



**January 2022**

**Peggy Burgess (Cunningham) - Class of 1967**

January's Alumni Spotlight features Peggy Burgess from the Class of 1967.

Although born in El Paso, Texas, Peggy Burges considers herself a "true Arizonian" having moved to the state when she was just 2-years-old. Among her Arizona upbringing, Peggy remembers her time at Bourgade and cherishes a similar experience that today's students hold in high regard – the ability to participate in everything! As a member of Bourgade's second-ever class, Peggy particularly enjoyed her newspaper and yearbook activities.

After graduating from Bourgade, Peggy studied at the University of California Los Angeles and Arizona State University earning her bachelor's degree in business. After college, Peggy worked as a management trainee at The Arizona Bank, a position that came at the advice of her father who recognized education and banking as great career paths in the 1970s. Though her early years in banking considered her father's advice, Peggy's move to commercial real estate would prove to be a life-changing decision.

Beginning her real estate journey as the controller of a local commercial firm, Peggy learned the ins and outs of the industry. As Phoenix and its neighboring cities began to rapidly develop, Peggy founded Arcadia Management Group on a \$10,000 loan in 1986. Today, Arcadia Management Group is recognized as one of the largest commercial real estate management firms in the state of Arizona. Beginning with just Peggy and one other employee, Arcadia Management Group has evolved to manage over 50 million square feet of commercial real estate spanning 17 states across the United States. Among the successes, Arcadia Management is recognized as the largest fee-management company headquartered in Arizona, and the company has earned the Accredited Management Organization (AMO®) designation from the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM®). The AMO® is awarded to real estate firms that have a track record of high performance, experience, stability and financial accountability in addition to having a Certified Property Manager (CPM®) directing and supervising the real estate management team.

While, today, Peggy remains involved in the day-to-day office and accounting operations, she turned the reins of the company over to a senior management team led by two of her three sons 8 years ago and retained her position as Chief Financial Officer through 2019. Peggy credits the companies sustained success to the leadership of the senior management team and her sons.

There is no doubt that Peggy remains busy with her current role in the office, but with 4 kids and 14 grandchildren, her management focus has definitely shifted from real estate to family. Though the list of business accomplishments is as long as any, Peggy recognizes raising her family as her greatest success.

To learn more about Arcadia Management Group, visit <https://arcdiamgmt.com/>.

Congratulations to Peggy on all her accomplishments!