

Caretaker Spotlight

This month's Caretaker Spotlight introduces you to Tony Gaspar, Glazier Lead with the Glass Shop within LBRE. Tony was born in the Azores archipelago, off the coast of Portugal. He came to the United States, (Santa Clara) when he was 11 years old with his family. He is currently living in San Jose with his wife Lilly and their two sons. Tony has been at Stanford since 1995 as a temporary worker with the paint shop and he became a full time employee in 1998. After a few years with the paint shop, he moved into a role at the glass shop as a glazier. He has moved up over the years as the glass shops lead glazier. When you meet Tony, you will be greeted with a firm handshake and this is something he has taught his boys as well. A firm handshake is a sign of respect and gratitude.



Before coming to Stanford Tony was working in landscaping and painting. He was very interested in hardscaping as a possible career. He truly loves being outdoors and these jobs gave him that opportunity. When you work in facilities, there is no typical workday. Each day is an adventure and it keeps you on your toes. Tony works with the Building Managers on a daily basis, finding solutions for their problems and answering any of their questions. The best practice is communication, before, during and after a job. When you keep people informed and updated, they appreciate it so much.

Tony fell in love with the Stanford campus and knew that he would enjoy working here. He heard about the temporary job position from some friends and decided to apply to the paint shop for a summer job. That summer job turned into more work over the next few years and then Tony was offered a full time position. He worked in the paint shop and landscaping with his family on the weekends because he loves being outdoors so much. Tony knows this was the path he was supposed to be on and wouldn't have changed his career path in any way. He is happy how things have turned out for him down his career path.

There are so many great aspects of Tony's position that he really enjoys. He loves this campus and enjoys all the people he works with, the campus is "breathtaking," says Tony. He considers Stanford his second home since this is where he spends 40+ hours every week. He is always learning new things by working on this campus. Every day is different and he really enjoys trying to find the solution for the different issues that come up. The end result is a success when it's fixed. At the end of the day, it's about building those relationships to create a culture of working together.



One day Tony was driving in his truck and came to a stop sign and who could it be crossing the road, Chelsea Clinton. It took him by surprise to see her with her “undercover secret service” following her. He found it interesting to see how they operate and how very casual her secret service was. He saw her many times after that, but you always remember the first time and how it caught him off guard.

Outside of Stanford he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, fishing, soccer, camping, beach, sports, travel, being out in nature and learning about history.

Tony and his wife, Lilly have been married for 19 years. They have two boys, Nicholas who is 15 years old and Zackary who is 13 years old. They are a handful and two growing teenage boys that keep them busy.

Tony’s work here will be valued for years to come. Thank you for your service to Stanford and helping build this institution’s legacy.



-Author, Raina Michel