

Edward (Jay) Doolan

My Post-Grad Journey:

Shortly after graduation, I began a two year commitment as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Turkey and Ghana. I taught English as a Second Language in both countries--at the high school level in Turkey and the teacher college level in Ghana. This experience exposed me to new cultures, languages, religions, politics, and poverty. I credit the Peace Corps with broadening my perspective about so many things--how I wanted to live my life, what I valued, how I viewed the world--ideas I started thinking about at Fairfield. It also confirmed my interest in education as a career when I returned to the United States, and fueled a lifelong passion for world travel.

I began my career in Camden, NJ, in 1971 first as a teacher, then counselor, and finally federal program administrator. In 1976 I joined the New Jersey State Department of Education where I spent the bulk of my career--33 years--in a number of key positions. During that time I worked for six Governors on a variety of education initiatives, and was the director of a number of offices that focused on curricular issues, urban education, and secondary education. I ended my career at the department as an assistant commissioner for the Division of Educational Standards and Programs. In this position, I was responsible for the development and implementation of the Common Core Standards, the statewide assessment system, a new high school transformation initiative, teacher and administrator licensing, and career and technical education.

In 2009 I retired from the state and went to the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association where I became the CEO of the Foundation for Educational Administration. Here was an opportunity to support the state's school and district leaders and to assist putting policy into practice based on many years of state experience. I retired after nine years in July 2018.

As an educator, I strongly believe in lifelong learning and to that end I earned a master's degree in 1974 in counseling psychology from the College of New Jersey, and a doctoral degree in educational administration from Rutgers University in 2004.

I have a lot of interests, but two areas predominate. During the 1980s and 1990s I sang regularly with the Trenton Civic Opera and the Princeton Opera, two local

theater groups. I performed over 25 leading roles and the experience taught me much about how to work with others and how to perform in any situation. Since the 1980s, I have also spent a great deal of time traveling. I have taken two around the world trips covering 18 countries, and travel regularly each year visiting incredible places on nearly all of the continents. All of these adventures have been with my partner and best friend. We met in mid-life, are married, and live in Doylestown, PA.

What is your favorite Fairfield University memory?

My time as editor-in-chief of The Stag, the student newspaper, provides a lot of memories. The end of the sixties was a tumultuous time in the United States and all of the critical events impacted our campus. In addition to our interest in the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and other national issues, Fairfield was also grappling with coeducation, an ambitious building program, and student rights. My best times were sitting with the Editorial Board discussing our reaction to these events and reaching consensus on a position. This often occurred at the Howard Johnson's restaurant in Fairfield on all-you-can-eat fried chicken night. The ability to think critically, to argue a position, and to write clearly were skills I learned at Fairfield and used my entire life.