



Warren S. Johnson Society Newsletter  
WSJSociety.com  
Vol. 33, No. 3 / Third Quarter 2025

**Summer Luncheon**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2025**

Alioto's-3041 N. Mayfair Road

**PRICE: \$30 per person**

11am-Gathering / 12pm-Lunch / 1:00pm-program

The luncheon selections are:

- Sliced Roast Beef w/potatoes, gravy, vegetables
- Chicken Parmesan w/Mostaccioli
- Seasonal Salad w/Grilled Chicken Breast

The dessert will be vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup.

Lunches are served with a salad and choice of dressing, Italian bread, and coffee.

The seasonal salad is served with soup or fruit cup (in season), Italian bread and coffee.

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions you may have when making your reservations or contact Jim Pasterczyk, VP Program at 414-764-8609.

Lunch is **\$30** per person.

Please make checks payable to: WSJ Society  
Checks need to arrive by **October 9, 2025**

Mail checks to:

WSJ Society  
P.O. Box 510105  
Milwaukee, WI 53203

See page 3 for instructions to use PayPal™

**PROGRAM SPEAKER**

**Dr Patrick Jung**  
**MSOE Art History Teacher**

Dr. Patrick Jung has taught at the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) since 2003. He works in MSOE's Grohmann Museum, which has one of the largest collections in the world dedicated to artistic depictions of human labor and industry.

Dr. Jung has researched German art history since 2010 and has produced a biography of the German artist Erich Mercker, whose paintings of industrial landscapes in the first half of the twentieth century stand as some of the greatest works in their genre.

In addition to teaching art history, Dr. Jung teaches the history of World War II at MSOE and has researched and published scholarly works on the art policies of the Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945.



## President's Message

### JCI Engineering Tour

Thanks to our recently retired member Dan Spacek, 6 - 8 WSJ Society members were able to get a tour of the new Engineering building in Glendale Wi. It is across the street (Florist Ave.) North of the Corp HQ on Green Bay Rd. JCI bought a 2-story building and did a major remodeling of it for the Engineering staff that was relocated from the now empty 507 E. Michigan facility. The first floor is mostly labs, with a cafeteria and a few meeting rooms. The second floor is meeting rooms and cubicles. Most of the cubes were set up for daily use by staff that are otherwise working remotely. So, the occupancy was rather light.

The labs would look very familiar to most of our former engineering staff of the many different specialties that have worked at JCI in the past. There are labs full of racks with all versions of digital controllers going through various thermal and extended life cycle tests. I was encouraged to see several rooms still dedicated to tests of the controlled devices (valves, dampers, and actuators), along with performance graphs of the mechanical equipment they connect to. A control system is only as good as its weakest link, so all the great things today's digital controls can do, are subject to being thwarted by the end devices that actually regulate the heating and cooling fluids and fresh air that ultimately deliver the comfort HVAC systems are installed to provide. If those end devices do not perform accurately, repeatably, and reliably, the best the high-tech controls can do is sound an alarm and, if smart enough, pinpoint the problem area. Electronics and digital have done great things for the buildings industry, and they get most of the headlines, but they do not directly change the psychrometrics of comfort, without those controlled devices. (There's a term you put on the shelf a long time ago;-)

To those of you that may not quite be this deep into control loop function, let me try an analogy to your automobile. If the vehicle design teams put lots of fancy sound systems and computer screens in the car, along with high tech cameras and self-driving features, but neglect the engine, transmission, suspension and brakes, the vehicle will not perform very well.

Please pardon my getting a bit geeky on the controls topic, but I believe it points in the right direction that JCI is striving to get back their focus on the "Commercial" building market. Residential and light commercial have never been very willing to pay for the higher quality that is required for better HVAC control. Quality Commercial buildings with a leaning toward Industrial may be closer to what we used to be.

Gene Strehlow PE

Ps: Ex-Johnsonite (York) Bill McQuade, just became ASHRAE President for 25-26. I doubt we can get him as a luncheon speaker.

## About the WSJ Society

The WSJ Society is a social group of people who share career experiences at Johnson Controls, Inc. The Society brings its members together to enjoy and help each other; and contribute to community. Activities of the society are described at the website: [www.WSJociety.com](http://www.WSJociety.com).

This Newsletter is published quarterly to contribute to those goals. Member stories and ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

### OFFICERS:

Gene Strehlow	President
Jim Pasterczyk	VP Program
Mary Kehoss	VP Membership
Richard Schreiner	Treasurer
Dave Anderson	Secretary
Otto Mageland	Website
Erica Wolfe, Ex-Officio	Newsletter Editor

### Board of Directors

John Meyer  
Carol Lomonaco  
Greg Pascucci

For membership information, contact the Membership VP using this email:

[help@wsjsociety.com](mailto:help@wsjsociety.com)

For any payments, include a note describing the intent of the payment, make checks payable to **WSJ Society**, and mail to:

**WSJ Society**  
**P. O. Box 510105**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53203**

For street or email address changes, and items submitted for publication in the Newsletter, please contact our Newsletter Editor:

Mail: **Erica Wolfe**  
**Newsletter Editor**  
**5207 Robinwood Lane**  
**Hales Corners, WI 53130**

To pay for your luncheon using PayPal™, send an email request to [wsj.president@gmail.com](mailto:wsj.president@gmail.com). Please indicate name(s) and menu choice(s). A PayPal™ invoice will be sent to you electronically with instructions for payment which will include the **5% service fee**. (\* Your email must be registered with a PayPal™ account).

## *In Remembrance*

**Bob Crown**, long time employee of JCI in Milwaukee passed away on September 21, 2025 at the age of 97. He served as a mechanical engineer until his retirement in 1988. He is survived by his wife Mary, their 3 children and their families.

**Mack Blankenship** passed away June 17, 2019 at the age of 87. Mack retired from the Greensboro office after a 40-year career as a service sales engineer. He is survived by his wife Joann, their two children and their families.

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### First time attendees at July luncheon



Warren Metzger and Al Bronikowski



Curt Taylor

## Metasys Origins

By Dan Spacek

As a new engineer in the early 80s I cut my teeth on understanding and maintaining JCI's existing controller products. Not too long after that engineering began to hear rumblings of an effort to design and develop a new product line. Given the fast pace of the of electronics at the time, smaller products with more capability were the goal. A small team of the more experienced engineering staff were sequestered in a corner of 507 and the head scratching began.

Not too long after designs containing phrases like peer to peer and direct digital control were presented. The project was code named Lobo (by our own Dave Anderson), short for Lobachevsky, a Russian who was known as the "Copernicus of Geometry". Small teams of engineers were formed to investigate communication protocols, operating systems, compilers and user features and interfaces. Meeting after meeting coupled with countless water cooler discussions soon lead to a state of analysis paralysis. Engineers were tasked with writing specs on these various components. We were eager to start building something but instead were in a stall state akin to the middle phase of smoking a 15-pound pork shoulder. At times I think we felt like we were afraid of building the wrong thing, a design and of this scale was uncharted territory for most. These delays lead to a fear of missing the market window that could be captured by our competitors.

We gradually pulled our feet out of the mud and made decisions that allowed for designs to move forward. A new status of "the door is closed" signified that an item's design was complete and ready to move forward, but alas sometimes the door would reopen. A group of engineers and management made a trip to Essen, Germany to compare our proposed designs with the European team's existing system. It was a week full of fruitful of designs and ideas. At the end of the trip a banquet with over 50 employees was held in a local restaurant. Joe Lewis thanked all for their efforts and looked forward to the project's future. He then instructed the waiter that he would like another drink, (gin on the rocks) and also get everyone else what drinking too. There was a little in translation as the waiters returned with gin on the rocks for all 50 of us!

The implementation proceeded at engines full pace, soon we were connecting and testing our own prototypes. Half a dozen test sites around the country were chosen for the first customer installations. At one pneumatic retrofit site, control was so good the customer declared that we broke their dial and gauge panel since the gauges stopped fluttering. I was lucky enough to be selected to lead a large Chrysler R&D installation in Pontiac, Michigan that still uses this Metasys product line. I often wondered why so much time and money was spent on a very sharp looking product package since it would sit in a dark room while doing its job, I am sure our sales force did not. The packaging scheme won awards for styling and appearance. Its ability to dissipate heat increased as the temperature within the enclosure increased. This was jokingly translated to "The warmer it gets, the cooler it gets".

The Metasys product line was released in 1990 and was very well received. The life of "Gen 1" included 12 software releases, various hardware updates with sales being discontinued in 2004. Over the years this has been superseded by new versions of hardware and software, yet the Metasys name lives on. As frustrating as the experience was at times, I was always waiting for the next big clean sheet engineering project. However, future large projects were based on existing system evolution and reuse and thus it never really happened, although I had enjoyed working on other new products. It definitely instilled in me JCI's greatest attributes, talented, cooperative people linking arms to produce quality products and a management organization that had the patience and funding to get this done.

# TIME?



**..... YES, and time to renew your membership!**

Keep in touch with your life-long work associates via the Newsletter! **Annual Association membership dues are \$5....** You may choose to pay several years in advance or pay a **lifetime membership of \$50** as over 500 members have chosen to do. New members (only) paying after September 1<sup>st</sup> will be credited for both the current and next year. Not sure you've paid your dues? Please refer to the "WSJ Society - Members List", which is included as an attachment to this newsletter, and can also be found on our [WSJSociety.com](http://WSJSociety.com) website in the "Members Only" section.

## **MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENT COMES WITH 10 YEARS**

If you are retired from Johnson Controls or still working there with 10 years of employment, you are eligible for membership in the Johnson Controls Retirement Society.

The address for sending your membership to is listed inside this newsletter.