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.

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...
She’s Pemberville’s ‘Leading Lady’
Imogene Krift and Her Lasting Impression

Story and photos by Clif Boutelle

For 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.

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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.

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.

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

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*• 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.*

*• 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 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.
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.

Your membership status explained

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


2. “Expires June 2011” You have paid your membership dues through 2011. We hope you’ll stay with us.

3. “Life Member” Self-explanatory!

How hand writing trains the brain and makes you smarter

FORMING 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 electronically.

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

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.

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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.


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.
Snapshots from the Nov. 11 BGSURA Luncheon

• Jane and John Kunstmann

• Richard Edwards, Ramona Cormier, and Nadine Edwards

• Nora Liu and Joy Sidwell

• Ann Rutledge Jones, Mickey Cochrane, Elfreda Rusher

• Ralph Wahrman and Elmer Spreitzer

• Shirley and Evan McFee, Monna Pugh

• Paul Lopez and Denise Kisabeth, both retired from 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.
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@bgusu.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@bgusu.edu. Deadline Friday, Jan. 7.

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

* Dr. Cormier, Trustee Professor Emeritus, may be reached at rcormie@dacor.net.

* 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).

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