

Stephanie Griffin Passes the Maine State Property & Casualty Producer Licensing Exam.



Stephanie
Griffin

Allen Insurance and Financial is pleased to announce that Stephanie Griffin has passed the Maine State Property & Casualty Producer licensing exam.

Griffin, of Camden, joined Allen Insurance and Financial in late 2010 as a receptionist in the company's Camden office.

A native of Appleton, Griffin is attending the University of Maine in Augusta, working toward a bachelor's degree in public administration. She has already earned a certificate in human resource management from UMA.

Griffin, who had not worked in insurance prior to joining Allen Insurance and Financial, participated in the company's in-house education program, where employees who want to become licensed insurance producers in Maine attend class for four hours each week, then study and prepare for the state licensing exam on their own time.

Allen Insurance and Financial is a Safeco President's Award Winner

Allen Insurance and Financial has been honored with the President's Award for its superior performance by Peerless Insurance and Safeco Insurance, members of the Liberty Mutual Group.

Allen Insurance and Financial was recognized for achieving exceptional results in 2010, including account growth and loss ratio targets, as well as for its exemplary service to Peerless and Safeco customers.

Allen Insurance and Financial is one among an elite group of agencies nationwide to be so recognized and has been named a President's Award winner 18 times.

Officials from both Safeco and Peerless, representing the commercial and personal segments of the Liberty Mutual Group, visited the Allen Insurance and Financial offices recently to thank the company's 70+ employees for their hard work, dedication and professionalism.

In addition to the company award, Allen Insurance and Financial's Joella Rossignol, a personal insurance specialist, has been recognized by Safeco for her individual efforts on behalf of Safeco Insurance customers. As a member of Safeco's H.K. Dent Society, Rossignol is among the top 10 percent of all Safeco agency.

Linda St Clair achieves CPCU designation



Linda St Clair, an Allen Insurance and Financial business insurance specialist, was recently awarded the designation of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter, one of the most prestigious designations in the insurance industry and held by less than 5 percent of insurance professionals.

The CPCU designation is conferred by The Institutes, founded in 1942. Insurance professionals who earn the CPCU designation must pass eight rigorous undergraduate- and graduate-level examinations, meet experience requirements, and agree to be bound by a strict code of professional ethics.

St. Clair, of South Thomaston, joined Allen Insurance and Financial in 2003. She serves business clients from the company's Camden office. When she's not at work, St Clair enjoys traveling, camping or spending time with her grandchildren.

Linda can be reached at 236-4311 or by email: [lstclair\(at\)allenif.com](mailto:lstclair@allenif.com)

Scott Carlson Receives State Insurance License



Scott
Carlson

Carlson studied for the state exam through the Allen Insurance and Financial's in-house education program, passing the exam on the first try. He joined the company in December 2010.

The Allen Insurance and Financial education program is run by Gene McKeever in the company's Camden office. Staff attend classes on company time as they prepare for their exams. Since the state also requires 30 hours of continuing education over every two-year period for those in the insurance business, Allen Insurance and Financial sponsors those classes, as well.

This kind of investment benefits both Allen Insurance and Financial employees and the company's customers, said Gil Fifield, company president. "We see payback every day – our people receive support and the most up-to-date information and in turn they offer superior service to our clients," Fifield said.

The state-issued study guide for insurance licensing is 400+ pages. The state exams are comprised of 150 questions drawn from a pool of 2,400 questions on a complete range of subject areas, including business and personal insurance, workers' compensation, maritime insurance and Maine insurance law.

Allen Insurance and Financial is an employee-owned insurance, employee benefits, and financial services company with offices

in Camden, Rockland, Saco and Southwest Harbor.

For more information call 236-4311, or visit AllenInsuranceAndFinancial.com

Welcoming Scott Carlson



Scott
Carlson

Scott Carlson of Camden has joined Allen Insurance and Financial.

Previously, he was a partner and client consultant at Links Online Marketing, a website development and Internet marketing business in Bangor. He has also worked as a division manager and design director at Moss, Inc.

A native of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, Carlson has a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Victoria and a master's degree in information systems engineering from Polytechnic Institute of New York University. For his first months at Allen Insurance and Financial, Carlson will be without a specific job title as he participates in the company's comprehensive in-house insurance education program.

"Scott's background in design, manufacturing, engineering, project management and technology provides him with a solid foundation for providing creative solutions to challenging problems, as well as effective management of people, projects

and more,” said Gilbert Fifield, president of Allen Insurance and Financial. “We are looking forward to Scott’s applying these skills to our work here, providing quality products and services to our customers.”

Carlson and his wife Donna live in Camden with their two young sons. He is a member of the Camden Rotary Club and the MCSA Youth Hockey board. Outside of work, he enjoys sailing, hiking, biking, music and spending time with his family.

Tom Chester now a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional



Thomas C.
Chester, CFP®,
AIF®, CPFA®

Thomas C. Chester, financial advisor at Allen Insurance and

Financial, has achieved the designation of CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional.

The CFP® designation has become the most recognized in the financial planning community. Requirements include meeting stringent education and experience standards and a rigorous 10-hour exam. Chester joins his colleague Michael Pierce as the second CFP® on the Allen Insurance and Financial staff.

Chester, of Lincolnville, graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell with a bachelor of science in business administration and a concentration in marketing. Before joining the Allen Insurance and Financial, he was a financial advisor at Bancnorth Investment Planning's local office. His previous work experience includes Eaton Vance Wealth Management in Boston.

He has expertise in the fields of life and health insurance and is an Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network, a Registered Investment Adviser.

He is a past officer at the Camden-Rockport-Lincolnville Chamber of Commerce, past president of the West Bay Rotary Club and a past trustee for the Watershed Community School.

Allen Insurance and Financial Welcomes Theresa A. Kavanagh

Theresa A. Kavanagh of Owls Head has joined Allen Insurance and Financial as a group benefits associate.



Based in the company's Chestnut Street office in Camden,

Kavanagh will be working with Allen's group benefit specialists to serve clients all over Maine.

A native of Vermilion, Ohio, Kavanagh is a graduate of Denison University, where she received a bachelor's degree in mathematics. After college, she sailed along the eastern seaboard and in Europe and the Caribbean. She settled in the Midcoast nine years ago; she was previously administration director at VillageSoup.

Outside of work, Kavanagh splits her time between gardening and working with her husband John to convert the former City of Portland fireboat to a live-aboard cruiser.

"I am thrilled to join Allen Insurance and Financial and become part of a team of professional and well-respected community members," she said.

Sherree Craig Recognized by International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists

 Sherree L. Craig, CEBS

Sherree L. Craig, CEBS, Insured Benefits Manager at Allen Insurance and Financial, has been awarded Fellowship standing in the International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists for a two-year period.

Craig earned this distinction by successfully completing a national employee benefits continuing education exam developed by the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

The International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists is an educational association dedicated to serving the professional development needs of those holding the Certified Employee Benefit Specialist designation. Craig earned her CEBS designation in 2004.

Craig is also a board member of the Maine Association of Health Underwriters and Rockland Rotary. Call Sherree at 230-5840.

Jean Dutch Promoted to Senior Operations Manager

Allen Insurance and Financial has promoted Jean Dutch of Belfast to senior operations manager.



Jean Dutch,
CIC

In her new role, Dutch will be in charge of processes and training throughout the company, and at all locations, in Camden, Rockland and Saco. She was previously head of operations for the Allen Insurance property & casualty divisions.

Dutch has more than 25 years experience in the insurance industry. She holds the Certified Insurance Counselor

designation from the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors, the nation's leading continuing education for insurance professionals.

"We are so pleased to have Jean in this newly-created position. Her experience, enthusiasm and attention to detail are vital to both our day-to-day operations and our planning for continued success in the long-term," said Gil Fifield, company president. Dutch lives in Belfast with her husband Tim. She is based at Allen Insurance and Financial's Camden location.

Joella Rossignol Honored with Award of Excellence by Safeco® Insurance

Joella Rossignol of Allen Insurance and Financial has been honored with the Award of Excellence for her superior underwriting skills and long-term commitment to Safeco® Insurance, member of Liberty Mutual Group.

"This is a very personal award designed to recognize the most committed, loyal agents," said Gil Fifield, president of Allen Insurance and Financial. "It is given to someone who understands, with extraordinary attention to detail, both the needs of her clients and the needs of the insurance company she is working with. This award recognizes expertise, trust and respect. Joella has all of these qualities and she richly deserves this award."

The Award of Excellence celebrates those individuals with superior underwriting skills who have developed a solid underwriting partnership with Safeco and have qualified for membership in Safeco's H.K. Dent Society, the company's elite agency recognition program. Agents who earn this prestigious designation will have the ability to make selected underwriting decisions, attend an awards ceremony and receive a recognition gift.

"Underwriting – assessing an insurance risk and then determining the right amount of premium to charge – can be challenging. You want to make sure individuals and families are properly insured at a fair price," said Rob Jacobson, Safeco personal lines zone underwriting manager. "The Award of Excellence is a wonderful way to recognize great agencies that help us hit the mark every time for our customers."

Rossignol joined Allen Insurance and Financial in 1999. A native of Island Falls, she grew up in Belfast and now lives in Monroe. She is a Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC), a designation showing commitment to continuing education in her field. She works in the company's personal insurance division.

About Safeco

In business since 1923 and based in Seattle, Washington, Safeco sells insurance to drivers and homeowners through a network of independent agents and brokers in eight regions throughout the United States.

Safeco is part of Liberty Mutual Agency Markets, a business unit of Liberty Mutual Group, consisting of property and casualty and specialty insurance carriers that distribute their products and services primarily through independent agents and brokers. Liberty Mutual Group ranks 71st on the Fortune 500 list of the largest U.S. corporations based on 2009 revenues.