

Kevin C. Walsh

My Post-Grad Journey:

After graduating, I spent six months at Army Reserve basic training at Fort Polk, then explored a variety of opportunities, including an MBA program and positions in a technology company and with the Bureau of Narcotic and Dangerous Drugs (now the DEA.) The latter ended before it began when I was in a car accident and couldn't pass the physical. During the seven months I spent recovering in the hospital, I decided to go to graduate school for social work. I spent the next 43 years working in nonprofit agencies focusing on child welfare, juvenile justice, and legislative advocacy in New York State. Since St. Patrick's Day 2016, I've enjoyed retirement with my wife, Casey, traveling the world, riding my bike, volunteering, and spending time with our 10 grandchildren.

What is your favorite Fairfield University memory?

Besides the fun at Ship Ahoy and parties on Beach Road, what I remember most is learning to appreciate the value of lifelong learning. Entering Fairfield, I believed the benefit of education was securing a job and pursuing a career. Over the next four years, I came to appreciate the value of continually learning new things, seeing other perspectives, and understanding there is always something more to explore. One specific event was the tipping point. In my junior year, Dr. Rossi, the biology professor who was facilitating special seminar, talked about what he did to stay current in his field, keep learning, and remain informed about world events. Every day he got up at 5 am, he told us, read newspapers, journals, and a variety of books. I was amazed; he was already successful, had a good job, yet he did this and enjoyed it! Looking back today, my reaction seems funny, but since then, I have valued ongoing learning, and this has enriched my life for the past 50 years. The only regret I have is that I never said, "Thank you, Dr. Rossi."