GLASS & METAL ALLIANCE

MATT BRADLEY

FOREMAN & APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR 1998

SPOTLIGHT

On Matt Bradley:

Title Foreman for Eureka Metal & Glass Services, Inc. (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Hometown Langhorne, Pa.
Family Wife Bridget; daughters Mary (24), Melissa (23), and Erin (22)
Favorite Team Philadelphia Eagles
Favorite Band The Allman Brothers Band

ABOUT MATT

Foreman Matt Bradley has spent the last 24 years with Eureka Metal & Glass Services. During this tenure, he has worked on projects large and small, met many different people within glazing and in other building trades, and has built a stable life for his wife and three daughters.

Matt's path to glazing began after he graduated from Father Judge High School in 1987. He spent two and a half years building custom homes before neighborhood friend Tony Valecce hired him as one his first employees in a new residential glazing business. Tony prioritized training and his business soon gained union membership, prompting Matt to take the test to become a union glazier. Then, the unexpected hit; Tony won the lottery and sold his business. Matt shifted employment to another glazing contractor, but the company did not have enough work to sustain him. As a second-year apprentice, he joined the ranks of Eureka and has never looked back.

Left to right: Matt on the job at his current project for Rowan University in Camden, N.J.; Matt with his father and brother

VALIDATION

Matt was honored to be named the 1998 Apprentice of the Year, and he was promoted to foreman at Eureka the next year. His focus on excellence has never wavered, validated both by awards and credentials. In spring 2019, he was finishing the final tasks to attain Architectural Glass and Metal Technician (AGMT) Certification, a new personnel certification program featuring a third-party, independent assessment of an experienced glazier's knowledge of, and ability to properly perform, fundamental glazing procedures. AGMT validates Matt's knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform work that minimizes defects and failures and conforms to customer requirements. He is one of only a handful of glaziers nationwide to achieve the certification.

From left: Matt and his daughters about to zip line in St. Thomas; Matt and Bridget at Mary's graduation from Temple University, the Bradley family

IN THE FIELD

As foreman, Matt spends most of his time on project sites, managing daily responsibilities and ensuring the glaziers on his crew know what they have to do. He's currently working in Camden, N.J., on a project for Rowan University. Field work allows him to meet new people throughout the building trades and to experience new and different glazing systems. Most of the time, Matt enjoys being outside (cold and bad weather are no one's favorites).

Some of his memorable Philadelphia projects include The Harper mixed-use residential tower at 19th and Sansom Streets, the Cambria Hotel at Broad and Locust Streets, and The Beacon residential project in an historic former bank building at 16th and Walnut Streets.

AT HOME

When he's not on a job site, Matt spends time with his wife of 25 years, Bridget, and their three daughters. Mary (age 24) is a civil engineer for Cape May County, N.J. Matt likes to think his construction career encouraged her to follow him into the industry. Melissa (age 23) recently graduated from Penn State and is awaiting acceptance into a nursing program. Youngest daughter Erin (age 22) will graduate this spring from Penn State with a degree in hospital management and medical billing. "They are really good kids," Matt said. "I got lucky." Matt enjoys trips to the family's house in North Wildwood, fishing, and bike riding. Between his home in Langhorne, Pa., and the shore house, he also spends a lot of time on home projects. "I'm always fixing something," he added.

NO WORRIES

Matt has had the opportunity to influence his own life – and the lives of other young glaziers – through his work. On the job, he helps guide apprentices as they begin their glazing careers. His advice is simple: "Show up every day, pay attention, do what you're supposed to do, and you won't have to worry about anything." He encourages apprentices to keep aggressiveness in check yet try to guess the next move. But remember to stay in the moment, focused on the work at hand. He knows from experience that lack of focus leads to mistakes, and he's quick to tell other glaziers the mistakes he's made so that they can be avoided in the future.

Matt explained that, for him, glazing has meant a great career and a way to provide for his family without having to worry about college debt. He looks forward to a pension when he hits retirement, a benefit few jobs offer anymore. "I've been lucky in my career," he said.

EMPLOYER ENDORSEMENT

Eureka President Terry Webb enthusiastically endorsed Matt as a glazier to spotlight. "Matt entered the trade knowing more than most people when he became a glazier," Terry explained. "He was clearly a leader and a high performer from the very beginning, and he has upheld that reputation for 24 years. Beyond his accomplishments at work, Matt is a also a sincere family man who takes very good care of his family."