

MARIANNE BARTON RECEIVES 2008 JANE C. BOURNS AWARD

It is my greatest pleasure to introduce Dr. Marianne Barton, recipient of the 2008 Jane Bourns award.

I feel honored that Marianne is my long time friend and colleague. We met in about 1995, at a CT Task Force on Early Childhood Mental Health. Thinking back, I find it amazing that such a task force even existed! We co-chaired the Assessment Workgroup, and are still using an assessment that we developed together at that time. Marianne had just moved from Bradley Hospital in Rhode Island, where she was Assistant Chief of the Program for Early Childhood Disorders, There, she was mentored by Dr. Charley Zeanah, whom most of you know as the editor of the *Handbook on Infant Mental Health*. Marianne came to University of CT's Department of Psychology in 1994, where she became Director of the Psychological Services Clinic. There, she was responsible for the training of graduate students in psychology, developing and implementing clinical policies, supervising assessment and treatment, and working with community agencies. No student could ever wish for a more erudite and nurturing mentor!

Not only has Marianne taught her students, but she has been an extremely active member of the CT community, giving countless talks on autism, attachment, emotional development, and mental health consultation. In fact, she gave our very first Plenary Presentation at the first Annual Meeting of the CT IMHA! She has also authored numerous presentations and posters at the national level. She was Co-Chair of the Assessment Section of the CT Department of Education **Task Force to Revise State Guidelines for the Identification and Treatment of Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in CT**. As identification of children on the autistic spectrum has dramatically increased, this role is absolutely critical. Marianne also has consulted extensively with the CT Birth to Three System, with local early care and education sites, and school systems. She is also an autism researcher, and is one of the authors of the M-CHAT, an autism screen that many of you are currently using. And, in her spare time, Marianne has over 20 publications, and cares for her family and two children.

Marianne is the kind of person that we all aspire to be: smart, creative, intuitive, generous of spirit, and oh so modest. In her email to me, she wrote, "Truth to tell, I have had fabulous mentors and colleagues, wonderful opportunities, and devoted students, all of whom make me look good." This is a truly wonderful person, so deserving of the Jane C. Bourns Award, Marianne Barton...