2011 Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest award Mennonite College of Nursing bestows upon its graduates. **Paula Steele Boland, CRNA, Class of 1958,** was selected as the 2011 recipient of this prestigious award.

Paula received her diploma from Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing; a B.A. from Malone University in Canton, Ohio; and graduated from Aultman Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia.

She had the opportunity to observe nurses at work before she was a nursing student, and it was the Mennonite nurses who inspired her because they were confident, well trained and held values she admired. When she attended Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing (MHSN), the director of nursing was Miss Maxwell, and she, as well as her instructors and many others involved in her education, made sure that she left school prepared for any nursing challenge.

Paula served on the board of the Ohio Perinatal Association and received the Nurse of the Year Award from the Aultman Hospital OB/GYN Residents. She is a member of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Ohio Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and Church of the Lakes Parish Nurses.

She is a parish nurse at her church, enjoys being a poll worker for elections, and helps organize a community flu clinic in the fall. She continues to support Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University because she feels it is important to support our present and future nurses. She knows the spirit of the Mennonite nursing traditions will continue and that there will be even greater opportunities and need for future nursing graduates.

“It is such an honor to receive this award,” said Boland. “This is the ultimate recognition of a long and extremely rewarding career in nursing.”