What motivated you to become a gerontological nurse educator?
As a GNP, it was frustrating to work with well-meaning NPs who had received little to no education in caring for the older adult population. Their lack of preparation left them frustrated for such a unique, complex population.

Favorite experience as a gerontological nurse expert educator?
It is always rewarding to hear a student proclaim an unexpected love of caring for older adults. When I taught bedside nursing many years ago, a young student told me she didn’t like “old people”. A year later, she was in another class I was teaching she made a point of coming up to me and telling me that she had “fallen in love with old people”.

Who is a key person who supported you in becoming a gerontological nurse educator?
Linda Norman (Dean, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing) hired me as an instructor in 1999. She has always supported my endeavors and is a avid supporter of gerontological nursing education. She has facilitated numerous opportunities that have refined my ability to teach gerontological nursing.

Where would you like to see gerontological nursing education to be at in 5 years?
I want to see more mandatory gerontological content in all levels of nursing education. I would also like to see more incentives offered to nursing schools who provide high quality gerontological education.

Key words of wisdom for those nurses interested in becoming a distinguished educator in gerontological nursing education?
After implementation of the APRN Consensus Model, another faculty member me told me that my sole expertise in geriatrics was a liability.