GLASS & METAL ALLIANCE

BO OSTROWSKI

SHOP FOREMAN & STEWARD

SPOTLIGHT

On Bo Ostrowski:

Title Shop Foreman for Allglass Systems, LLC (Penndel, PA)

Hometown Fairless Hills, PA

Family Wife Mary; daughter Cali (11 months)

Hobbies Anything outdoors: hiking, hunting, fishing, boating

Favorite Team Any Philadelphia team

ABOUT BO

For Bo Ostrowski, glazing was a natural career path. He's a third-generation glazier, following in the vocational footsteps of his grandfather and father. "Glazing always provided for his family," Bo says of his father, Gerry. "I knew that it would provide for mine. Maybe one day I'll pass it on to the next generation."

Bo works as Shop Foreman and Steward for Allglass Systems, LLC, in Penndel, Pa. He started his career in glazing in 2001, and began his apprenticeship in 2002. By the time he was a third-year apprentice, Bo was running the shop for Allglass. As Foreman, he gets a vast perspective on the company's glazing projects, involved with everything from storefronts to handrails.

His daily responsibilities might include receiving materials, double-checking cut lists, reviewing drawings, cutting glass, fabricating systems, or shipping items to the teams in the field. "I get to be hands-on for every aspect of the trade," Bo says. "The nice thing about the shop is that every day is something different."

MACGYVER

Bo attended Pennsbury High School, where he excelled in academics, especially math. When Bo opted not to go to college, Gerry guided him toward glazing, recognizing it would be a good fit for his son's hands-on skills and strength in problem-solving. Bo always enjoyed building things, from forts in the woods as a kid to cars as a young adult. This earned him

From left: Bo in the shop at Allglass Systems; Bo and Mary in California

From left: Mary, Cali, and Bo boating; Bo, Cali, and Mary this holiday season, and Bo with a recent hunting trophy

the nickname "MacGyver" for his similarities to the TV character known for solving big challenges with household items. While Bo rarely solves glazing issues with tube socks or duct tape, he admits he uses his problem-solving skills and math every day. In fact, Bo likes to give apprentices math tests each morning, encouraging them to practice adding and subtracting fractions or polishing their algebra skills. "I use algebra every single day," he explains. "If you don't know math, this isn't the job for you."

LEADERSHIP

Bo does his best to teach apprentices more than math. He says he gives the utmost of his time to any apprentice who works in his shop. "I want them to be better than I ever was."

Bo's leadership in the shop extends to his role as Allglass' Steward, the dedicated representative who mediates between labor and management. He has held the role since 2008. Bo loves the fact that he gets to communicate between the union, manpower, and management, while admitting the added responsibilities are sometimes challenging. The Steward role means Bo must look out for the interests of the 20+ guys he represents, while working with management to keep everyone pleased. From safety equipment concerns in the field to issues in the shop, Bo puts his problem-solving skills and ability to see concerns from multiple perspectives to good use. He admits he's stern around the edges, but tries to be personable to create an enjoyable work environment for everyone.

FUN & FAMILY

May will mark two years of marriage for Bo and his wife Mary. They have an 11-month-old daughter, Cali. The family lives in Fairless Hills, Pa.

Unlike many glaziers who spend the majority of their days working outdoors on job sites, Bo spends most of his time in the shop. That's why his free time typically brings him outside. He loves to boat, fish, hike, and hunt deer, duck, water fowl, and small game.

Even Bo's volunteer pursuits have related to the outdoors; he just completed two years on the Falls Township Parks & Recreation board.

THANKS DAD

A guy who doesn't seek recognition or the spotlight, Bo nevertheless has built a successful career and happy family life through glazing. "I'm just a go-to-work, get-it-done, do-the-best for me, my family, and my union," Bo says. He repeats this process every day, modeling the lessons learned watching his dad do the same. "It was absolutely a good decision to follow in his footsteps. I know that this career will provide for us for the rest of our lives. I owe it all to my father."