BMES is continuously looking for ways to improve our organization and better meet the needs of our members. We started off the year with a survey to gauge everyone’s interests, and found ways to tailor our events in accordance. As a result, we saw both improved attendance at events and a record number of distinguished members!

Our success can be attributed to several factors, one of which is our dedicated officer team. With fifteen officers, we always manage to accomplish a lot throughout the course of the school year, and this year has been no exception. We averaged over four events a week during the fall semester, with plenty of opportunities for our members to volunteer, socialize, and help raise funds for our annual Habitat for Humanity trip. Seven of our officers were also able to attend the National BMES Annual Meeting in Hartford, CT to learn about even more ways to make our chapter as successful as possible.

Along with networking with industry representatives and faculty members from universities across the nation, the Annual Meeting gave us the opportunity to meet leaders from several other student chapters. We were awarded the 2011 BMES Student Chapter Outreach Program Award in honor of our extensive and well-rounded list of outreach events. We were able to share the details of this program in a workshop in which was also heard about other types of events from student chapters that received recognition for various aspects of their organizations. Connecting with other student leaders enabled us to acquire a lot of useful feedback and return to Madison with some great ideas.

One of our resulting goals was to start a mentorship program. Our members are fairly equally divided in their plans to attend graduate school, medical school, or go into industry after graduation. Although UW-Madison has numerous resources related to all of these, sometimes the best advice comes from students with similar aspirations. We hope that through this program, which is set to launch during the upcoming semester, underclassmen will have the ability to be matched and meet with upperclassmen to discuss topics such as courses, extracurricular activities, and other ways that they can help prepare themselves to achieve their goals. We feel that this program will be a great addition to the number of opportunities that we provide for our members.
We Have Fun Too **Jeff Hlinka, Social Chair**

As Biomedical Engineering majors, we are always busy doing anything and everything from homework, studying for exams, or working in a lab on campus. You might think that we have no time for anything but schoolwork; however, the dramatic increase in attendance to BMES social events this past fall says otherwise.

During the fall semester, BMES hosted more social events and had higher attendance than in the past. This began with ALPs, one of our new social events this year. ALPs, which stands for Alternative Learning Programs, helps build team dynamics through fun outdoor activities. Normally, BMES hosts an ALPs event for our members attending our annual Habitat for Humanity trip to get acquainted with each other. Adapting this event to our general members helped get the ball rolling for a successful fall semester.

During the fall, BMESers got their laugh on at the Comedy Club and showed off their dance moves at the SWE Fall Ball. Additionally, our attendees were able to show their competitive nature through bowling at the new lanes at Union South and playing on our intramural volleyball team. The intramural volleyball team went undefeated in the regular season, but unfortunately lost their second game during playoffs.

With another great fall semester to look back on, BMES is striving to make spring semester even better. BMES will start the semester off by traveling to Cascade Mountain to ski, ice skating at the Shell, and passing around boots at the Essen Haus. BMES is also looking to host more socials with other student orgs on campus and is already planning a Euchre Tournament with the Institute of Industrial Engineers (IIE). Of course, BMES will be heading to a Brewer’s game to tailgate for our biggest social of the year. Until then, our goal is to provide more fun events to keep BMESers excited during a stressful semester.

CRUISE Control **Brad Wendorff, CRUISE Chair**

There’s definitely no shortage of advising opportunities here at UW-Madison; though this may seem comforting, it can be overwhelming for undergrads. With questions of where to go, who to seek advice from, and what talking points to bring, it’s often difficult to figure out how to find the desired advice. Fortunately, BMES has made it easier for members to CRUISE (Counseling and Resources for Undergrads in Science and Engineering) through their advising adversities with events focusing on, but not limited to, course selection, resume workshops, and BME application essay workshops.

Over this past semester, a variety of CRUISE events were held. Each semester, the College of Engineering holds a career fair with upwards of one hundred representing companies. The Career Fair Workshop gave members a chance to have upperclassmen read over their resumes, and provide tips for improvement along with interview do’s and don’ts. With a panel of upperclassmen at the Course Advising Workshop, students could get the inside scoop on classes to take and how to succeed in them, and furthermore, suggestions on which professors to take. The semester was capped off with a BME Essay Writing Workshop, where ambitious BME’s were guided through the process of writing their golden ticket to the department.

As another semester dawns upon the BMEs, BMES looks forward to providing more opportunities for members to continue building upon and developing their professional skills.
Welcome to BMES  

Kelly Hanneken, Freshmen Representative

Most of us are familiar with the many difficult challenges that every new freshman engineering student here at UW Madison faces. There are classes and exams to keep up with, meetings to attend, time to spend with friends, and most of all, determining which department of engineering to pursue. For the past two semesters, I worked within BMES as the Freshman Representative to give further insight into solving these oppositions for all aspiring freshmen Biomedical Engineering students.

BMES hosts several events to cater to the questions and needs of these freshmen, while simultaneously creating opportunities for them to gain friends who have similar interests. Arguably one of the most useful events aimed toward new applicants of the BME department is the Essay Writing Workshop. In this meeting, BMES partners with a representative from the Helen C. White Library Writing Center to discuss tips and give advise to students on how to stand out in their essay when they nervously apply to the rigorous admissions department of Biomedical Engineering. Along the same path, I worked with the previous CRUISE chair in organizing a Course Advising session. Our other officers come to this event to give a student’s perspective on which classes and teachers to take, which is information our professional advisors might not be able to provide.

With these two main events, the future freshman Biomedical Engineering students within BMES are much more knowledgeable about the department, and have advanced tools within their grasp to succeed in their up and coming endeavors.

Giving back to the community has become a staple in the lives of many BMES members in past years, and this year has been no different. Even with hectic class schedules and ridiculous amounts of homework, helping others has remained important in our lives. Throughout the year, BMES has been involved in a number of various outreach events including our weekly trips to the River Food Pantry and Edgewood Middle School for Science Olympiad. Every Friday, we head out to the food pantry and help the patrons pick out food, dish food in the kitchen, and supervise children who attend. Science Olympiad consists of helping middle-school-aged kids prepare for a competition involving mouse-trap cars, tower building, and many other science and engineering projects.

In addition to our weekly events, BMES was involved with many other volunteering activities throughout the course of the semester. We revisited our childhoods over Halloween weekend, while trick-or-treating for nonperishable food items to benefit the Second Harvest food bank. We dressed up in costumes, picked up over 1000 pounds of food, and even got some candy from the houses we visited. Members also participated at events at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery, helping kids learn about stem cells and other research occurring there. To get ready for our annual Habitat for Humanity trip over winter break, BMES helped build a local Habitat home on a chilly fall day by putting together some roof trusses, which was a blast!

Speaking of Habitat, BMES piled into four vans over winter break and headed down to New Orleans, Louisiana to build homes for people in need. We brought the warm weather with us down south, with temperatures in the seventies nearly every day. Our organization broke up into smaller groups and worked on five different houses, with jobs including installing siding, placing tiles, hanging drywall, and building window sill, to name a few. On our day off, we went on a boat tour to explore the swamps prevalent in the area, and one boat saw four alligators! Back at the church where we stayed, we spent much of our time around a campfire, shooting hoops, and even had a full-blown euche tournament. It was unquestionably a great and rewarding experience for everyone who attended.

In the coming semester, BMES will continue the popular weekly events as well as participating in Relay for Life in April. With such a committed group of individuals dedicated to helping others, the coming year will certainly be a success.

BMES currently maintains two bank accounts, and our money is used to fund event transportation, buy pizza for meetings, and make our events more affordable (and sometimes free) for our members. This year, transportation and registration costs for the annual Habitat for Humanity Trip were much higher than previous years, leading BMES to undertake a large fundraising effort during the fall semester.

This year, BMES has held a record number of fundraising events, with more than 20 events in the fall semester alone. Our largest source of income has come from an event called Casino Night, where BMES members volunteer dealing blackjack for a local party-hosting company and receive a donation for their time. Additionally, BMES took part in Community Days this year, selling coupons for the Boston Store. We also continue to participate in Science Olympiad, a weekly event where BMES members volunteer at Edgewood Middle School.

In addition to our fundraising, 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 were used to help pay for transportation to the Annual Meeting, as well as the Habitat for Humanity Trip.

Lastly, BMES was fortunate enough to get sponsorship for the Habitat for Humanity Trip this year. We were supported by the National Biomedical Engineering Society, as well as an anonymous donor. Both donations were greatly appreciated and essential in funding the trip.

With a combination of the fundraising effort, grants and sponsorship, BMES was able to raise enough money to keep the Habitat for Humanity Trip at a reasonable price. BMES will continue to fundraise to provide another great semester in the spring.
There comes a time in the life of every biomedical engineering student when they must begin to think about what they want to do professionally in the future. In an effort to keep up with the needs of each student, a new BMES position, called Department Relations, was created last year. This position focuses on ways to connect BME undergrads with faculty and graduate students in hopes that they will develop relationships to aid them in their future endeavors.

In the fall semester, informational sessions were held to teach students about fully-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) and everything to do with graduate school including why to go, how to apply, what to expect, and more. These events really allowed BMES to connect with its graduate school counterpart, BME-GSA. Members of BME-GSA were willing to take their valuable time to share experiences and offer advice to younger students.

Another event held last semester was the Breakfast with BMES. This event invited all undergraduates, graduates, and faculty to share breakfast and intermingle with each other. I would like to thank all of you who attended and I hope the spring semester will bring an even larger turnout. Speaking of spring semester, an event that has been held in the past, BMES Lab of the Month, will be returning in order to expose BMES members to current on-campus research that they may not see in the very design-oriented BME curriculum. Hopefully, BMES members will continue to benefit from connections with graduate students and faculty in the upcoming year!

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. It is also no secret that Madison, Wisconsin is a hotbed of many different biotech corporations, many of which are UW-Madison spin-offs. Appropriately, the speaker lineup for this semester’s biweekly meetings was biomedical innovation and entrepreneurship. We heard from representatives from companies like Athenos Inc, Ratio, Deltanoid Pharmaceuticals, and several others. A common theme of each talk was that biomedical engineering at UW-Madison has great breadth that allows for a great deal of flexibility with respect to one’s professional goals.

In addition to the speakers we had this semester, BMES members participated in a few trips to local institutions doing work related to biomedical engineering. Epic Systems invited our chapter to attend their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math recruiting event, during which a number of members attended Epic’s Intergalactic Headquarters in Verona, WI. At Epic, we were able to hear about the exciting tools and services Epic currently provides to healthcare institutions as well as their visions for how clinicians and patients will interact in the future. In addition to the trip to Epic, BMES members were also invited to join UW Madison’s ASME chapter in a tour of local design consulting firm, Design Concepts. For our members who are more interested in practicing medicine, BMES participated in a prospective students’ tour of the Medical College of Wisconsin followed up by a tour of the equally interesting Sprecher Brewery. This semester was a great success, and BMES continues to grow and build upon its rich tradition of providing its members with valuable information for after graduation, regardless of where they want to end up.

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, we do not have enough funding to keep all these events free for our members. We want our events to be as affordable as possible so no student has to miss out on these great experiences. One of our largest events, 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 Associated Students of Madison and campus research that they may not see in the very design-oriented BME curriculum. Hopefully, BMES members will continue to benefit from connections with graduate students and faculty in the upcoming year!

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://bmes.slc.engr.wisc.edu/ 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!