



27 College Park, BGSU, Bowling Green, OH 43403 • (419) 372-9696 • E-mail: [retirees@bgsu.edu](mailto:retirees@bgsu.edu) • [www.bgsu.edu/retirement](http://www.bgsu.edu/retirement)

### RESERVATIONS DUE JAN. 7 FOR LUNCHEON

FOR reservations for the Wednesday, Jan. 12, BGSU Retirees Assn. served luncheon, send an e-mail to Treasurer Hal Lunde <[hlunde@bgsu.edu](mailto:hlunde@bgsu.edu)>, or mail the form on page 8 with check. The reservation deadline is Jan. 7. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$14 per person, payable at the door (check to BGSURA preferred).

PLEASE NOTE: Reservations must be paid for regardless of attendance because Stone Ridge charges for the number of reservations. □

### In this issue



• *Imogene Krift in her Mrs. Santa Claus role in this 1986 BGSU Photo Service photo. Now retired, Imogene is profiled by Clif Boutelle beginning on page 2.*

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### THANKS

Joan Gordon, Ramona Cormier, Clif Boutelle, Dana Sargent Nemeth, Joy Bennett, David Chilson, Montana Miller, Mrs. Santa, Hal Lunde, Chris Sexton, Janet Parks, Ann Bowers, Diane and Wally Pretzer, Charlie Applebaum, Fred Fether, Craig Bell, Bradley David Phalin



## 'Come fly with me'

*Montana Miller: Trapeze artist, skydiver, BGSU professor*



• *Dr. Montana Miller, assistant professor of popular culture, back on the ground after skydiving from a Cessna 182 at Tecumseh (Mich.) airport.*

### Jan. 12 speaker an expert on Internet research

TWO days before Thanksgiving, Montana Miller was being interviewed by a reporter for the *Calgary (Alberta, Canada) Herald* in a lobby in one of the city's hotels. The 40-year-old BGSU popular culture professor, an expert on Internet stalking, was in Calgary to address a gathering of professionals at an event hosted by the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter.

Dr. Miller will speak at the BGSU Retirees Association full-service luncheon Wednesday, Jan. 12, at Stone Ridge Golf Club, Muirfield Drive, Bowling Green. Registration and

socializing begin at 11:30, with serving at noon. Luncheon cost is \$14. Reservations may be made using the form on page 8 or by e-mail to [hlunde@bgsu.edu](mailto:hlunde@bgsu.edu).

On the BGSU faculty since 2006, Montana Miller has led her life alternating between careers as a professional aerialist and as an ethnographer/folklorist. At 17, the Massachusetts native was the first American to be admitted to France's Ecole Superieure des Arts du Cirque, where she became an accomplished flying trapeze artist.

Later, while at Harvard University

*continued on page 5*



• *Imogene Krift is one of many former and current BGSU employees who call Pemberville home.*



Jim Gordon

• *For more than a quarter century, Imogene Krift has played the role of Mrs. Santa Claus for a variety of campus and community organizations. Her latest appearance was Nov. 20 in Bowling Green's Holiday Parade.*

## *She's Pemberville's 'Leading Lady'*

### **Imogene Krift and Her Lasting Impression**

*Story and photos by Clif Boutelle*

**F**OR 24 years Imogene Krift kept the printing presses and copy machines humming on the sixth floor of the Ad Building while providing valuable duplicating services to the campus community.

It's not unusual for someone as they get older to lament, "I am not half the person I once was." For Imogene Krift, though, it's true. Having lost more than 120 pounds from the weight she carried while managing Office Services at the University from 1969-93, Krift is actually less than half the person she once was.

"I had gotten to the point where it was affecting me emotionally to see myself in that condition," she said. Unlike some overweight people, Krift's health was not threatened; she simply did not like how much weight she had gained through the years. *continued on page 3*



*Since her BGSU retirement, Krift has kept busy with part-time jobs and volunteering to assist groups and organizations in Pemberville like the River Bank Antique Market.*



*Krift has lost more than 120 pounds in recent years, thanks in large part to her exercise regimen at the Bowling Green Community Center.*

# As Santa's mate, she's well-suited

## BGSU employee entertains kids

by Judy Immel  
reporter

Mrs. Claus is closer than the North Pole.

In the printing office in the Administration Building, the machines whoosh-click in a steady sound as a short woman with light brown hair and blue eyes bustles around. She is Imogene Krift, manager of office services and the University's Mrs. Claus.

Krift has been playing the role of Santa's wife for the past 15 years.

"It started when we would put on skits during the business office Christmas parties," she said, peering around a mountain of paperwork, an old-fashioned lamp, a gold Mickey Mouse figure and an assortment of other odds and ends on her desk in a crowded office. "Someone asked me to be Mrs. Claus and I agreed."

Since then, Krift has played Mrs. Claus both by herself and with various Santas at Christmas parties on campus and in the community.

"If someone asks me to do it, I will," she said. "I don't do it

because I have to - I want to. It comes from the heart."

Krift said the best part of playing Mrs. Claus is the children.

"The joy is from seeing the kids," she said, gently gesturing with her hands. "Their eyes just light up and they pat my cheek to see if I'm real."

"They think they are seeing the real Santa, not just one of his helpers, because he brings his wife - me - with him," she said. "And I want to make them believe in Santa just one more year. I try to live the part. It's very rewarding."

Adults also enjoy seeing Mrs. Claus.

"IT BRINGS out the kid in people again, no matter how old they are," she said. "People I don't even know come up and hug me when I'm Mrs. Claus."

In all the hurriedness of Christmas as people rush to buy gifts and make preparations, Krift wants to keep the tradition of Christmas alive.

"When I do this," she said, "I want to convey what Christmas is all about. I'm extending love."



Imogene Krift

BG News/Pete Fellman

## Imogene *continued*

So in 2007 she joined the Bowling Green Community Center, where the fitness staff devised a program that would help her lose weight and feel better about herself.

"She really committed herself to the program, and the pounds began to fade away. She is one of our stars at the Community Center," said Josh Chatfield, a fitness specialist at the Center.

Said Krift, "I won't kid you, this is hard work and you have to want to do it. It takes patience and persistence and discipline. People don't recognize me if they haven't seen me for a while. They stop and take a second look and say, 'Imogene?' I just laugh and say 'yes, it's me.' I just love my new look. I look at old pictures and it was pretty sad seeing myself that way. I thought why didn't I do this sooner, why did I wait so long?"

## Phone call from Fred

Her BGSU career started with a phone call from Fred Fether in the University's Business Office informing her she had been highly recommended for a clerk's position in Office Services and inviting her to campus for an interview.



JIM GORDON

• Fred Fether, who retired from BGSU in 1987 as director of materials management, and his wife Eleanor have endowed the Fred and Eleanor Fether Marketing Scholarship through the BGSU Foundation. Fred is a 1954 BGSU marketing graduate and Eleanor is a 1955 BGSU advertising graduate.

• From the Dec. 12, 1986, issue of The BG News

A bit "flabbergasted" by the out-of-the-blue call, she met with Fether and was offered the position. "To this day, I still do not know who recommended me, but I am glad they did. It turned out to be a wonderful job and I met and enjoyed working with so many people."

That was in 1969 when Office Services was located on the sixth floor of the Administration Building and handled all the duplicating needs for most campus departments. In 1971, she was promoted to manager, and the office, under her direction, printed a variety of brochures, flyers, newsletters and other publications, as well as dispensing office supplies.

*continued page 4*



BGSU PHOTO SERVICE/CENTER FOR ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

• In 1989, Imogene Krift (right) received the first Classified Staff Council Outstanding Service Award from Christine Sexton (center), chair of the selection committee. Sexton, a member of the BGSURA board, received the award the next year. Joyce Hyslop (left) was president of Classified Staff Council.

## Imogene *continued*

Like several other areas on campus, Office Services no longer exists. “The need for the kinds of services we provided began to diminish with the advent of computers on campus, which enabled areas to print their own materials,” she said. But it was a busy office, as anyone who heard the constant thumping of printing presses and copy machines on the sixth floor can attest. A steady stream of campus clients made their way to the sixth floor. “I can remember when we



• *Imogene Krift has developed a variety of collections including Longaberger baskets, lighthouses, antique furniture and lamps, like the Tiffany and kerosene lamps behind her.*

were producing an average of a million and a half copies a month on our various machines,” she said.

Krift came to the University with little knowledge of printing but learned by observing and asking questions of printing and office machinery sales personnel. “I did a lot of studying because I wanted to be sure we bought the best equipment we needed for our work and, at the same time, spending our limited budget as wisely as possible.”

She did all the ordering and billing and recordkeeping and it was not uncommon to see her leave the Ad Building after the work day was over with an armload of ledgers and notebooks so she could catch up with the bookkeeping at home.

One of her favorite clients was Boys State, which printed a daily newspaper and other materials. She worked closely with the young men, even providing suggestions to improve their paper. One night she was working late and had the window open (she was one of the few persons to have a window key in the Ad Building) in her sixth floor duplicating area when she heard singing from outside. It was a contingent from Boys’ State wanting to show their appreciation by serenading her. “That was touching,” she recalls.

Her office emphasized customer service and meeting deadlines. “I was very conscious of the services part of our office title and that was what we worked hard to do—provide a service to meet the needs of our customers. I think just about everyone was happy with what we did.”

In appreciation of her efforts to provide service “above and beyond,” Krift was awarded the first Outstanding Classified Staff Service Award in 1989, a deserving recognition to her dedication to her work and service to other University employees.

She retired from the University in 1993 to take care of her granddaughter, Kelsey, who was born with Downs

Syndrome. Kelsey’s mother is Lisa Wayne, who has worked at WBGU-TV for 30 years, and who is Krift’s daughter.

“It was a wonderful thing she did and a real sacrifice on her part to leave her job to care for Kelsey,” said Wayne. “What she did was a big help to our family.”

“I did what any mother would do,” said Krift, who would drive to Holgate Sunday evening and then return home on Thursday. During the time, she developed a special bond with Kelsey.

She did that for three years and now works part time as office manager for Workplace Resources, a Toledo-based employment consulting firm, with an office in Bowling Green. Always one to keep busy, she has volunteered to help several organizations, including the Riverbank Antiques Market in Pemberville.

### *Outstanding in Pemberville*

Highly regarded in her town, she was named the 2001 Outstanding Citizen of Pemberville and a year later was selected to be the Senior Queen, which gave her a seat of honor in the annual parade.

Krift is well known for her portrayal of Mrs. Santa Claus, something she started in 1973 at a Classified Staff Christmas celebration with Homer Kuenzli, who worked in the Business Office as resident state examiner. She’s lost track of how many years she has been Mrs. Claus, but she has two outfits, which she keeps in top condition and ready to go when asked. She reprised her role on the Classified Staff Council float in this year’s Bowling Green Holiday Parade, something she has been doing since 1987. She also is in demand to serve as Mrs. Claus at various community celebrations.

She lives in Pemberville, where she has resided most of her life (she grew up in nearby Luckey) in a snug little home full of fascinating antiques she has collected. A spool cabinet filled with rows of colorful thread catches the eye, although Krift admits there are spools in only the front rows (“so it looks good”). There are also lamps including several kerosene lamps and some Tiffany fixtures. She proudly points to a chair that belonged to her mother as well as a loom, which her mother used to spin wool.

She also has a small collection of lighthouses, which she started 20 years ago. She



and her late husband, Ralph, always made it a point to visit lighthouses when they were vacationing.

“I like them because to me they are peaceful and represent safety,” she said. And for 24 years Imogene Krift’s strong work ethic represented quality and friendly service to faculty and staff at the University. □



JIM GORDON

• Cliff Boutelle retired from BGSU in 1999 as associate vice president for University Relations. His e-mail address is [clif5761@frontier.com](mailto:clif5761@frontier.com).

## PASSINGS



JOHN GORDON

### ■ DR. RAYMOND F. BARKER

(above, right in a 2008 photo with his wife Dorothea and son Paul), died Dec. 8 in Hospice of Northwest Ohio. A Philadelphia native, Dr. Barker joined the BGSU faculty in 1964 and retired in 1993 as professor emeritus of marketing. He was 81 years old.

The photo above was taken at the Wood County Historical Museum after  
*continued on page 6*



BRADLEY PHALIN – BGSU PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICE/MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

■ **BRENT B. NICHOLSON**, 56, an attorney and accountant, was a full-time member of the BGSU College of Business Administration faculty from 1989 until his death Dec. 4, at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Prof. Nicholson suffered a heart attack in November while delivering a lecture and never regained consciousness. David Stott, accounting department chair at BGSU, told *The Blade*. Mr. Nicholson was the first director of BGSU's entrepreneurship program. A 1976 BGSU graduate, he earned his law degree at Ohio State. He also was a certified public accountant.



JIM GORDON

• *Dr. Miller, on the ground in her office at the Popular Culture House at E. Wooster and S. College.*

### **Montana Miller** *from page 1*

earning her bachelor's degree (1997), she was a diver on the varsity swim team and was one of the first women ever to dive from Acapulco's 80-foot cliffs. She earned her master's (1999) and Ph.D. (2003) in folklore and mythology from UCLA.

Lately Miller has taken to skydiving at an airport in nearby Tecumseh, Mich.

With expertise in Internet research ethics, Miller is at the forefront not only of this new field of study but also the process of setting

guidelines for its research. She has served on BGSU's Human Review Board since 2006 and is chair of the Internet Culture area of the Popular Culture Association.

Internet research is growing among social scientists, which in turn creates an area of concern for institutional review boards at universities and funding agencies.

At age 18, Miller wrote a book about her years "breathing sawdust and somersaults," *Circus Dreams: The Making of a Circus Artist*, Little, Brown 1990. The book is available through Amazon.

### BGSURA Newsletter

27 College Park Office Bldg.  
Bowling Green, OH 43403-0201 • (419) 372-9696  
www.bgsu.edu/retirement • E-mail: retirees@bgsu.edu  
Telephone numbers require a 419 prefix.

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Associate Editors, Joan Gordon, Diane Pretzer, Wally Pretzer

## PASSINGS *continued*

Mrs. Barker received the Lyle R. Fletcher Good Citizenship Award at the Spirit of Wood County Awards program for her commitment to the environment and human rights.

A Korean War veteran, Dr. Barker received his bachelor's in business administration at the University of Texas at El Paso and his MBA (1957) and Ph.D. (1962) from the University of Texas, Austin.

In early December, Dr. Barker learned he had lung cancer, found during surgery for a fractured vertebrae, Mrs. Barker told *The Blade*.

■ **JOHN KIEHL**, 60, died Sept. 3. He was a maintenance superintendent in Campus Operations, joining the University in 1984.

■ **MARY JEAN SNYDER**, 88, died Oct. 2 in Perrysburg. She was retired from Dining Services. □

## Your membership status explained

The top line of the address label on the envelope describes your membership status. If it says:

1. **"Complimentary - Exp. June 2011"** You are a new retiree. Your free membership will expire June 30, 2011.
2. **"Expires June 2011"** You have paid your membership dues through 2011. We hope you'll stay with us.
3. **"Life Member"** Self-explanatory!

### MOVING? ADDRESS CHANGE?



Let us know!



retirees@bgsu.edu  
or jgordon@bgsu.edu  
419-352-8175  
888-564-8592

or BGSU Retirees Assn.  
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## Computer aid offered

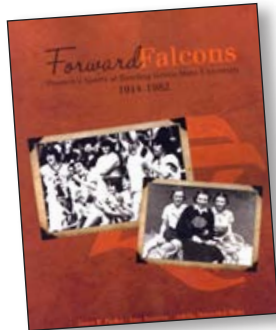
BGSURA's computer expert, Charlie Applebaum, has been retained by the Chief Information Officer of BGSU as a resource person for any retired BGSU faculty or staff member within the city with a software

problem. Dr. Applebaum has 49 years of experience in mainframe and personal computing. He may be reached at 419-352-0777 or send an e-mail to [applebau@bgsu.edu](mailto:applebau@bgsu.edu).



## It's done: The Parks-Bowers book!

**JANET PARKS** and **ANN BOWERS** have completed their multi-year project on women's sports at Bowling Green State University. The book, nearly 500 pages with remembrances and photographs, is now available from the "on-demand" Internet publisher **lulu.com** for \$25 plus shipping, which ranges from \$3



for U.S. Mail to about \$9 for basic UPS. The digital publishing company prints a hard copy each time the book is ordered over the Internet.

The book also will be on sale at BGSURA's Jan. 12, 2011, luncheon. Parks and Bowers have assigned royalties from the book to the Center for Archival Collections at BGSU's Jerome Library. The authors used the services of a professional designer and an indexer.

Parks is Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus of Human Movement, Sports and Leisure Studies. A profile of Dr. Parks, by Janis Pallister, appeared in the May 2008 BGSURA Newsletter. Bowers retired in 2004 as University Archivist. □



• *Parks and Bowers*

JIM GORDON

## How hand writing trains the brain and makes you smarter

**F**ORMING letters is the key to learning, memory and ideas.

Using advanced tools like MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), researchers find that writing by hand is more than just a way to communicate. It engages the brain in learning. The practice helps with learning letters and shapes, improving idea composition and expression, and aiding fine motor skill development.

It's not just children who benefit. Some physicians say handwriting can be a good cognitive exercise for older people working to keep their minds sharp as they age. Studies suggest there is real value in learning and maintaining this ancient skill, even as we increasingly communicate electronical-

ly via keyboards large and small.

Virginia Berninger, professor of educational psychology at the University of Washington, says that

pictures of the brain show that the sequential finger movements in handwriting activate massive regions of the brain involved in thinking, language and working memory – the system for temporarily storing and managing information. In a recent study, Berninger found that children in grades two, four and six wrote more words, faster, and expressed more ideas when writing essays by hand versus the keyboard. □

• Digested by Dr. Harold Lunde, BGSURA treasurer, from *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 5. For more information: [Gwendolyn Bounds](mailto:Gwendolyn.Bounds@wsj.com), author, at [wendy.bounds@wsj.com](mailto:wendy.bounds@wsj.com); also, Google will help.



• *Hal Lunde*

CLIF BOUTELLE

# Snapshots from the Nov. 11 BGSURA Luncheon



• Jane and John Kunstmann



Jim Gordon (7)

• Richard Edwards, Ramona Cormier, and Nadine Edwards



• Ann Rutledge Jones, Mickey Cochrane, Elfreda Rusher



• Nora Liu and Joy Sidwell



• Ralph Wahrman and Elmer Spreitzer



• Shirley and Evan McFee, Monna Pugh



• Paul Lopez and Denise Kisabeth, both retired from WBGU-TV



WBGU-TV

• Patrick Fitzgerald (right), retired general manager of WBGU-TV, will be the speaker at the March 16, 2011, BGSURA Luncheon. "Fitz" is being greeted at his June 2010 retirement party at the station by Tom Baer (left) and Jim Treeger.



JIM GORDON (3) CENTER FOR ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

• At a May 1964 meeting of the BGSU Trustees, Charles E. Perry, president's assistant, models the floppy cap chosen for the inauguration of President William Travers Jerome III, to the amusement of Trustees Delmont D. Brown (left) and Donald G. Simmons.(right).

**President's Corner**  
 By Ramona Cormier  
**Academic Ritual**

IN ONE of my closets, I have an academic robe, a mortarboard, and a Tulane University hood. Since my academic career has ended, and thinking that I might never wear this regalia again, I considered giving it away or selling it. But as a member of the BGSU Centennial Commission, I was asked to march in the Nov. 9 Convocation parade celebrating the University's 100th anniversary, an occasion to don my academic gear again.

Since my participation in academic affairs has been nil for a number of years, I had forgotten the sentiments associated with an academic ritual. On the occasion of the Convocation I found myself feeling proud to wear an academic uniform. I



• Dr. Cormier in cap with tassel, hood and gown at the Convocation.



• Dr. Jerome admires the mace newly created by the late Prof. Hal Hasselschwert.

stood up straight and held my head high as I displayed through my appearance the history of the academy.

A ritual celebrates the activities of an institution. The academy is where students learn to teach themselves and where they conduct this pursuit with an open mind and courageous heart. It is where they learn to respect diversity and the rule of law and where opinion is supported with well-grounded argument. It is this that we celebrate with the ritual of graduation and the ritual of a convocation that commemorates 100 years of such activity. □

• Dr. Cormier, Trustee Professor Emeritus, may be reached at [rcormie@dacor.net](mailto:rcormie@dacor.net).

**Reservation - BGSURA Full-Service Luncheon at Stone Ridge**  
 Reservation deadline Friday, Jan. 7, 2011. Luncheon Wednesday, Jan. 12  
 11:30-Noon: Check-in, socializing. Noon: Full-service Luncheon. \$14 per person

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_

How to reserve #1: By mail with check (preferred method).

How to reserve #2: By e-mail to [hlunde@bgsu.edu](mailto:hlunde@bgsu.edu). Pay at door, cash or check.

How to pay by mail: CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ PAYABLE TO BGSURA.

If by mail: SEND RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK TO:

HAROLD LUNDE, BGSURA TREASURER,

880 COUNTRY CLUB DR., BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402. DEADLINE FRIDAY, JAN. 7.

Reservations by e-mail: [hlunde@bgsu.edu](mailto:hlunde@bgsu.edu). Deadline Friday, Jan. 7.

**Hot Served Luncheon**

- House Salad with Ranch and Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing
- Warm Rolls and Butter
- Sliced Roast Beef
- Oven-roasted Red Skinned Potatoes
- Green Beans with Carrots
- Water Service on Tables
- Iced Tea and Lemonade on Tables Alternating Coffee and Hot Tea Station