed will examine ways to reduce risk associated with financing NGCs when a credit union connects with the NGCs in its area.

Ongoing Research Projects

Options for Financing New Generation Co-operative (NGCs) Development: The Role of Saint Paul Bank for Cooperatives in Fostering New Generation Co-op (NGC) Development in North Dakota and Minnesota. Murray and Brenda have essentially completed their work on the first phase of their Credit Union Central funded project, to examine the role of Saint Paul Bank for Cooperatives in fostering NGC development in North Dakota and Minnesota. This project has proceeded to phase II, **A Model for Financing NGCs in Saskatchewan**, described above.

An Analysis of the Egg Industry in Canada and the United States. Andrea Harris, Brett Fairbairn, and Murray completed this project at the end of June with a report and presentation. A summary of the report is detailed in Andrea's write-up later in this report.

The Role of External Institutions in Fostering Industry Development. Murray and Andrea continue their work on this Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) sponsored project, to examine the role that external institutions play in fostering the collective action necessary for industry development. Andrea took over this project from Brenda, when Brenda assumed other project work.

Co-operative Enterprise Development for Youth Program (CEDY). The project evaluation team, comprised of Lillas Brown, Business and Management Programmer, Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, and Joanne Kowalski, graduate student in the Agriculture Extension programme, submitted their final evaluation report on CEDY to Murray and Deb Chobotuk, Canadian Co-operative Association, in October. Murray and Deb had jointly submitted the original proposal for the project to Human Resource Development Canada back in February, 1995. The participants successfully met the objective of obtaining the skills and experience necessary to establish a viable co-operative. The evaluation includes a series of recommendations for similar programs for the future.

Publications

Murray co-authored two papers, entitled:

"New Generation Cooperatives and Cooperative Theory." Andrea Harris, Brenda Stefanson, and Murray Fulton. *Journal of Cooperatives* Vol. 11, 1996, pp. 15-28.

"Nonlinear Pricing Schemes for Agricultural Cooperatives," James Vercaemmen, Murray Fulton, and Charles Hyde. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* Vol 78(3) 1996: 572-584.

Murray, along with James Vercaemmen and Richard Gray, released a major study on Western grain transportation and handling, *The Economics of Grain Transportation and Handling* (cited earlier in this report).

Presentations

In August, Murray made a presentation to the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) Advisory Committee, on the need for changes in the CWB's governance structure.

In September, Murray met with Board of Directors of Federated Co-operatives Ltd. (FCL), to outline the activities of the Centre in the past year.

In late September, Murray and Don Buckingham (Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law and the Environment) made a presentation at the Caring for Home Place conference in Regina. The paper, entitled: "Caring for Markets: Compliance and the Law," looked at

the reasons why farmers would comply with the common property regime inherent in the CWB.

Murray was invited to make a presentation at the plenary session of 1996 Co-operatives Key Issues Conference, "Reinventing Co-operatives – The Next Generation," on October 25, in Sydney, Australia. His presentation was entitled: "Co-operative Identity and Commercial Success." He also chaired a one-day workshop that gathered together leaders of Australia's agricultural co-ops.

At the end of October, Murray presented a paper, entitled: "Co-operatives Revisited: The New Generation," at the Prairie Forum: 1996 conference. The paper describes the structure, and the advantages and disadvantages of the New Generation Co-operative structure.

Teaching

Murray is teaching one course this term: *Economics 231.3, Co-operatives*; and he is jointly teaching a second course: *Ag Econ 262.3, Introduction to Statistical Methods*.

He is currently supervising five graduate students:

Ken Belcher, a Ph.D. student, is working with the Prairie Ecosystems Project (PECOS). Ken is developing a way of examining the interaction between the economic factors facing farmers and people in rural areas and the ecological system farmers and rural people live in.

Dinos Giannakas, a Ph.D. student, is examining the agricultural policy implementation in the European Union (EU).

Julie Kennett, an M.Sc. student, is examining the role of contracting and other forms of vertical linkages in the wheat and barley industry.

Don Lysyshyn, an M.Sc. student, is examining the barriers to development in the specialty livestock sector.

Xiao Yunlai, an M.Sc. student, is examining the development of the fertilizer industry in China.

Other Activities

In early November, Murray appeared as an expert witness on behalf of the Canadian Wheat Board in the Charter case before the federal court in Calgary.

In late November, Murray met with CUC's Board of Directors to outline the activity of the Centre in the past year.

Brett Fairbairn

Ongoing Research Projects

To advance his project on the history of the German co-operative movement, Brett has applied for a half-year sabbatical in late 1997, and for travel assistance from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

As a follow-up to his earlier paper (cited below), concerning co-operatives as a model for restructuring of crown corporations, Brett met with senior officials of the Crown Investments Corporation.

An Analysis of the Egg Industry in Canada and the United States. Andrea Harris, Murray, and Brett completed this project at the end of June with a report and presentation. A summary of the report is detailed in Andrea's write-up later in this report.

Publications

Brett's monograph is due to be published in late 1996 or early 1997:

Democracy in the Undemocratic State: The German Reichstag Elections of 1898-1903.
Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996.

Brett authored a book chapter:

"Political Mobilization." In *Imperial Germany: A Historiographical Companion*, Roger Chickering, ed.. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 1996. pp. 303-342.

He also authored two articles for the Centre's newsletter:

"International Conference on the Politics and Culture of the Great Plains."
CSC Developments Summer/Fall 1996.

"Québec visitors." *CSC Developments* Summer/Fall 1996.

Presentations

In late June, Brett made a submission, entitled: "Social Enterprise: Crown Corporations as Tools for Collective and Co-operative Action by Saskatchewan People," to the Crown Corporation Review, "Talking About Saskatchewan Crowns (TASC)," of the Provincial Advisory Committee on the Economy. Brett argued that crown corporations in Saskatchewan need to be more in touch with communities, and could learn from co-operative models of ownership and governance.

In September, Brett moderated a session on "Academic Freedom and Intellectual Property," at the conference, "Academic Freedom: The History and Future of a Defining Idea," held in Saskatoon.

Brett attended the annual conference of the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation / Agricultural and Rural Restructuring Group (CRRF / ARRG), "NAFTA and the New Rural Economy," held in Gimli, Manitoba, October 23-26. Brett's presentation on New Generation Co-operatives (NGCs) as a response to globalization was well received (most present had never heard of NGCs), and was reported on in an article in the *Western Producer*. At the conference, Brett paid tribute to Leo Kristjanson (former President of the University of Saskatchewan) for his many contributions to agriculture over the years, including his role in creating the Centre. Leo was present and received a standing ovation from the conference participants.

Teaching

Brett is teaching a graduate course in the 96/97 year:

- *History 884.6 Themes in Modern European History*

He is preparing *Agriculture 222.3, Intellectual and Social History of Agriculture*, for the next term, Winter/Spring, 1997. The course will be co-taught with Gary Storey.

Brett's M.A. student, Dion McGrath, has completed interviewing Saskatchewan people who were members of, or grew up on, co-op farms. Dion is currently completing the first draft of his thesis.

Brett is serving on the Advisory Committee of Cathy Holtslander (Education), who is writing a biography of 1920s co-op pioneer Annie Hollis. Brett is also on several other graduate students' committees in History.

Administration

Brett is serving on the History Department's Graduate Committee, which is preparing a revision of its graduate program, and on the Arts and Science Committee on Programs.

Other Activities

Brett was seconded as a policy advisor to the Saskatchewan Department of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training. He will be devoting two days of the week to this responsibility, including one day in Regina. He has been working on the report of the Minister's Special Representative, Mr. Harold MacKay, concerning Saskatchewan universities, and on reviewing programs for Aboriginal university education. The Centre will be compensated by the government for Brett's work.

In October, Brett attended the German Studies Association annual conference in Seattle.

Michael Gertler

New Research Projects

In October, while attending the CRRF/ARRG rural policy conference in Gimli, "NAFTA and the New Rural Economy," Michael met with colleagues from the Canadian Rural Restructuring Foundation, who are collaborating with him on a joint project proposal, "The New Rural Economy: Options and Choices."

Publications

Michael wrote a book review:

Review of *Realizing Community: Multidisciplinary Perspectives*, by L. M. Findlay and Isobel M. Findlay. Saskatoon: Centre for the Study of Co-operatives; Humanities Research Unit, 1995. Forthcoming in *Saskatchewan History*.

He was invited to edit a special issue of *Rural Sociology*, that will focus on rural studies in Canada, to be published in 1997. Michael is co-editing a book with several U.S. colleagues, on the future of agricultural and food industry co-operatives in North America, to be published in 1997.

Presentations

In November, Michael addressed the Community Development Institute, organized by the Saskatchewan Department of Social Services, in Saskatoon. His paper was entitled, "Local Communities, Globalization, and Restructuring: The Context for Community Action."

Teaching

Michael is teaching two courses this term:

- *Sociology 206.3* *The Community*
- *Sociology 302.3* *Sociology of Agriculture*

He also supervised an M.A. student:

Lenore Swystun completed her M.A. thesis, "Women in Farming: A Social Economy of Multi-Family and Single Family Farms in Saskatchewan," in September. The Study compares the experiences and management roles of women in production co-operatives with those of women on neighbouring family operations.

Other Activities

In August, Michael attended the Rural Sociological Society (RSS) Meetings in Des Moines, Iowa. He is involved with program planning for the 1997 RSS Meetings to be held in Toronto, August 13-16, 1997.

Michael is a resource person and Centre contact for the "Core Neighbourhood Youth Co-op" initiative in Saskatoon.

Lou Hammond Ketilson

Publications

Lou authored a paper, entitled:

"Women in co-operatives : a Canadian perspective." Lou Hammond Ketilson. *Review of International Co-operation* Vol. 89 no. 2, 1996. The paper was based on the publication: *Research for Action: Women in Co-operatives*, Leona Theis and Lou Hammond Ketilson. Saskatoon: The Centre, 1994.

Presentations

In July, Lou presented a paper, entitled: "Non-agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Community Economic Development: The Canadian Experience," at the Symposium on "The Potential Role of Non-Agricultural Co-operatives in Rural Economic Development," at the American Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting, in San Antonio, Texas.

In August, she conducted a workshop with Lillas Brown (Extension Division), entitled: "Corporate Training and Development — Changes Ahead," for the Co-operative Human Resources Managers Conference, in Saskatoon.

Lou was invited to speak and serve as a panelist at the 1996 Co-operatives Key Issues Conference, "Reinventing Co-operatives — The Next Generation," in Sydney, Australia, in October. Lou was a keynote speaker to the conference, on the topic: "Women in Co-operatives: 'One Foot in the Door.'" She also made a presentation, entitled: "Community Co-operatives: the Canadian Experience," in the "Overseas Views on Community Co-operatives" conference session. While in Sydney, Lou attended a Research Forum and made a presentation on the Centre.

Teaching

Lou is co-ordinating and teaching a new course this term:

- *Commerce 101.3 Introduction to Business* (Offered to all first year Commerce students, with 300 students per term, and four faculty, one from each department, providing instruction.)

She is also supervising two Graduate Students:

Colleen McMahon, M.Sc. in Marketing, "Segmenting the Market for Electronic Financial Services." Colleen defended her thesis in October.

Laura Turner-Rain, M.B.A., "Creating and Sustaining Innovation in Federative Co-operative Systems: The Case of CUFIS." Laura is on track to complete her thesis by the end of November.

Administration

Lou is currently a member of several College of Commerce Standing Committees:

- College Review Committee
- Equity Committee
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

She also serves on several University Standing Committees:

- University Council. Lou was elected in January to this recently formed representative body charged with making decisions.
- Steering Committee for the Whelen Lecture Series
- Nominations Committee for University Council

Other Activity

Since May, Lou has sat as a member of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool (SWP) Task Force on Youth. The Task Force supervised a comprehensive needs assessment, including an assessment of existing SWP youth programs (conducted by Lou), and has just completed a report containing recommendations to increase involvement with youth in the future. This report will be presented to the SWP Board of Directors in November.

First elected in June, 1995, Lou is now in the second year of her two-year term on the Board of the Community Health Services (Saskatoon) Association Ltd. (Community Clinic). She is currently a member of its Member Services Committee.

In June, Lou was elected Vice President Membership, at the Annual Meetings of the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada, the national association of business school faculty.

Lou is Vice Chair of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Research Committee.

She continues to sit on the Management Board for the Prairie Region Health Promotion Research Centre.

Byron Henderson

New Research Projects

InContext Project. In June, the University approved funding for a project created by Byron, which involves the collaboration of the Centre, the Native Law Centre, the Centre for Studies in Agriculture, Law and the Environment, and the Humanities Research Unit. The project, called the *InContext Project*, received \$13,000 from a \$100,000 University fund established for special projects aimed at improving the financial position of the University in coming years. The project aims to improve public awareness of the role of the University in intellectual investigation, by creating a multi-media Web site aimed primarily at Saskatchewan primary and secondary schools. The project will undertake the production of three pilot studies. The list of possible study topics includes: human genome

research, seed patenting, and aboriginal self-government. The project has a secondary aim to create tools to assist in collaborative communications and promotion. The Centre plans to use the tools and design developed in the project as the basis for a Web site exploring the Co-operative Alternative.

Ongoing Research Projects

The Tibet Project. Byron's research colleague, James Mullens (College of Arts & Science), is now on sabbatical in India. He has met with the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs for Tibet, who is very eager to see research published on Tibetan co-ops in India. The Secretary will provide full access to the Tibetan archives and has offered the assistance of his department's specialist in the area of co-ops. Professor Mullens will conduct interviews and collect documentation for a preliminary report which will be written jointly with Byron. He will then visit several co-ops for field data which will form the basis for a later series of reports and articles.

Publications

Byron wrote an article introducing the Centre's Web site, in the Centre's newsletter:

"www.coop_studies.usask.ca." *CSC Developments* Summer/Fall 1996.

He has recently written review articles for the ACE newsletter and the newsletter of the National Co-operative Business Association in Washington.

In November, Byron completed a major renovation of the Centre's World Wide Web (WWW) site (http://www.coop_studies.usask.ca). The renovated site focuses on the people at the Centre and creates a welcoming, inviting interface for users of this increasingly valuable Web site.

Presentations

As a direct result of the Centre's work on the book, *Making Membership Meaningful*, and the Centre's Web site, Byron was invited to join the International Co-operative Alliance Communications Committee. In October, he was a keynote speaker at the ICA Communications Seminar, "Co-operative Communications: the Year 2000," in Budapest, Hungary. Byron spoke on the development of the World Wide Web and the ways in which the Web and electronic services can enhance communication among co-operatives and increase member participation.

Other Activities

The ICA is developing an international television campaign to promote co-operatives world-wide and Byron has been asked to join a steering group of three people to direct the production of this television campaign. In the coming months, Byron will be working closely with the ICA to develop an International Co-operative Network to deliver financial databases, demographic data, contact lists, and training and management materials information over the Web.

Brenda Stefanson

New Research Projects

Development of Agriculture Processing Co-operatives: A Research and Education Project. This project is jointly funded by PFRA, PARD, and the Centre. The project has two objectives: to research co-operative structures as vehicles for creating agricultural processing ventures in the province, and to share this information with groups currently working to develop the economy of rural Saskatchewan. The research will focus on: identifying the areas where new co-operative structures provide advantages or disadvantages over traditional co-operative and/or other organizational structures, financing options, examining legislation and taxation issues, and on identifying the characteristics of both the co-operatives and industry that increase the chance that co-operative development will be successful. The educational component will concentrate on documenting the information and research results in a format that will be available and accessible to groups interested in forming co-operatives, and to the resource people working in economic and community development. In addition to being involved in the research component of the project, Brenda will provide information in printed or presentation format to other resource people (such as Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food Extension Agrolgists, REDA board, SWP district reps), and to commodity or community groups. The Prairie Forum: 1996 pre-conference, described earlier in this report, is the first in a series of technology transfer.

Ongoing Research

Options for Financing New Generation Co-operative (NGCs) Development: The Role of Saint Paul Bank for Cooperatives in Fostering NGC Development in North Dakota and Minnesota. Brenda and Murray have completed the first phase of this CUC funded project. Brenda has now turned to the second component of the project, described above.

Publications

Brenda co-authored a paper, with Andrea and Murray, entitled:

“New Generation Cooperatives and Cooperative Theory.” Andrea Harris, Brenda Stefanson, and Murray Fulton. *Journal of Cooperatives* Vol. 11, 1996, pp. 15-28.

She also wrote an article for the Centre’s newsletter:

“Co-op Development in Minnesota and North Dakota.” *CSC Developments* Summer/Fall 1996.

Presentations

In September, Brenda presented the paper, “New Generation Co-operatives,” at the Provincial Entrepreneurship Conference, “The Fire Within: The Entrepreneurial Spirit,” sponsored by the Prince Albert REDA and Saskatchewan REDA Advisory Network.

In October, she presented a paper, entitled: “Understanding the U.S. Experience,” at the Prairie Forum: 1996 pre-conference, “Producer-Owned Agricultural Processing Ventures: New Generation Co-operatives.”

She also chaired two of the morning sessions of the pre-conference workshop: “Case Studies,” and “Entrepreneurial Co-operation.”

Other Activities

In July, Brenda attended the "Co-op Fever" Study Tour of NGCs in North Dakota and Minnesota, organized by the Cooperative Development Institute, Greenfield, Massachusetts. The "Co-op Fever" model could be used very successfully to organize a study tour of Saskatchewan co-operatives.

In July, she attended the Saskatchewan Bison Association Meeting, in Clair, Sask.

In August, she participated in a series of Northern Plains Premium Beef meetings in: Carlyle, Tisdale, North Battleford, and Swift Current.

Andrea Harris

Research

An Analysis of the Egg Industry in Canada and the United States. Andrea, Murray, and Brett completed their research for the egg industry project at the end of June, with a written report and presentation, entitled: "Producer Response to the Challenges Facing the Western Canadian Egg Industry." The research component of the research provided an overview of the economic entities involved in the production and marketing of eggs in Canada, the regulatory structure of the Canadian industry and a summary of recent changes affecting that structure, and the U.S. egg industry. The applied portion of the report presented two options which could allow producers to respond to the principle challenges facing the industry. It outlined the results from interviews with representatives from the four western Egg Marketing Boards, and provided a hypothetical example illustrating the key challenges, options, issues, and concerns raised in the research.

The Role of External Institutions in Fostering Industry Development (an ADF funded project). From July, Andrea took over this project from Brenda (when Brenda went to work full-time on the NGC research). The project combines theoretical analysis with case studies of industry development initiatives from Saskatchewan and British Columbia, and includes the co-operative enterprise development process currently occurring (NGCs) in North Dakota and Minnesota. It focuses on the role external organizations can play in helping industry participants work collectively to undertake activities which increase the stability of agricultural industries. The project will continue to June, 1997.

Publications

Andrea co-authored a paper, with Brenda and Murray, entitled:

"New Generation Cooperatives and Cooperative Theory." Andrea Harris, Brenda Stefanson, and Murray Fulton. *Journal of Cooperatives* Vol. 11, 1996, pp. 15-28.

Laura Turner-Rain

Laura Turner-Rain continues to work on her M.B.A. thesis, entitled: "Creating and Sustaining Innovation in Federative Co-operative Systems: The Case of CUFIS." During the summer she defended her proposal and completed her data collection. The latter phase included locating documentation gathered during the history of CUFIS, and conducting 26 interviews with people in the Credit Union system. She found this both a challenging and rewarding phase. Everyone was more than helpful, and Laura was able to gather good data. Laura will complete her thesis by Christmas. Her advisor is Lou Hammond Ketilson.

Marianne Taillon

Marianne was very active in the organization of the Prairie Forum: 1996 pre-conference, "Producer-Owned Agricultural Processing Ventures: New Generation Co-operatives," held in Saskatoon in October. Her assistance included co-ordinating speakers and site arrangements, workshop kit preparation, and on-site registration and co-ordination. Marianne is also undertaking an extensive renovation of the mailing lists for the Centre, and for CASC.

Diana Kichuk

Resource Centre

An average of 37 books circulated per month from February, through to the fall. The Resource Centre collection grew modestly over the same period by over 200 titles to just under 3000 titles. Approximately 65 items per month were added to the Resource Centre's vertical file.

Other Activities

Diana compiled the Director's reports for the Management Advisory Board and the Centre's annual report (with Byron) for 1995. She edited and designed, with Byron, a Summer/Fall issue of the Centre's newsletter, *CSC Developments*. A second issue of the newsletter will be published before Christmas. Two supplements to the newsletter are planned, including one on youth co-operatives — a follow-up on some of the participants in the Co-operative Enterprise Development for Youth Program which ended in April, 1996. As an extension of her work as Centre librarian, Diana assumed some information officer activity, providing relevant documents and references in response to queries from the public about the Centre or co-operatives.

In September, Diana released a Web page for Co-operatives and related resources on the WWW (http://www.coop_studies.usask.ca/CSC_Library/CSC_Library.html). The page is a link within the Centre's renovated Web page (http://www.coop_studies.usask.ca).