

ACCURIS

MARCH 2026  
ISSUE 05

# Heroes

OF STANDARDS AND CODES



## EXCLUSIVE

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INTERVIEW WITH  
PRINCIPAL  
ENGINEER AT  
*HSB & LONG-*  
*TIME MEMBER OF*  
*ASME BPVC*  
*COMMITTEES*

## GET TO KNOW HIM JAY CAMERON

METALLURGIST BY DAY  
ASTRONOMER BY NIGHT



TAKE A PEEK INTO THE LIFE OF A METALLURGY PROFESSIONAL AND HOW HE BALANCES A "TRIPLE THREAT" CAREER TO SHAPE SAFETY STANDARDS IN THE CRITICAL WORLD OF GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

## MEET JAY CAMERON

**JAY CAMERON, PRINCIPAL ENGINEER AND ASME FELLOW, IS A MATERIALS SPECIALIST WHOSE FOUR-DECADE JOURNEY BEGAN IN THE HIGH-STAKES INDUSTRY OF JET ENGINES BEFORE EVOLVING INTO A GLOBAL LEADERSHIP LEGACY.**

For most, the world of pressure vessels and material specifications is one of dense technical manuals and rigid requirements. But for Jay Cameron, Principal Engineer at Hartford Steam Boiler (HSB) and an ASME Fellow, it is a "material world" where there is not only utility in knowing about materials, but also "so much beauty." With a career spanning over 40 years, Jay has emerged as a "Triple Threat" in the industry-balancing professional authority, a life-long dedication to volunteer leadership, and a legacy as an educator.

As a recipient of the ASME Melvin R. Green Codes & Standards Medal and the inaugural BPVC Section II Gold Standard Award, Jay's impact is etched into the codes that keep global infrastructure safe. Whether he is digging through 100-year-old code books, or mentoring the next generation of engineers, or commuting on his Harley in 25°F weather, Jay's work ensures that the mistakes of the past are codified into the safety of the future so that new generations "don't have to re-learn our mistakes."

***"FOCUS OUR ENERGIES  
ON WHAT REALLY  
MATTERS."***

**The Arc: You have an incredible 40-year journey in engineering. In your own words, how would you describe the evolution from the labs of Pratt & Whitney to your current status as a global leader at HSB and ASME?**

**Answer:** “First, I was blessed as a new Engineer to experience a multitude of aspects of the engineering field. I started on a new engine design project, then manufacturing, project management, failure analysis, and structural analysis. At a smaller oilfield company later on, I learned I was missing a critical “language” of mechanical engineering - that of materials. I took night and Summer courses to earn my MS in Metallurgy. This wide exposure offered me a more global view that transferred to the pressure equipment industry as a technical contributor, training creator, and mentor.”

**The Forensic Lens: Your early career involved investigating why jet engines and oilfield tools failed. How did those "forensic" years shape your perspective on why "The Code" is so vital?**

**Answer:** “I believe it was Henry Petroski who said, “Engineering design is failure analysis in reverse”.

Knowing potential ways things can go wrong allows engineers to provide features that minimize those risks. The ultimate activity in making sure proper features end up in products is standardization. By codifying rules based on sound science and experience, the world is made a safer place so future generations don't have to re-learn our mistakes.”



*Leading the Discussion: Jay outlines key changes to the 2025 BPVC Edition for the U.S. and Canada Chief Inspectors.*

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**“ENGINEERING DESIGN IS FAILURE ANALYSIS IN REVERSE.”**

## THE EVOLUTION

**MATERIALS SCIENCE HAS CHANGED RADICALLY OVER FOUR DECADES. WHAT IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SHIFT YOU'VE WITNESSED IN HOW WE SELECT OR TEST MATERIALS TODAY?**

**Answer:** “In aerospace, we were designing parts with “unobtainium” - materials that didn't yet exist, only their specifications. In my HSB role, the literally infinite number of material selections have expanded. While the core materials remain steels, more and more materials are added to meet aggressive conditions, such as a high-temperature alloy steel with up to 12 required elements. Beyond metals, the BPVC now includes many polymers and even some ceramics.”

# BALANCING THE TRIPLE THREAT

A DEEP DIVE INTO THE UNIQUE INTERSECTION OF PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, VOLUNTEER SERVICE, AND ACADEMIC MENTORSHIP.

FEATURE

**The HSB Edge:** How does your "on-the-ground" experience with global pressure equipment construction influence the way you lead an ASME materials committee?

**Answer:** "I would say that it provides me a view from the Customer's perspective – how does what we're proposing impact the users of the Code? And are we being responsive and efficient enough with those activities?"

**The Volunteer ROI:** To an outsider, committee work looks like "more meetings." How do you describe the personal and professional return on investment you've received?

**Answer:** "Personally, I've gotten to meet a lot of wicked smart, friendly and fun people from around the world. In addition to having a "Rolodex" of professional network contacts, there are other professional benefits. Skills such as time management, negotiation, recruiting/retention of people, and process/procedure organization are exercised in this environment. And, as a Volunteer, you can't be fired! Just kidding – but not

really, [It's a safer environment to explore other skills that can then be transferred to your day job.](#)"

**The Educator's Heart:** You've spent years as a college Adjunct teaching Materials Science. What is the "golden rule" of engineering ethics you hope your students carry with them?

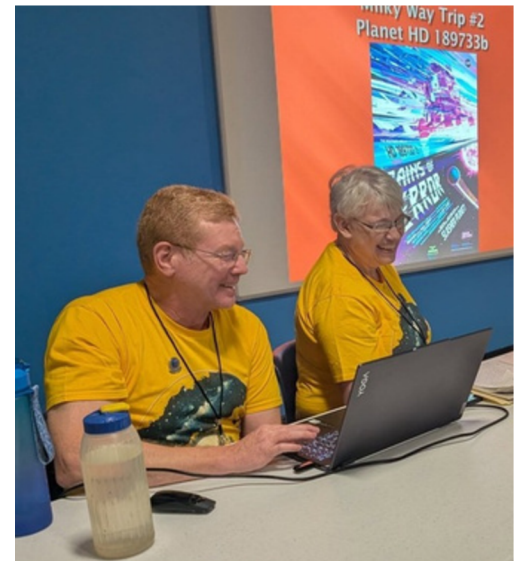
**Answer:** "I would say that it's: ["Do good!" Work hard, and for the right reasons.](#) Our time and talents should be used for the betterment of humankind."

**The Balancing Act:** Between HSB consulting, ASME chairing, and teaching, your "hats" are many. What is your secret to maintaining technical rigor across all three?

**Answer:** "I think a well-lived life involves a series of hard decisions – [we can't "do it all"](#). So, I've had to prioritize some activities over others, and even let some go. When we can prioritize what we want/need to accomplish, we can better focus our energies on what really matters."

**The Industry Bridge:** How does being an educator help you at HSB, and conversely, how does your work at HSB make you a better teacher?

**Answer:** "Teaching forced me to learn everything I hadn't learned in my own education; it was a way to really deepen and broaden my knowledge of materials and manufacturing. On the flip side, my 30+ years of experience in industry allowed me to share real-world application stories with the students to let them know that the [academic concepts actually have real-world applications.](#)"



*Better Together: Jay and his wife, Charlene, during a volunteer astronomy presentation.*

**["DO GOOD! WORK HARD, AND FOR THE RIGHT REASONS."](#)**

# THE HUMAN SIDE OF CONSENSUS



*Celebrating a Century: Jay, mentor Tom Pastor (3rd from left), and colleagues at the ASME 100th anniversary.*

## THE INVISIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIETAL LEGACY OF GLOBAL SAFETY STANDARDS.

**The Leadership Lens: As an ASME Fellow and a recipient of the Melvin R. Green Medal, what is the most important "soft skill" required to move a global standard to reality?**

**Answer:** "Simply listening – allowing all parties appropriate time to voice their input. I'm a firm believer that there are nuggets of wisdom to be shared by all participants."

**The Global Perspective: You've chaired groups where brilliant minds don't always agree. How do you ensure every voice contributes to the final product?**

**Answer:** "First is being present. As BPV II Chair, I made it a point to visit every sub-tier Committee's meeting within the Section II structure. That allowed me to gain a more global view of the activities, challenges and perspectives across the entire BPV II ecosystem. When all inputs are succinctly voiced, the final product is much better."

**The Technical Debate: In a room full of competing technical experts, how do you manage high-stakes disagreements to reach a conclusion?**

**Answer:** "Sometimes this can be quite difficult when the person is off-topic, and gently closing the discussion by 'parking' topics usually can work to get the conversation back on track. There are instances when we just 'agree to disagree', but at least the consensus process has been honored and the vote is the final word."

## *The "Post-Meeting" Ritual:*

**What happens once the formal debate ends?**

**Answer:** "After many a knock-down, drag-out debate, we all go out to lunch or a beer, and remember we are still all on the same side and still friends."

**"THE WORST SHOT IS THE ONE NOT TAKEN"**

# FAMILY, HARLEYS, AND MATERIAL BEAUTY

*LIFE BEYOND THE LAB AND  
FAVORITE MEMORIES*

**The Support System: You've built an incredible career across three different domains. How has your family played a role in this "Triple Threat" journey?**

**Answer:** "I'm married for almost 40 years with 2 children and 3 grandchildren. My wife was a full-time stay-at-home Mom while I was out galivanting around the world trying to make a living and while I was working on my MS. She did an awesome job raising 2 smart, joyful and kind kids. She also knows how to use hand and power tools, and is not afraid to use them!. My son also earned an MS (in Mechanical Engineering) and is very successful as a Manufacturing Engineering Manager and home improvement DIYer. My daughter is also very adept at home improvement projects. Both kids participated for over 4 years in robotics, and were very significant contributors to the team."

**The Two-Wheeled Commute: You've mentioned a preference for American-made iron. How does a Harley-Davidson fit into the life of a Principal Engineer?**

**Answer:** "I ride a Harley as my daily commuter vehicle when there is no solid precipitation; my current low temperature limit is 25°F."

**Astronomy: You mentioned you have a passion for astronomy; how do you stay involved?**

**Answer:** "Actually, my wife and I both share a deep interest in astronomy; it's a wonderful way for us to enjoy a common hobby and share that enthusiasm with others. To stay involved, we volunteer at our local Science Museum monthly and deliver a formal presentation once per year. It is a rewarding partner project - my wife, Charlene, is the primary researcher who did 100% of the heavy lifting for our latest content, while I handle the PowerPoint and we both collaborate on the choreography."

**The Alphabetical Audiophile: How do you decompress during a long flight or a quiet evening at home?**

**Answer:** "I'm either working,

reading or sleeping on a long flight – maybe a movie. For background music at home, I have varied taste within the folk to heavy metal range: from Aerosmith to ZZ Top and everything in-between.

**The Springfield, MA Staple: For the colleagues traveling into your neck of the woods for meetings, where is the "must-visit" dinner spot?**

**Answer:** "In Springfield itself, Nadim's and Red Rose are tasty with great service. Outside of Springfield Casa Di Lisa cannot be outdone for formal dining, and Route 75 Pizza House is awesome for takeout."

**The Material World: What is the biggest misconception people have about your field of study?**

**Answer:** "It's boring...only if it's presented wrong. We're all 'living in a material world' and 'materials are the stuff of things', and there is not only so much utility in knowing about materials but there is also so much beauty."



*The Support System: Jay and his family gathered for Christmas.*

# MENTORSHIP AND THE NEXT GENERATION

PASSING THE TORCH AND SECURING THE FUTURE



Jay Cameron in Vietnam, bridging the global "language" of ASME Code, mechanical engineering, and metallurgy.

**Advice for the "Rising Star": What would you say to a young engineer who is hesitant to join a committee because they feel they "don't know enough yet"?**

**Answer:** "Step One: Jump in! The worst shot is the one not taken. In the ASME BPVC, there is an opportunity to join a Committee's "Resource Development Group" or RDG. Step Two: Listen! Find a mentor. Many/most Committee Members are very generous with their time in guiding the next generation to continue on with the work that has been done for over a hundred years."

**The "Robotics" Pitch: How would you explain the importance of the ASME BPVC to a 7-year-old in your robotics course?**

**Answer:** "Rules may sometimes be made to be

broken, but sometimes rules are there for good reasons. No matter how many times you tell the LEGO robot to go left, it still can't break through a cinder block wall. Rules can help us avoid painful mistakes, and make what we do more successful and make us happier."

**The Power of Mentorship: Who was the mentor that opened the door for you in the standards world, and what did they teach you about leadership?**

**Answer:** My primary mentor in standards was my HSB hiring manager, Tom Pastor. He took a big chance on me not coming from the standards world, and not only took an active role in my technical mentorship, but also encouraged me to take on a series of increasingly responsible roles both within HSB and also within the ASME Committee structure. I cannot thank him enough.

**"MATERIALS ARE THE STUFF OF THINGS."**

# RAPID FIRE Q'S WITH JAY

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**What is the most underrated tool in an engineer's toolkit?** Listening.

**Early bird or night owl?** Night owl.

**Dream second career?** Priest.

**Guilty pleasure?** Electric-powered rowboat on a lake on a beautiful summer weekday.

**Note-taking: Paper or Digital?** Digital is much more preferred: Word TrackChanges, Adobe PDF markup, OneNote, and emails to myself.

**New England Patriots Fandom?** I only own four pieces of memorabilia, but I very rarely miss watching a game on TV.

**Historical Dinner Guest?** Mike Gold, RIP.

**Consensus Celebration Meal?** Anything with cold beer.

**Desk Stalwart?** What has been on my desk for over a decade? Dust, Dilbert cartoons, and memorabilia from family and travel.

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Presented by:

# ACCURIS

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*Accuris is proud to champion the efforts of every individual who dedicates their expertise and time to the standards community. Our **SDO Hero Campaign** is dedicated to recognizing the profound societal value of consensus-driven standards - the essential foundation for a safer, smarter, and more sustainable world. We believe the true strength of this industry lies not just in the documents themselves, but in the **human commitment** of the staff and volunteers who create them. By spotlighting their stories, we aim to elevate the dignity of standards work, boost involvement by demystifying the process for future engineers, and reinforce the professional prestige associated with this vital craft.*

***Accuris thanks the heroes of yesterday, today, and tomorrow for their unwavering dedication to integrity and innovation.***

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