

Mentors are invaluable to any team, providing countless years of knowledge and experience. One of our mentors, even though he continually adds to our team, has never been formally recognized for his diligence and commitment to all of his students. Recognition for his contributions is long overdue.

This mentor constantly displays his deep commitment and connection to Team 871. He has a tradition of wearing a shirt every kickoff that says "Just don't ask, I can't, it's build season!", showcasing his dedication to robotics with a catchy phrase emblazoned on his chest. He prioritizes contributing to the team during both preseason and build season, providing his mentees with knowledge that will last them a lifetime. Robotics has become a full family affair for this mentor - currently, both he and his FIRST alumnus son are working together as mentors for our team.

He brings a very soft spoken demeanor that calms the chaos of the hectic build season. With his witty jokes and sense of humor, he never fails to put a smile on other peoples' faces. He uplifts our team spirit by encouraging those around him and being excited for their accomplishments. The team is confident that this mentor will always know where each tool or part is; he takes great pride in his meticulous organization of our storage cabinets. It is a long-running joke that this mentor has "endless pockets" as he always seems to have exactly what is needed on hand. We refer to him as our team's personal "Mary Poppins".

As the sole Electrical mentor for the past 8 years, his knowledge and attitude inspires students to get involved and do their best. This mentor comes in early for meetings and stays late to help the students. When it comes down to truly mentoring the students, he will patiently teach them how to do a new skill, answer any questions that they have, and then leave them to complete that same task themselves, allowing them to problem solve on their own. Throughout the years, students have always enjoyed the way he uses hands-on learning, making sure everyone participates within his sub-team and each member has a role on our team.

This mentor has served as an electrical engineer at Microchip for more than a decade. Because of his volunteering with the team, his employer sponsors us annually. He continues to spread his excitement of robotics by inviting his coworkers and their children to watch the competition live. His passion for robotics goes beyond the shop and his office as he talks about Team 871 everywhere he goes, even to his neighbors, causing their children to join the team.

From the silly graphic tee-shirts, to his corny jokes, the bright smile and good ideas, this mentor has proved that he is a key element to our team. A big thank you goes to our Electrical sub-team mentor, Mr. Bill Mahany.