

I'm A Mentor

I am a mentor. That is something I never thought I would say about myself. I am the mentor for the Texas A&M University competition team.

Texas A&M University first entered the Roofing Alliance Construction Management Student Competition in 2019. And it was my first time as a mentor. I had no idea what to expect.

The Construction Management Schools Initiative Committee was kind enough to supply guidelines for the mentors. With the guidelines in hand and some trepidation, I set out to be a mentor. Per the supplied guidelines, I could not help with the quantity survey, pricing, schedule or proposal. My job, as I saw it, was to answer team questions and offer suggestions. As a mentor, you should never make changes to anything the students are working on. It should be noted, although I've been in the commercial roofing business since 1985, I didn't get into low-slope roof system applications until 2011. Until then, I had been working for a company that specialized in standing-seam metal roof systems, sheet metal wall panels and aluminum composite material panels.

The students named their company **Old Army Roofing Company**. Old Army is a slang term for Aggies who are involved in all the Texas A&M University traditions. As an homage to the Architecture Department, the students used **1969** as the date the Old Army Roofing Company was established. In **2019**, the Architecture Department celebrated its 50th anniversary. The team also used a retired professor emeritus as the individual who started Old Army Roofing. The name for the company and its founder were not my idea, but I was pleased with the thought and effort that went into this part of the role playing.

The Aggies won! Our first year and we won. I think I had a big smile on my face for a week. So here we are again. We are about to enter the competition for the third time. This year, I have a new faculty advisor and five new students for the team. I'm looking forward to sharing my 30-plus years in commercial roofing with some new faces.

If you've wondered whether you can be a mentor, the answer is yes, you can. I've never regretted a moment of my time doing this.

Best Regards,

King of Texas Roofing Company

Mark Standifer '85

Mark Standifer '85

Project Manager

KING OF TEXAS ROOFING COMPANY, L.P.

Office: 972-399-0003 Cell: 972-345-1246

www.kingoftexas.com

