

BU Toy Library

Spring 2011



BU Toy Library Creates Opportunities for Faculty-Student Collaboration

During the Spring 2011 semester, Meghan Weeks and Eleanor Benner (advanced Psychology majors) completed an independent study project which included performing a literature review on youth volunteerism, developing a structured interview to measure the use and usefulness of a newly developed reference guide that details local opportunities for families, children and youth to serve others, as well as interviewing local parents, paraprofessionals, and professionals. Findings from their interviews are informing the revision of a reference guide entitled *Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County: Youth Outreach Opportunities for Families, Children, and Youth* (Waibel-Duncan & Gillam, 2009). The original *Y.O.O. Rock* has been linked to the BU Toy Library website. Look for the updated guide in the Fall 2011!

Hard copies of the original *Y.O.O. Rock* guide are also available. Please contact Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan at mduncan@bloomu.edu.

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Open daily
9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

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Visit our website at
[www.bloomu.edu/
toy_library](http://www.bloomu.edu/toy_library) to learn
more about the BU Toy
Library, view the li-
brary's catalog of litera-
cy and play resources,
become a member, and
so much more!

BU Toy Library is Growing and Growing

Four grants will expand the literacy and play resources of the library

TALE Teacher-Scholar Award (Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan)

BU **Bibliotek** was founded upon the realization that many families, children, and youth in our area witness or experience traumatic events (e.g., family violence, child maltreatment, serious illness). **BU Bibliotek** will create a bibliotherapeutic library informed by Janoff-Bulman's cognitive theory of traumatic stress. Using Janoff-Bulman's theory as a conceptual guide, advanced psychology majors enrolled in Developmental Psychopathology (48-337) during the Fall 2011 semester will identify picture books that have thematic relevance to Janoff-Bulman's theory and construct corresponding literacy theme kits.

Margin of Excellence Award (Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan, Dr. Sheila Dove Jones, Dr. Yanhui Pang, Dr. Nancy Edwards, & Ms. Jean Downing)

During a Fall 2010 visit to campus, Dr. Howard Gardner summarized his individualistic and pluralistic views on education by asserting that anything worth learning could be taught in at least eight different ways. As psychologists, educators, and mothers, we agree. We also believe that, above all, literacy is worth learning as it is paramount to human freedom. With this Margin of Excellence award, **Literacy Play** will create opportunities to teach early literacy skills while celebrating human diversity and highlighting human kinship. Monies from this award will be used to purchase children's books that illustrate aspects of human diversity as well as universal character strengths. Then,

using Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences as a conceptual framework, we will create corresponding theme kits for each book. Theme kits will be designed to strengthen children's cultural competence, literacy skills, and love of reading by tapping into each of eight different ways of processing information.

Phi Kappa Phi Literacy Award (Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan)

Inspired by Dr. Howard Gardner's Fall 2010 visit to campus, Alphabet Literacy Play will honor the diverse ways that pre-readers and emergent readers process information related to early literacy skills—letter recognition and phonemic awareness. Alphabet Literacy Play will fund the creation of alphabet theme kits (one for introducing the alphabet vis-à-vis each of Gardner's eight forms of intelligence. Kits will include picture books (linguistic intelligence); science materials (logical-mathematical intelligence); construction activities (spatial intelligence); movement props (bodily-kinesthetic intelligence); instruments (musical intelligence), materials that allow for social interactions and independent activities (interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences, respectively); and natural materials (naturalistic intelligence). In addition, binders announcing the availability of the kits and outlining theory-informed learning activities will be distributed to area preschool, daycare, early intervention and kindergarten programs.

Presidential Strategic Issues Grant

(Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan & Dr. Sheila Dove Jones)

With funding from a 2011 Presidential Strategic Issues Grant, the **BU Toy Library Virtual Center of Excellence** will build a state-of-the-art online forum for sharing theories, research, resources, and best practice standards to promote individuals' physical and psychological health through literacy and play. The **BU Toy Library Virtual Center of Excellence** also will serve as a vehicle for showcasing the BU Toy Library as a model for other colleges and universities in the Commonwealth.



Spring 2011 Curricular Activities

Students enrolled in 48-211 Early Child Development (Psychology) created alphabet theme kits to help pre-readers and emerging readers with letter recognition and phonemic awareness.

Students enrolled in 48-406 Psychology Seminar on Child Maltreatment (Psychology) used the library's resources to practice developing rapport with children and to learn more about what it means to be a child in small town America today.

Students enrolled in 70-206/70-506 Introduction to Early Intervention (Department of Exceptionalities) used the toy library's resource to complete a demonstration project of adapting the toys to accommodate differently abled children in classroom settings.

Student interns (Department of Languages) used the toy library's resources to enhance their Spanish lesson plans while student teaching at a local school.

Graduate students (Department of Speech Pathology) checked out the library's play resources to supplement their assessments and therapies of individuals served by the University's Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Presenting... the BU Toy Library

In February 2011, the BU Toy Library was presented to the University's Council of Trustees. It was also the topic of presentation at the University's first Brain Awareness Week Panel Discussion; 47th Annual Reading, Literacy, and Learning Conference; 20th Annual Health Sciences Symposium and the 2011 Eastern Psychological Association's Annual Conference during the Spring 2011.

With Gratitude

Following a January 2011 press release issued by the University's Office of Communications, the BU Toy Library was featured on the front page of the Press Enterprise and in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. In addition, audio clips about the BU Toy Library aired on WTIF Harrisburg and WPGM radio.