



Ed Casey Retires After 31 Years as a PCCC Counselor

Ed Casey, one of the most dedicated and beloved counselors at PCCC, will retire at the end of 2010 from his long career at the College. “I can’t believe 31 years could have gone by that fast,” said the soft-spoken, elegant gentleman in a recent interview. “I will miss everybody connected to the College,” he added, “but I will miss the students most of all. They have been a joy beyond words.”



A lifelong New Jerseyan, Mr. Casey attended St. Benedict’s Preparatory School in Newark and graduated in 1962 from St. Peter’s College in Jersey City with a B.S. degree in business and a minor in English. Nine years later, he earned a master’s degree in social work from Seton Hall University and is a member of the New Jersey Association of College and University Counselors, the New Jersey Association of Community College Counselors, and the National Board of Certified Counselors.

After his college graduation, Mr. Casey spent five years as a high school English teacher and later served as a social worker in Newark. “That experience impacted my life

significantly,” he said. “I knew I wanted to continue working in an urban environment and with a diverse population.” Though Mr. Casey had enjoyed teaching, he preferred the time spent with students outside the classroom. “I enjoyed listening to the stories about what was going on in their lives and accompanying them on their journey,” he explained. “I felt more comfortable being one-on-one with students.”

Mr. Casey came to PCCC in 1979 with the task to establish the College’s first career center. Today, he estimates that he counsels about 2,000 students per year in what is now the bustling Center for Student Success, a facility that connects students to a full range of counseling, career, and support services.

“Our students here are very special,” said Mr. Casey as he describes the daunting obstacles some of them face. “Many are from different cultures and have language challenges,” he said. “Others are older and already have families they support while going to school. We have single parents and people who work all day in a factory or gas station, then come to classes,” he said. “I’m humbled by their determination and persistence.”

Though Mr. Casey said retirement will give him more time to indulge his love for theater (he regularly attends Off-Broadway productions in New York), he has no plans to completely quit what he calls “a vocation.” He has been exploring opportunities to continue as a volunteer counselor with PCCC, St. Peter’s College, or the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

“It’s not a job,” he said. “It’s a way of life.”

[What Makes Ed Casey Such a Special Counselor? Read more.](#)