

Some thoughts from Dr. Rose Mary Stiffin

- 1. What skills did you develop in graduate school that have allowed the career trajectory that you have taken?**

Under Dr. Gerald Carlson's tutelage and guidance, I learned to ask deeper questions in developing hypotheses and purposes for research. I also greatly improved my writing/editing skills.

- 2. What is one of the skills that you have acquired since graduate school that could have been developed during your doctoral studies?**

Being able to promote my self-worth, having a louder, stronger voice.

- 3. Interpersonal relationships are important for all professions. Is there a strategy that you have found effective for dealing with difficult relationships?**

Remain calm and listen.

- 4. No doubt you've had to make many career-direction decisions. What advice do you have for someone who might be wavering between choices?**

Ask yourself this: can you do _____ for the next 40-50 years?

Are you happy going to work every day/most days?

- 5. What was the best career move you made and why?**

I wanted to be a dynamo in industry and realized I did not have the dog-eat-dog personality that I needed a quarter of a century ago. I have been teaching for over twenty years and I absolutely love it, made the right decision. Every once in a while, I do want to advance to Dean, etc., but I also know as a true dean, I would probably not teach.