

Fall 2019  
Spring 2020

# BU Toy Library Newsletter

## BU TOY LIBRARY CLOSED TEMPORARILY

The BU Toy Library closed during Spring Break 2020 and remained closed throughout the Summer 2020 due to a global pandemic brought on by COVID-19. The deadline for returning all borrowed books, toys, and other resources was extended to September 30, 2020.

Once the campus re-opens, information about the BU Toy Library's Fall 2020 hours of operation will be posted on our website ([butoylibrary.bloomu.edu](http://butoylibrary.bloomu.edu)) and Facebook page. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan at [mduncan@bloomu.edu](mailto:mduncan@bloomu.edu).

## PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PUBLISHED

To mark the BU Toy Library's 10-year anniversary in the Fall 2020, Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan conducted a program assessment of the campus-based literacy and play resource center's use and usefulness. Findings were summarized in a peer-reviewed paper and published in the American Library Association's *Children and Libraries journal* in the Spring 2020. To view the article, visit <https://journals.ala.org/index.php/cal/article/view/7301/10023>.

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### ABOUT US

- Located at 1247 McCormick Human Services Center on the campus of Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg, PA)
- Founded and directed by Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan, Professor of Psychology, Joan and Fred Miller Distinguished Professor of Good Work
- To learn more about the BU Toy Library, please visit our website at [butoylibrary.bloomu.edu](http://butoylibrary.bloomu.edu) or contact Dr. Duncan at [mduncan@bloomu.edu](mailto:mduncan@bloomu.edu).





## PRACTICING GOOD CITIZENSHIP

In partial fulfillment of PSYCH 497, Katie co-created a PowerPoint to explain the concept of Good Work. She posted it on the school's Facebook page to encourage students to practice Good Work in their community. During a time of isolation brought on by COVID-19, Saint Columba students handcrafted dozens of Easter- and Spring-themed cards for residents of Maria Joseph Manor.



## PSYCH 327 POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY: CHARACTER LITERACY PROJECT

The American Psychological Association (APA) has called on undergraduate psychology programs to cultivate psychologically literate citizens who are willing and able to contribute their knowledge of psychological theories, concepts, and best practices to their families, communities, workplaces, and society.

Accordingly, students enrolled in PSYCH 327 during the Spring 2020 applied their

knowledge of Peterson and Seligman's (2004) character strengths and virtues in to create a special collection character literacy library of children's picture books for the BU Toy Library. With funding from the Joan and Fred Miller Distinguished Professorship, character literacy tote bags will be gifted to prospective and practicing teachers and staff in local schools.

## PSYCH 497: PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICUM

The BU Toy Library has served as a practicum site for students with varying academic and professional interests. PSYCH 497 students help staff the toy library and often develop, implement, and assess programming that aligns with their academic and professional interests.

During the Spring 2020, senior psychology major Katie Hager spent approximately 13 hours/week at Saint Columba School (Bloomsburg, PA). In collaboration with Dr. Duncan and the school's sixth grade teacher (Mr. David Ferdock), Katie

- introduced students to the concept of academic Good Work and encouraged students to pursue excellent, ethical, & engaged work;
- updated the school's Facebook Page to showcase examples of Good Work demonstrated by students, faculty, and staff;
- learned about the culture of a small, parochial school in by assisting faculty/staff with professional & administrative tasks;
- gained a better understanding of the many and varied personal, interpersonal, and situational factors that affect children's academic, social, behavioral, and emotional functioning;
- consulted with and assisted elementary and middle school faculty within the classroom setting.



## PSYCH 466 INDEPENDENT STUDY

Over the years, the BU Toy Library has afforded advanced psychology majors the opportunity to conduct faculty-supervised research. Through PSYCH 466, students learn how to conduct a scholarly literature review; design psychometric tools for gathering data; collect, store, analyze, and interpret data; and report findings in APA-style. PSYCH 466 also affords students the opportunity to reflect on professional aspirations involving conducting psychological research.

During the Spring 2020, Ashley Kerns conducted an IRB-approved study to assess faculty's feedback about the BU Toy Library. Participants reported a high level of satisfaction with the toy library, noting that they used its resources for course-based assignments, assessments, and projects as well as fieldwork experiences such as service learning, practicum, and student teaching. Recommendations for improvement included a promotional campaign to boost awareness of the resource center, increased hours of operation, a larger space, and an inventory of our holdings. Findings will inform future initiatives.

## END-OF-YEAR REPORT (2019-2020)

During the 2019-2020 academic year, the BU Toy Library served more than 100 faculty, staff, and students. Members checked out over 1000 resources and made good use of the die cut center.

Special thanks to our dependable and knowledgeable undergraduate student workers, **Hilary Escobar** and **Sara Simms**. Thank you also to BU Toy Library members who assisted with our ongoing program assessment. Finally, thank you to the graduating seniors who donated to the BU Toy Library Program Fund. Your generosity will manifest in the good work of the BU Toy Library for years to come.

## NEW WEBSITE

To celebrate the BU Toy Library's 10th anniversary in the Fall 2020, we revised and updated our website at [butoylibrary.bloomu.edu](http://butoylibrary.bloomu.edu). Check out our fresh new look and read through archived newsletters from our first 10 years.

As the BU Toy Library prepares for another decade of service to our academic and broader communities, we continue to strive to support students' academic and professional development by providing access to literacy and play resources that support their interactions with individuals of all developmental ages and abilities. To this end, a new Contact Us tab on the website invites members of the academic and broader communities to submit questions, comments, suggestions, and newsletter submissions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

*Mary Katherine Duncan*

