

People in Business

Insurance alliance names sales coach

Valley Insurance Agency Alliance, which represents more than 130 independent insurance agencies in Missouri and Illinois, recently named AJ Schrage as its sales development coach.

Schrage will develop and assist with the marketing efforts for all alliance members and producers.

He will focus on creating agency growth and business development, through communication efforts and strategic planning.

Prior to joining VIAA, Schrage was an insurance producer specializing in commercial lines. He previously served as a corporate attorney and a genetics researcher.

Schrage earned his Master of Science degree in Genetic Epidemiology from Washington University in St. Louis, his Juris Doctor degree from Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina, and his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Cork Tree Creative names account exec

Edwardsville-based public relations and marketing agency Cork Tree Creative Inc. announced the promotion of Bridget Christner to account executive.

Christner, a Decatur native, graduated this past spring from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where she studied applied communication. She will specialize in media outreach for clients.

Christner began her time at Cork Tree Creative as an intern and was offered a full-time position as an associate post college graduation.

SIUE's professor honored for service

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Jeremy Jewell, PhD, professor in the Department of Psychology, has received the Illinois Probation and Court Services Association's 2020 Exemplary Service Award. The award honors Jewell's partnership in developing evidence-based practices with the Madison County Probation and Court Services Department.

The statewide award is presented annually to one deserving individual who has served to further probation and court services through their dedication and commitment within the private sector. The award was presented to Jewell during IPCSA's Annual Fall Conference, held virtually over Zoom.

For more than 17 years, Jewell has served Madison County, offering beneficial services such as program development, program evaluation, and staff training. Through this long-standing partnership, Jewell has provided research-driven programs developed to help

probation clients improve their anger management and compassion skills. His published analyses and outcomes have been shared by the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts and serve as resources for individuals and courts nationwide.

Jewell's research lab has developed two programs focused on improving coping skills in detained youth—the Relaxation Skills Violence Prevention program (RSVP) and the Compassion Approach to Learning Meditation (CALM). While utilizing the strengths of both programs, Jewell's lab is currently piloting a third program that will focus on helping teens in detention learn new ways to cope with anger, stress and frustration.

Orthopedic surgeon joins HSHS Medical Group

HSHS Medical Group is pleased to welcome Dr. Steven Morton, orthopedic surgeon, to its medical team.

Morton sees patients at HSHS Medical Group Orthopedic Surgery - Breese, 9515 Holy Cross Lane, Suite 175, Breese, and HSHS Medical Group Orthopedic Surgery - Highland, 12860 Troxler Ave., Suite 120, Highland.

Morton specializes in diagnosing and treating conditions and injuries of the bones, muscles, joints and tendons both surgically and non-surgically. Board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery, he is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, American Osteopathic Association of Orthopedic Surgeons and American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Morton earned his bachelor's degree at University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Massachusetts. He received his medical degree from University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine. He performed an orthopedic surgery residency at Deaconess Health Systems in St. Louis, Missouri, and an orthopedic surgery trauma fellowship at University Medical Center of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas.

Lynlee Barnhart, APRN, will be joining Morton in Breese and Highland. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing at Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College in St. Louis, Missouri.

Contractor hires national account exec

Western Specialty Contractors has hired Lauren Kurtzeborn as national account manager at its St. Louis headquarters.

Kurtzeborn is responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with Western's National Account Partners, supporting branches in the company's West Division, and cultivating new contracts within the current National Account partnerships.

Prior to Western, Kurtzeborn worked for Enterprise in St. Louis for 13 years, most recently as an account manager in the company's Fleet Division. She has a Bachelor of Science in

Business Administration in Marketing and a Bachelor of Arts in Dance from Southeast Missouri State University.

She resides in O'Fallon, Mo., with her husband and their 6x-month-old son.

Louer chosen for women's honor

Jane Louer, president and CEO of Louer Facility Planning Inc. in Collinsville, was chosen as one of the top 20

Women in Construction Awards inaugural class announced by St. Louis Construction and Review Magazine in its November-December 2020 issue.

The panel of judges included eight women who are industry professionals.

The honor recognizes community leaders and industry pioneers, who exemplify excellence, a hard work ethic, dynamic leadership, creativity, vision and generosity of time and service to build and encourage future female leaders and help clear a pathway for more women to excel in a traditionally male-dominated industry. Awardees included leaders in general contracting, trades, architects, engineers and designers.

Louer's career began in 1975 and encompassed decades of working in the design/build sector and culminating with starting her own design and office furniture dealership in 1996. With the company's 25th anniversary coming up in 2021, Louer Facility Planning has grown to be the premier workspace environments expert, bringing the design/build concept to the process of creating workspaces that enhance productivity and collaboration and support safety in the workplace.

Bank of Springfield names Staunton manager

Lyn Parrott has joined Bank of Springfield as assistant vice president, Staunton Banking Center branch manager. Parrott has more than 15 years of retail banking and management experience.

She is a Staunton native and a Certified Financial Counselor.

BOS was founded in 1965 in Springfield

and now serves nine communities with branch locations in Springfield, Chatham, Jacksonville, Quincy, Shiloh, Swansea, Glen Carbon and Staunton in Illinois and one branch in St. Louis.

Evolution hires GM at its knit factory

Evolution St. Louis announced it has hired Sevan Altan as its first general manager. Altan brings decades of experience in flatbed knitting, production, design, programming and business development. He will oversee all departments at the company's high-tech knit manufacturing facility at 3830 Washington Blvd. in St. Louis.

Altan comes from Stoll America, where he managed operation and pro-

gramming for flatbed knitting. His previous experience includes working in Istanbul for Abiteks Tekstil and Arslanli Örne as a Stoll programmer, designer, machine operator, production manager, knitwear designer and senior merchandiser.

Evolution St. Louis is a high-tech knitting facility using cutting-edge 3D and complete garment seamless knitting technology to create what it calls the manufacturing facility and supply chain of the future.

Regions market president named for retiring head

Regions Bank has hired banking veteran Scott Hartwig serve as market executive for the bank in St. Louis and

surrounding communities in Missouri and Illinois.

Hartwig has met the banking needs of clients in the area for over 30 years, the last six of which have been spent with Regions serving Commercial Banking customers. He will succeed Mike Hart as market executive. Hart announced plans to retire from Regions at the end of this year.

Regions has outlets across Metro East.

As market executive, Hartwig will work

with Regions leaders across all banking departments to focus their teams on implementing Regions360, what the bank calls its comprehensive approach to meeting customers' needs.

Hartwig joined Regions in 2014 following 25 years of Commercial Banking and Credit leadership roles at Enterprise Bank and Trust and Bank of America in metro St. Louis where he served medium and large corporate clients. He earned a bachelor's degree in Financial Management from Missouri State University and obtained a Master of Business Administration from St. Louis University. Hartwig volunteers with Lutheran Senior Services, serving on the finance committee. He is a past board member and former treasurer for the organization. Hartwig is also involved with Pathfinder Church, previously serving as board president and a finance committee member.

During Hart's service at Regions, he led the bank's regional Commercial Banking group across five states. Hart was also instrumental in bringing the Inner City Capital Connections program to St. Louis twice. ICCC connects small-business owners and operators in underserved areas with nationally renowned business training at no cost. More than 200 Greater St. Louis entrepreneurs participated in the ICCC programs.

Hart also actively served on many boards to help advance the Greater St. Louis community. They include Operation HOPE Midwest, the St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce, the St. Louis Regional Business Council, Jobs for America's Graduates – Missouri and the St. Louis Sports Commission. Hart is also a United Way of Greater St. Louis board member, where he serves as the Men's Leadership Society Chair.

Send People in Business items to Editor Dennis Grubaugh, dgrubaugh@ibjonline.com.



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