This year marked a large turnover in BMES membership. Having lost many of our dedicated senior members, our new officers recruited heavily leading up to the kick-off meeting, which had a line of new members trailing out the door. After a successful kick-off meeting and our annual cookout, we focused on a goal common amongst student BMES chapters: increasing involvement with our department and faculty members.

In an effort to develop closer ties with our professors, we hosted “Breakfast with BMES,” where students and faculty were able to reminisce about summer and talk about upcoming events within the department, all while enjoying bagels, pastries, and refreshments. We have continued to host events over the course of the semester with members of our department, including a graduate school panel that was co-hosted by the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Student Association (BME-GSA), and “Work/Life Balance as a Professor,” where members were able to hear from five professors about what life is like as a faculty member at a top research university. BMES remained a key component of underclassmen advising, arranging a BME track panel and a course advising seminar to guide and encourage students new to the major. At the end of the fall semester, the officer board voted to form a new officer position, the Department Relations Chair. The officer holding this position will be responsible for our continued involvement with both our faculty and BME-GSA.

Much of our inspiration for new activities comes from meeting with BMES members from around the country. In October, eight of our officers drove almost twenty hours down to Austin, Texas to attend the annual BMES National Conference. During the student chapter development seminar, we heard about how other chapters raise funds and get involved with their faculty, and we shared some of our strategies that have helped us become such a large chapter with dedicated officers. While in Austin, we received the BMES Student Chapter Commendable Achievement Award for being one of the top chapters in the nation. We have continued to build on our success so that next year we can hopefully take home the Meritorious Achievement Award.

One of our plans for the spring semester is to add even more functionality to our website. We will be launching a Job Board that will give graduate students the opportunity to post open positions in their labs, so that our members will be able to obtain research positions that closely fit their areas of interest. In addition to our wildly successful pizza sales, we have begun planning fundraisers with local restaurants to earn money. With this money, we will keep our cross-country trips affordable and purchase supplies for our booth at this year’s Engineering Expo. BMES plans on having another amazing exhibit so that we can repeat as the Best Student Chapter Exhibit at the Expo. With these goals in mind, we look forward to a successful spring semester.
When We Aren’t Studying Adam Goon, Social Chair

Being Biomedical Engineering students, we spend most of our time studying for exams, doing homework, and working on projects for classes. However, whenever we can fit BMES social events into our schedules, it’s always a fun break with fellow BMES members and friends.

During the fall semester, BMES members enjoyed our annual competitions against fellow engineering student organizations. The kickball game against the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) was a very exciting game that was decided in the final inning. Unfortunately, BMES fell short to IEEE. However, we all had a blast as always and enjoyed grilled brats, burgers and food that were provided by General Electric Healthcare. Current BMES members enjoyed talking to the past BMES members who currently work at GE. Additionally, BMES participated in the capture the flag game against the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE). BMES battled strong in the cold but being outnumbered led to our defeat by IIE. It was quite a disappointment to lose our winning title but we still all enjoyed the game and look forward to regaining our champion status next year.

While BMES enjoyed the competitions against other student orgs, we also enjoyed showing off our dance moves at the winter formal put on by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). We also got to build better friendships through a number of different teambuilding activities in a ground workshop put on by the Adventure Learning Program (ALPs). This also helped prepare us for our Habitat for Humanity trip.

It was another great semester for BMES, and we are looking forward to having even more fun this coming semester with some of our bigger social events, including ice skating, our annual skiing/snowboarding trip, and the yearly Brewer’s game tailgate.

Cruisin’ to Success Samantha Paulsen, CRUISE Chair

One of the primary goals of BMES is to help ensure the academic and professional success of its members by providing advising sessions and workshops for its members. CRUISE, which stands for Counseling and Resources for Undergraduates in Science and Engineering, sponsors many of these resources for BMES members, and provides opportunities for students to meet and learn from upperclassmen in engineering.

Traditionally, CRUISE has targeted underclassmen in BME with a variety of events including the Career Fair Preparation Workshop, Freshman Course Advising Night, Lab of the Month, and a BMES Cookout to start off the year. Together these CRUISE events help members learn about classes, professors, career opportunities, and current research at Madison.

However, this past year CRUISE has started offering workshops targeted towards upperclassmen in their search for post-graduation opportunities. New this year is BMES’s collaboration with the graduate school BME organization, GSA, and the Grad School Information Session. In following years CRUISE is planning on holding similar sessions for medical school and opportunities for masters programs.

CRUISE is always looking for new ways to help BMES members with both academic and professional pursuits. One way has been through increased collaboration with our freshmen representative. This allows us to better meet the needs of the freshmen class and promote awareness of opportunities in BME. Overall we hope to continue improving, and adding to, our advising programs for all members of BMES.

Spring Semester Events:

Engineering Expo Exhibit

Speakers:
Epic Systems
Rupa Shevde of WiCell
Brian Haymen of Carefusion
Professor Chris Brace
Beth Meyerand, BME Chair

Outreach:
River Food Pantry
Science Olympiad
Relay For Life

Trips:
Med School Visit

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
Volleyball League
BMEwers game
Outreach has always been a big part of BMES, and this year has been no exception. We continued with our two weekly events, Science Olympiad and the River Food Pantry, and added some new ones to give our members as many opportunities as possible to get involved in the Madison community. For Science Olympiad, we have been making trips to Edgewood Middle School to help students practice for their regional competition at the end of April. The events they are preparing for range from building battery-operated miniature cars to working as forensic scientists to solve a crime, and just about every science-related topic in between. At the River Food Pantry, we have been assisting patrons with the various aspects of their shopping such as weighing food, handing out produce and dairy items, and registration.

For the members who did not get their fill of outreach with our weekly events, we had plenty of other volunteering opportunities as well. We helped score lanes and hand out awards at the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament. During Halloween weekend, we went trick-or-treating for cans for Second Harvest. Every semester, the Society of Women Engineers hosts Girl Scout Junior Badge Days. BMES helped with this event by teaching the girl scouts about how science is a part of everyday life. With the opening of the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery building, we aided in teaching the public about stem cells and research related to them. Finally, because our national Habitat for Humanity trip is always so popular, we spent a day framing walls for the UW Habitat House that is being built here in Dane County.

As for our national Habitat for Humanity trip, this year 24 of our members spent a week of their winter breaks in Questa, New Mexico. Despite the fact that we were technically in the desert, the average temperature was comparable to that of Wisconsin’s winters. But even with the lack of warm weather, we all had a great time working on a home for a single mother with five daughters. We did some roofing, made closet shelves and baseboards, and did a whole lot of plastering, texturizing, and painting of the interior walls. During our time off we visited the Pueblo Reservation in nearby Taos, hiked in the Rio Grande Gorge, and relaxed in the hot springs. As always, it was a gratifying and memorable experience for everyone.

In the spring semester we plan to continue our trips to Edgewood and the River and spend another day working on the UW Habitat House. Our biggest outreach event will be Relay for Life – an all-night fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Although we certainly get our fill of outreach, if you have any suggestions for events feel free to contact me.

Joining Up with BMES  Caleb Durante, Freshmen Representative

After being accepted into UW Madison, there are still many important and daunting decisions facing freshmen undergrads. This especially holds true for engineering students. As the Freshman Representative, it is my duty to guide and assist those students that choose the path of Biomedical Engineering.

Each semester, BMES holds a handful of useful advising events to take the guesswork out of navigating the BME program. These events not only give solid information that every BME major would find useful, but also offer an opportunity for new students to meet and network with other students sharing their major. The first such event held along this road is an essay writing workshop that gives some ideas and tips on writing an application essay to get into the BME department. With the department’s long-standing tradition of academic exclusivity, this is an event where a new student can learn how to make him or herself stand out from other applicants. The writing center at Helen C. White library has been kind enough to donate the time of its representatives to come and give applicants the very best tips on writing a convincing essay.

Once the essay is out of the way, students can also benefit from CRUISE course advising. Typical course advising includes a presentation about what courses should be taken, in what order, and which professors should be sought (and which ones should be avoided at all costs!)

Each BME student is encouraged to specialize in one of five tracks: Bioinstrumentation, Biomechanics, Biomaterials, Health Care Systems, and Medical Imaging. In recent semesters, there have been calls for advising specific to each of the tracks. This fall, we held an event with a panel of upperclassmen and professors representing each of the tracks. The panel held a short Q&A session that many students found useful, but we also got feedback on how the format could be tweaked for future sessions. Track advising is an event that I’m sure will become standard each semester and will add to BMES’ strong reputation for providing some of the best information for BME students.
Professional Development

Brad Wendorff, Industry Chair

One of the ultimate fears of many undergrads is whether or not they have chosen the best path of study to prepare them for a professional career later in life. In order to combat that fear, UW-Madison’s Biomedical Engineering Society chapter aims to familiarize students with the many fields in industry, research opportunities, and up-and-coming technologies in biotech, in addition to teaching how to best advertise oneself for that highly sought after dream job. We hold bi-weekly general meetings, most of which are filled with speakers ranging from industry professionals to professors, even including medical practitioners. This past semester, members of the chapter had the opportunity to hear from Craig Connors, who represented Design Concepts, Inc. of Madison. Craig spoke about past projects the company had worked on, and offered up some insight on what working at Design Concepts entails. We also heard from two professors in the BME department who spoke about their research, and Lisa Waples, a BME recruiter. Given Lisa’s occupation, she was well suited to educate students on everything from methods for contacting potential employers to resume preparation and how to nail an interview.

Aside from the meeting speakers, BMES also toured GE of Waukesha, and Bjorksten, an engineering firm on the outskirts of Madison. At GE, we were taken through their product showcase, which consisted of CT scanners, devices for premature babies, and a variety of ultrasound devices, one of which was a little larger than the size of an iPod! At the end of the tour, attendees were given a free lunch and had a Q and A session with engineers at the plant. BMES continues to grow and build upon its rich tradition of providing its members with valuable information for after graduation, regardless of where you want to end up.

A Penny Saved is a Penny Earned

Jeff Hlinka, Treasurer

BMES has been able to keep its two bank accounts healthy this academic year, largely due to the effect of the college student’s favorite food—pizza. While a large sum of the money is spent on pizza for general meetings, BMES pizza sales are its largest source of income. These are held in the chemistry lobby and have an average net income of around $180. Being allowed to hold five sales per semester, BMES earns a large chunk of change from this fundraising event. Another fundraiser that we will continue this year is our partnership with JSM properties. Our members receive a discount on their rent and security deposit as well as help BMES raise $1000 through this partnership. This year, BMES plans on having a new type of fundraiser: food nights. These will be hosted by Qdoba and Noodles & Company. 10% of their proceeds purchased with a special coupon handed out by BMES are donated to BMES. I’m optimistic that this fundraiser will be successful and that BMES will continue this in the future.

In addition to our fundraising events, BMES has been supported through grants available to student organizations from the Associated Students of Madison (ASM). BMES has also sought funding from Polygon Engineering Student Council. These grants cover anything from state vehicle rentals, used from our annual Habitat for Humanity trip, to gas money to support our drivers taking BMES members to volunteer weekly at the River Food Pantry.

BMES continues to work hard to ensure that we are one of the top student organizations on campus. With a successful fall semester, BMES will continue fundraising and applying for grants to provide for another great semester in the spring.

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. One of our largest trips, the Habitat for Humanity trip, often requires members to pay $150 to $300, dependent on how much grant money we receive. The grant money is provided through organizations such as the Associated Students of Madison or Polygon Engineering Student Council, and thus is not a reliable source of income due to the many and varied organizations these governing bodies support.

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 appreciative for all the past, present and future support that we receive!

Thank you!