Every year, BMES starts strong with a kick-off meeting that packs a major lecture hall and a kick-off cookout with over 60 attendees. This fall, the officer team did more than that, launching an impressive new website and starting a distinguished member program for our most dedicated members. Many BMES regulars have remained involved while newcomers have continued to join throughout the year.

One of the reasons BMES sees so many new members is due to the recently revamped CRUISE program. CRUISE stands for Counseling and Resources for Undergraduates In Science and Engineering, and through the beneficial workshops it offers many underclassman have become more involved in the organization. In addition, the BMES outreach and social programs continue to succeed, with at least two outreach events every week and social events that are consistently packed (and fun!). Our officer team is a very tight knit group, something that allows us to get so much done. This strength is partially attributed to a trip we take at the beginning of each fall semester.

In early October, many from our officer team went to Pittsburgh, PA for National Conference. While there, we were able to meet student leaders from around the nation, giving us an opportunity to discuss each chapter’s strengths and weaknesses. We received a lot of good advice, and one goal we set is to increase involvement with faculty. This is something we have already begun to make progress upon by launching BMES’s “Lab of the Month”, an event that showcases research being performed by our department. Although we did not receive the Meritorious Achievement award (the highest award granted to a student chapter) for last year, we were recognized many times as one of the most active BMES chapters in the nation. Others were shocked to hear that nearly two thirds of our department gets involved, and with this in mind, we plan to bring the Meritorious Achievement award back to UW next year.

Last semester, we were able to provide many resources to students interested in industry or research. These include trips to healthcare companies, lab tours, and speakers from both business and academia. While continuing this, we look to provide even more resources to students interested in medical school, including a medical school speaker panel and a trip to Mayo Clinic. In addition, we hope to further increase membership from a BME department that has recently expanded. With these goals in mind, as well as many others, we look forward to a fun and successful spring semester.
The New Face of the BMES Website

Matt Bollom, Webmaster

Many of your favorite websites probably have undergone updates to keep them fresh and modern. The BMES website is no exception. Since January 2009, we have been working hard to give the BMES website a new look and help our members, industry representatives, and the general public learn about our organization.

Static webpages are no longer meeting the needs of many personal, corporate, and organization websites. The movement towards dynamic webpages, or the creation of webpages in real-time, is called Web 2.0. BMES chose to utilize this technology in our new website to meet the needs of those who will use it. We held conversations with members and tried to incorporate features they desired. Because of the amount of content and information we needed to include, it took us nearly 8 months to bring our new website live.

The BMES website now has a blog, an integrated calendar, photo browser, a database of information about our members, and the ability to allow members to sign up for events online. We have also added a feature called myBMES that enables users to check their attendance records. Our backend system for managing the website allows officers to add posts to the blog, create calendar events, and add photos to our collection, and communicate with members who are attending events.

We are constantly adding new content and features to the website. The overall goal is to allow users to quickly find the most up-to-date information they desire without being overloaded by content, and still allowing officers to easily add content. I invite you to point your web browser to our new site and explore our new features:

http://www.engr.wisc.edu/studentorgs/bmes

When We Aren’t Studying

Rob Bjerregaard, Social Chair

The large turnout of excited BMES members at social events this last semester was a testament to our camaraderie. We have spent countless hours together in the same classes, study groups, and design teams. This time together helped us to hold our own in the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE) Laser Tag tournament and kickball matchup against Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). BMES may not have won the Laser Tag tournament, but we ended up securing second place in our second match and winning our third.

The kickball match against IEEE ended with a tie when everyone was too hungry to resist the hot dogs, burgers, and brats provided by General Electric Healthcare. While there may not have been as much kickball as many of us had hoped, members were able to get to know each other at this early event. Previous BMES officers currently working for GE Healthcare also showed up to join in on the festivities.

Aside from competing against other engineering student organizations, BMES also made an appearance at the Fall Ball, hosted by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). As always, BMES was the life of the party. This year SWE kept it classy, hosting the Fall Ball at the Overture Center.

After an action packed year, BMES members are looking forward to new social events in a new decade!

Cruisin’ to Success

Hallie Kreitlow, CRUISE Chair

BMES takes pride in its members and their accomplishments. We are always willing to share advice based off of our experiences to help each other succeed. CRUISE, which stands for Counseling and Resources for Undergrads In Science and Engineering, makes it even easier for underclassmen to learn from upperclassmen. The goal is to help acclimate the youth of BME in BME and other related fields. Here, underclassmen have the opportunity to learn about classes and professors, make lifelong friendships, share the glory of BMES, and more!

This past semester, a variety of CRUISE events were held. During the Career Fair Preparation Workshop, members received resume help, interview tips, and career fair do’s and don’ts. At Advising Night, students received information about what classes and professors to take as well as how to succeed in those classes. Upperclassmen shared their co-op, internship, study abroad, and research experiences to help focus questions from the younger students. CRUISE also had a new event this semester, “Lab of the Month.” One reason for this new event was to expose BMES members to current on-campus research that they may not see in the very design-oriented BME curriculum.

For this semester, a Career Fair Preparation Workshop and Labs of the Month have already been a success. Another advising event will be held to help members prepare their BME application essays. Hopefully throughout this semester BMES members will continue to benefit from these events.

Spring Semester Events:

Speakers:
- BME Professor Panel
- Medical School Panel
- Bjorksten | BIT 7
- Arizant Healthcare
- WiCell

Outreach:
- River Food Pantry
- Science Olympiad
- Relay For Life

Trips:
- Mayo Clinic
- Baxter Healthcare

CRUISE:
- Career Fair Prep Workshop
- Lab of the Month
- Advising Night
- BME Application Night
- Finals Study Night

Social Events:
- Ice Skating at the Shell
- Breakfast at Mickies
- E-Week
- Bowling at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes
- Ski Trip to Tyrol Basin
- Dodgeball Tournament
- Rock Climbing at Boulders
- BMEwers game
- Spring Banquet
The BMES Trip of the Year  

Tasha Benkovich, Outreach Chair

Many BMES members would probably tell you that the outreach highlight of the semester was the Habitat for Humanity trip in Miami. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that provides affordable housing to those in need. This winter break, thirty of us piled into vans and drove for nearly 24 hours straight to reach our final destination.

While on site building houses, some of us spent the day putting shingles on the roof, some ended up covered in paint, and some demolished sidewalks. Through volunteering for Habitat we were able to really help make a difference in the lives of families. Along with the hard work we all put in, we were lucky enough to enjoy some beautiful Miami weather. We stayed in a church gym, played countless games of PIG and Catch Phrase and really got to know each other in such close quarters. Sleeping on a gym floor and working all day may not seem like the ideal winter break, but our Habitat for Humanity trip was a truly unforgettable and rewarding experience.

Throughout the year, BMES has been active in other local outreach events. Weekly events include trips to the River Food Pantry and Edgewood Middle School. At the River Food Pantry BMES members are found working in the kitchen, stocking the pantry and helping patrons. The River Food Pantry is a place where we engineers have become regulars. Numerous BMES members attend because it is a good way to end the week, get to know fellow peers, and give back to the community. At Edgewood Middle School BMES assists students with their Science Olympiad projects. Science Olympiad is a team competition where groups work on different science or engineering topics. Student projects range from bridge building to anatomy to experimental analysis. Helping with Science Olympiad is another event that BMES looks forward to attending weekly.

In the coming semester, our outreach line up includes putting together a Relay for Life Team along with continued attendance at weekly events. BMES has accomplished a lot and anticipates another great year.

Joining Up with BMES  

Samantha Paulsen, Freshmen Representative

As a freshman, it feels as though you should be able to sit back and relax after finally making it to Madison...but nothing is less true! Choosing a major and a department is hectic, especially for engineering students. As the Freshmen Representative, it is my job to help guide potential BME’s through their first semesters at the University and to encourage them to get involved with BMES.

Each semester BMES holds advising events for underclassmen on a variety of subjects including the career fair, course selection, and the department application. These advising sessions have always been very successful and are great ways for freshmen to network, meet other students and learn about the field of biomedical engineering.

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Professional Development

Deborah Yagow, Industry Chair

The UW-Madison Biomedical Engineering Society chapter has established a strong tradition of providing members with information about future industry employers, technologies, research, and advancements in biomedical engineering and related fields in our bi-weekly meetings. Among the speakers that BMES hosted this semester was Dr. Amy Silder, who shared her research in exercise biomechanics and recent experiences completing graduate school. We also heard from two professors in the BME department and three speakers from industry. Jason Polzin and Reed Busse from GE Healthcare spoke of advances in Magnetic Resonance Imaging and the steps they took to reach their current career paths. Also, Joseph Kilian spoke of the design and fabrication that Tapemark completes for other medical device and drug companies.

Students toured TomoTherapy and Design Concepts, Inc., two local Madison companies that design medical devices, to gain a better idea of what working in industry may be like. Finally, the chapter began a formal sponsorship program, requesting companies to financially sponsor food for a general meeting during the semester, which will help other funds be used to continue student programs. In return, sponsors receive a student resume booklet and the company logo on the website. Thus, over the last semester, BMES has built upon its tradition of providing enriching information and opportunities related to biomedical engineering to its members, which will continue for years to come.

A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned

Val Maharaj, Treasurer

For some time now, BMES has had two healthy accounts. However, recent years have proven tough for the economy, and BMES was not impervious to the effects. In light of this, BMES has focused on reducing our organizational costs while maintaining our solid fundraising events.

A large amount of BMES’s budget goes towards pizza and soda for the general meetings. After looking at different vendors for a couple of weeks, BMES was able to reduce the food costs by $100 per meeting, while still maintaining the quality (and quantity!) that our members have come to appreciate. We have also utilized coupons and free deals more so this year than years past.

BMES has had several successful fundraisers this year. Our partnership with JSM Properties has raised over $1,000, and our pizza sales in the Chemistry building have netted over $200 profit per sale, the best BMES has ever done! Coupled with Science Olympiad at Edgewood High School, Community Day at the Boston Store, and selling our annual coveted BMES t-shirts, BMES has been fortunate to have a good flow of income.

Outside of fundraisers, BMES has also had to rely on several grants available to student organizations. Through the Associated Students of Madison (ASM), the official university student government, and Polygon Engineering Student Council, BMES was able to petition for almost $2,000 for Fall Semester alone. This spring we will again write grants to cover costs for our trip to the Mayo Clinic, associated industry trips and of course, our Brewers game.

BMES has worked hard to ensure that we continue to be one of the most successful organizations on campus. We are always keeping an eye out for new fundraising opportunities. Fall 2009 was a great semester for BMES, but Spring 2010 will be even better!

Donation Information

The BMES officers have had another great semester and put together a wide assortment of events for all members. We strive to provide many different opportunities for members so everyone can get what they want out of being a part of our chapter. This includes fun at our socials, professional development or networking from our industry and medical school speakers and trips, and being able to volunteer at our outreach events. However, due to the increased interest in BMES it has become more difficult for the chapter to hold such a variety of events for members. Also, the University funding we receive has been especially limited in recent years, and our members are often forced to pay more for such experiences instead of the chapter being able to provide the funds. Two of our major events demonstrate this. Through the University funds that were available, we obtained $1,450 for the National Conference in Pittsburgh. Officers were required to pay an additional $300 of their own money in order to attend. For our biggest outreach event of the year, the Habitat for Humanity trip, we were only able to obtain $1,100 in funds, and triple the number of members attended. Each member had to pay a supplementary $155 as well as the cost of meals, transportation, and any other activities that were partaken in on the trip.

We would like to continue to provide great experiences for our members and a society that they can develop in, but to do so will require more money for our chapter to put towards events. If you would like to donate to our organization, please go to the BMES website http://www.engr.wisc.edu/studentorgs/bmes and click on Donate link on far right of the main menu of our homepage. Your donations can be written off for tax purposes. BMES is always appreciate for all the past, present and future support that we receive!

Thank you!