

# BU Toy Library

Spring 2012



Virtual Center of Excellence Unveiled  
[www.bloomu.edu/toy\\_library](http://www.bloomu.edu/toy_library)

With internal and external grant funding, including a Presidential Strategic Planning Grant, the BU Toy Library has evolved from a play resource center to a play and literacy resource center. Through the efforts of a BU Master of Instructional Technology student, Marcus Valeriano, the BU Toy Library's literacy initiatives and growing resources have been posted online at the web address listed above. Among the many new initiatives are a series of online tutorials targeting six early literacy skills—Letter Knowledge, Vocabulary, Phonological Awareness, Print Awareness, Print Motivation, and Narration.

Check out the website!

Send your feedback to [butoylibrary@bloomu.edu](mailto:butoylibrary@bloomu.edu).

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# Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County II **ROCKED** the Capitol!

Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County II  
Youth Outreach Opportunities for  
Families, Children, and Youth®



Mary Katherine Duncan  
Meghan Weeks  
Eleanor Benner

With funding from the **College of Liberal Arts**, Meg Weeks, Ellie Benner, and Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan represented Bloomsburg University at the Undergraduate Research Conference at the Capitol (Harrisburg, PA) on March 27, 2012. In addition to presenting *Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County II: Youth Outreach Opportunities for Families, Children, and Youth*, the authors met state representatives and were recognized in a House Session.

With funding from the **Berwick Health and Wellness Fund of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation**, 1000 copies of *Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County II* were distributed throughout the Fund's service area in April 2012.

An article on the development and evaluation of the original *Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County* guide has been published in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*.

*Top: Cover of Y.O.O. Rock Columbia County II: Youth Outreach Opportunities for Families, Children, and Youth.*

*Middle (from left to right): Meg Weeks, Representative Millard, and Ellie Benner.*

*Bottom (from left to right): Meg Weeks, Ellie Benner, and Senator Gordner.*





## Supporting Student Initiatives

With funding from [Cherokee Pharmaceuticals](#), the BU Toy Library acquired four HP Elitebook 8540p Notebook PCs. The laptops are available to strengthen BU Toy Library members' interactions with individuals of ALL developmental ages and abilities.

During the Spring 2012, a BU undergraduate psychology major (Mr. Joseph Costa) developed, implemented, and assessed a community outreach initiative at a local Area Agency on Aging. Joe used the laptop computers to teach older adults basic computer literacy skills for the purpose of information gathering, social networking, cognitive rehabilitation, and leisure. Joe made several visits to each of three adult day care centers. During these visits, he covered hardware basics, software basics, typing, internet browsing and internet safety, email, and media. Adult participants were given one-on-one instruction, handouts to support their learning, and access to their own laptop computer.

At the start of the Adult Computer Literacy classes, most participants reported that they used a computer little or not at all. Post-program assessment data showed that all participants reported greater comfort in using the computer. All participants also reported knowing how to use the computer for the purpose of information gathering. Most participants reported that they knew how to use the computer to communicate with friends or family members through email, type letters or other documents, and play games for cognitive rehabilitation or recreation. Almost two-thirds of participants also reported using computers "somewhat" or "a lot" in their daily lives.

## Supporting Faculty Initiatives

With funding from a 2012 TALE Teacher-Scholar Award, Carol Lengel (Instructor, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education) created Educational Math and Reading kits to enhance undergraduate students' tutoring and teaching activities as well as classroom teaching demonstrations. New resources include a subscription to *The Mailbox Magazine* (a grade specific magazine with helpful hints and activities for all subject areas spanning preschool through Grade 6), Language Arts kits, and Math kits covering the following topics: fractions, money, place value, measuring and estimating, basic functions, and time. Check them out!

## **Presentations**

Duncan, M. K. (2012). BU Toy Library's Alphabet Literacy Play: Teaching Letter Knowledge through the Framework of Multiple Intelligences. **Bloomsburg University Literacy and Learning Conference**, Bloomsburg, PA.

Duncan, M. K., Jones, S., & Pang, Y. (2012). Diversity and Kinship Literacy Play: Celebrating Diversity and Highlighting Human Kinship through Children's Literature and Story-related Activities. **Bloomsburg University Literacy and Learning Conference**, Bloomsburg, PA.

Duncan, M.K. (2012). BU Toy Library: An Actual and Virtual Center of Excellence. **Bloomsburg University and Berwick Health and Wellness Foundation's 21st Annual Health Sciences Symposium and Wellness Fair**, Bloomsburg, PA.

## **Grants**

With funding from the **College of Liberal Arts' Faculty Enhancement Fund**, Dr. Duncan will create Vocabulary Literacy Play totes to accompany the Play-to-Learn Vocabulary online tutorial.

With funding from the **Jones Center for Special Education Excellence**, Dr. Duncan will create Print Motivation Literacy Play totes to complement the Play-to-Learn Print Motivation online tutorial.



## **With Gratitude**

**SOLVE Office** (Jean Downing, Chris Gay, Tim Pelton, and the student workers!)

**Jaime North** (Office of Communications)

**Nina Edgerton** (James V. Brown Library in Williamsport, PA)

**Thank you to everyone who has invited me to speak about the BU Toy Library or who has attended a BU Toy Library presentation this year semester. Your kind remarks and other positive feedback have been very much appreciated.**

*Note: Mary Katherine Duncan regularly speaks with undergraduate and graduate classes, student organizations, and community professionals about the BU Toy Library and its initiatives. Please contact Dr. Duncan at [mduncan@bloomu.edu](mailto:mduncan@bloomu.edu) to schedule a presentation or guided visit to the toy library.*