



## **EUGENE CURCIO**

### **Class of 1968**

**Eugene Curcio's** professional career began in 1973 as a "bean counter" and except for a brief hiatus for retirement, he continues to be actively involved in the business world.

This journey of success began in the spring of 1973, a few months before he was to graduate from the University of Pittsburgh's Business Administration master's program. He had a job interview with Arthur Young & Company, then one of the "Big Eight" public accounting firms. He had never had much interest in accounting, taking no courses in this subject during his undergraduate studies at Bucknell University and only four in graduate school. He had never thought about being a "bean counter", (how he defined the term accountant). Arthur Young, interested in upgrading its hiring policy through the employment of MBAs, made him an offer he couldn't refuse. For the lack of any other viable or more interesting opportunities, Curcio became an auditor. He said he didn't even know how to spell auditor then, much less possess

what the position really entailed. In a span of two weeks in the summer of 1973, he got married, received his MBA degree, and started his first full-time job which he thought at the time paid him a small fortune.

Fourteen months later, he became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). By now, he realized that he found the symmetry of accounting appealing – the debits always must equal the credits. However, he was not enjoying what he was doing and especially disliked the extensive travel requirements of the job. Fortunately he had several health care clients and he found working in this specialized field very appealing.

In late 1975, Curcio got his break while working as a field supervisor for an audit at a Pittsburgh hospital. During this review, the controller unexpectedly resigned and his company was asked by the hospital if it could "borrow" him for a few months as a "rent-a-controller" until a replacement could be found. Three months later, he was offered the controller job at Central Medical Pavilion, then a 242-bed based hospital in Pittsburgh. His salary doubled overnight, and he didn't have to travel. It was a difficult task for a 26-year-old, who had to manage a staff, most of whom were older, and to navigate a very challenging financial condition the hospital faced.

Three years later, wanting to broaden his horizons and with the blessing of his wife, Deborah, he became Chief Financial Officer at a much larger hospital in Connecticut. This position was a tremendous career opportunity. He left there 19 years later as senior vice president of administration and the chief financial officer of the holding company that owned two hospitals and a variety of health care businesses.

During this time in his career, he became actively involved in the healthcare industry and community organizations. He was active in the Connecticut Hospital Association and chaired the group's finance committee for many years, even serving as a registered lobbyist for a couple of years. He became a Fellow in the Healthcare Financial Management Association, a member of the national Principle and Practices Board, and participated in several exchange programs with the British Health Service.

While in Connecticut, he finally had the opportunity to fly. He had aspired to attend the Air Force Academy when in high school, but it didn't happen then. He got his pilot's license and was an instrumented rate private pilot qualified to fly high performance single engine aircraft. He owned two different planes and would fly extensively as far west as Wisconsin and as far south as Florida over the next 15 years.

Looking for new challenges, Curcio left the hospital system and worked as a national health care consultant for a short time. His next position was with a publicly traded physician practice management company as CFO. In 1999 another opportunity presented itself which enabled him to come home to Pittsburgh. His involvement was with the long-term assisted living and nursing home facilities, first as CFO and then as an owner, lasting from 1999-2014. From 2006 to 2014, he was one of two principal owners of the large company that operated 85 facilities in seven states, employing nearly 13,000 people and generating \$625 million in revenues in two separate companies. These businesses were sold in 2012 and 2014 and Curcio thought he was officially retired.

Retirement didn't last long. Curcio said he missed the action and the challenge and mental stimulation. In 2015, he and two others started investing in hotels. Today, they own three hotels in Florida. He tries to stay out of the way, relying on a full-time management team to run these businesses.

Curcio is the only son of the late Frank and Gilda Curcio. He credits his parents, especially his mother, for instilling in him the importance of an education. They encouraged him to study hard and get an education, and provided substantial financial support so he could attend college.

The Curcio's have two children. Their daughter, Julie is married to Adrian Bittner and they have three children, Kyle (16), Jackson (12) and Camden (7). Their son is Brian and his partner is Thomas Kwan.