The Biomedical Engineering Society at UCLA
2026 Renewal Document

A. Faculty Advisor's Information
  a. Name: [redacted]
  b. Email Address: [redacted]
  c. Member ID: [redacted]

B. Ten Core Student Members Information

Name	**Chapter Position**	**Email**
[redacted]	Academic Chair	[redacted]
[redacted]	Community Outreach Chair	[redacted]
[redacted]	Publicity Chair	[redacted]
[redacted]	Design Team Project Manager	[redacted]
[redacted]	Treasurer	[redacted]
[redacted]	Community Outreach Committee	[redacted]
[redacted]	Design Team Project Manager	[redacted]
[redacted]	Cell Team Project Manager	[redacted]
[redacted]	Cell Team Project Manager	[redacted]
[redacted]	EDI Chair	[redacted]

C. Student Chapter/Department Website Link: http://bmes.seas.ucla.edu/

D. One Free Student Membership Information

New Membership or Renewal	Name	Email	Company /Institution/ University	Graduation Year	Gender	Ethnicity
New	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

Biomedical Engineering Society at UCLA

2025-2026
Chapter Development Report

The Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) chapter at UCLA has shown vast growth in the activities and resources we provide for students interested in bioengineering. Our organization supports members through professional and academic development, community outreach, mentorship, social opportunities, and hands-on technical projects. The 2025–26 academic year introduced several new initiatives that expanded our impact. One of our most successful programs, our introductory and advanced technical projects, served over 110 students this year. We also raised over $13,000 to support our Design and Research Teams, including a record-breaking $6,707 through our UCLA Spark crowdfunding campaign. This funding allowed teams to expand their work, attend conferences, and strengthen the real-world impact of their projects, including a collaboration with UCLA Health to design safer gastric feeding tubes with the long-term goal of clinical translation. This year, we also emphasized building a more inclusive and supportive community. Through new EDI initiatives, BMES Studies, and a competitive points-based Family Mentorship system, we increased engagement and strengthened connections within the organization. We expanded our industry and academic relationships through info sessions, coffee chats with all three new bioengineering faculty members, and streamlined mentorship opportunities, with one student being directly hired through a company info session to Abbott. Beyond UCLA, BMES remained committed to serving the greater Los Angeles community through initiatives such as Science Days and our new Science Literacy Workshop, which helps younger students critically engage with scientific information. Together, these initiatives reflect our chapter's excellence and dedication to helping members grow.

Author: [redacted]
Primary Email: [redacted]
Secondary Email: [redacted]

[redacted]
Chapter Advisor
[redacted]

Dear Student Chapter Award Committee Members,

This year, the Biomedical Engineering Society at UCLA has demonstrated sustained growth, innovation, and impact across its initiatives. As the chapter has expanded, it has remained committed to fostering a collaborative, supportive environment for biomedical engineers both within and beyond UCLA. Over the past year, our organization has heavily focused on strengthening connections with industry and academic leaders, expanding hands-on, project-based learning opportunities with real-world impact, and cultivating an inclusive community where students of all backgrounds feel welcome.

BMES at UCLA has consistently prioritized providing robust academic and professional resources to support member success at UCLA and beyond, and this year further expanded these efforts. For the third consecutive year, the chapter co-organized the annual Biotech Career Fair with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) at UCLA, hosting 16 companies and engaging over 200 attendees. Follow-up info sessions and panels enabled deeper networking and directly resulted in one member being hired from our info session to Abbott's Cardiac Rhythm Management division for a six-month-long co-op. Our chapter also strengthened ties with UCLA's growing bioengineering faculty by hosting coffee chats with all three newly hired professors this year, exposing students to emerging research areas while supporting faculty recruitment efforts. Additionally, following a two-year pilot within the BMES Board, we merged the Industry Mentorship Program with the Alumni Mentorship Program, streamlining our mentorship infrastructure and making industry leaders accessible to all members.

A hallmark of BMES at UCLA is its commitment to student-driven, project-based learning. This year, participation across the four technical project divisions (an introductory and advanced team for both the wet lab and dry lab tracks) reached a record 121 students, spanning from medical device innovation to wet lab research. To support all these hands-on projects, we raised a record-breaking $6,707 through our third annual UCLA Spark crowdfunding campaign, surpassing our fundraising goal by 11%. BMES also increased the real-world impact of its projects, including a collaboration with UCLA Health to design safer gastric feeding tubes with the long-term goal of clinical translation. Our annual bioengineering-focused hackathon, Biohack, further supported student growth by providing the opportunity to complete a weekend-long bioengineering project and present it to alumni and faculty judges. With a sponsorship from Revilico, a local biotech startup founded by an alum, Biohack incorporated technical workshops, networking opportunities, and a new research proposal track, ultimately doubling participation in the event this year. Together, these initiatives have empowered students to translate classroom knowledge into meaningful, real-world applications.

BMES has also strengthened its internal community through intentional programming to promote a positive and inclusive community for all members of our community. Within our Family Mentorship system, we introduced a points system as a friendly competition among our four families to increase engagement through weekly challenges and event participation. We also launched biweekly "BMES Studies" sessions, creating a casual, supportive space for members to study together and collaborate. These initiatives have strengthened the BMES community and increased participation in mentorship events. Complementing these efforts, our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) committee has collaborated with other BMES committees, student organizations, and companies to develop resources and host events centered on mental well-being and self-advocacy. These collaborations ensure that EDI remains a central, integrated component of the organization rather than a standalone initiative.

It has been deeply rewarding to witness UCLA BMES continue to evolve into a dynamic, student-driven community that meaningfully enhances the undergraduate experience. This year's accomplishments reflect strong organizational growth and a clear commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and interdisciplinary collaboration. I am confident this foundation will continue to support and empower future students in biomedical engineering. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Chapter Advisor

[redacted]

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Administrative Report

To maintain and grow our events and resources for the over 200 members of the BMES at UCLA chapter, the infrastructure of our General Board is optimized for efficiency in communication and execution. Responsibilities are divided among 45 people within our General Board, which includes the 4 members of the Executive Board and the 9 members of the various BMES Committees. These BMES Committee members are led by their respective chairs and assist with event planning and execution. The Executive Board members, in addition to their own responsibilities, oversee the activities of their respective branches. The entire board meets weekly, and the Executive Board has a separate weekly meeting. These meetings promote effective communication and allow for all members to be aware of important events and initiatives. To further secure this awareness, we have a shared Google calendar so that chairs do not schedule events that conflict with one another.

We also prioritize the development and preservation of institutional knowledge. All of the BMES chairs work within the same shared Google drive, which dates back to 2009. As such, the General Board can look back into past folders for guidance. We also have documents called “Monkeybooks,” which summarize our events so that chairs have a written record of how to plan and execute events that happen annually. Our transition documents are in-depth guides for each new set of General Board members to use in fulfilling their responsibilities. These transition documents are updated annually and the outgoing and incoming chairs are required to have a meeting in which the document is reviewed and all questions can be answered.

Total Student Membership: 249
Number of National Members: 20

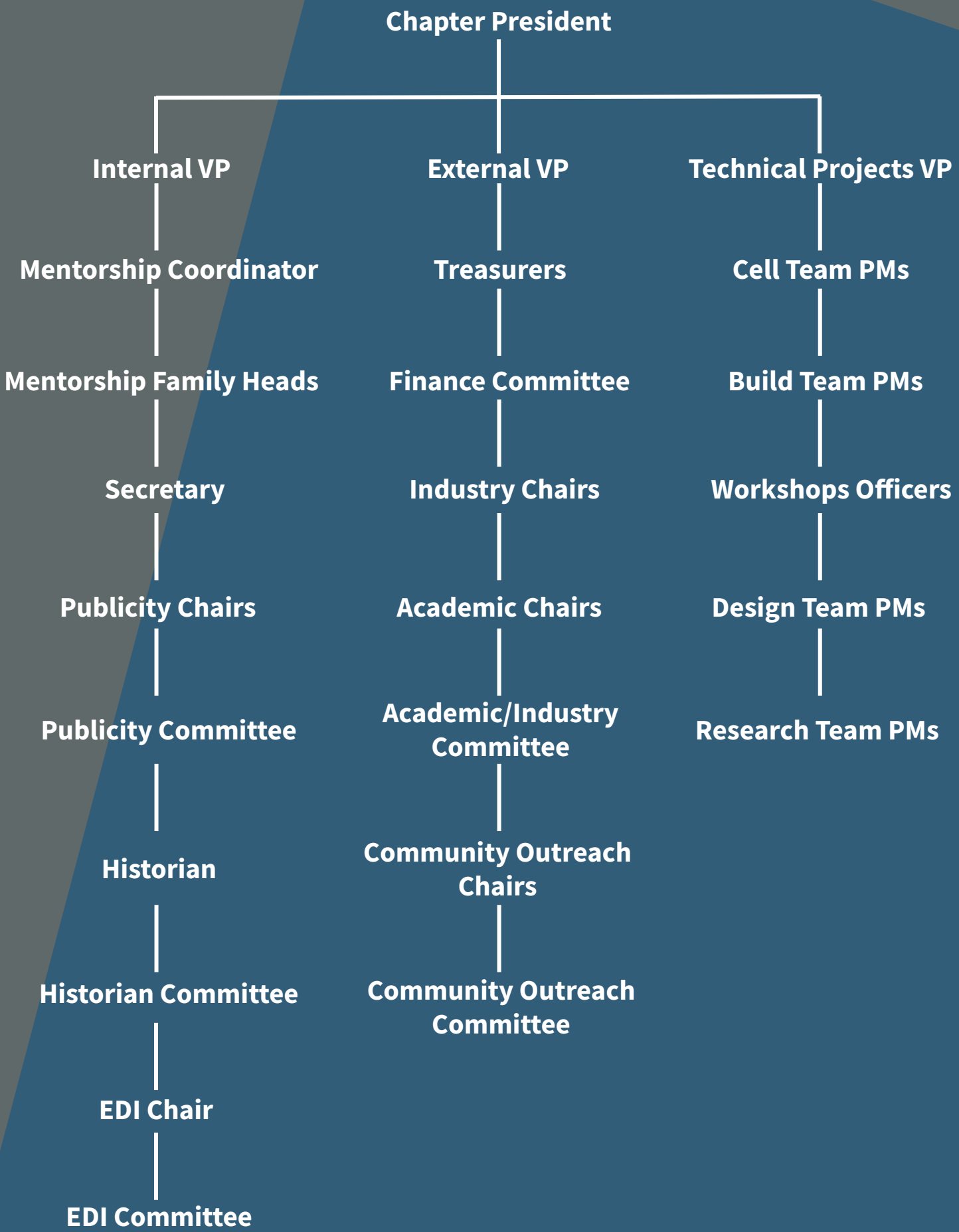
BMES Board Responsibilities

Position	Name	Responsibilities
President	[redacted]	Oversees chapter operations, liaison with other UCLA organizations
External Vice President	[redacted]	Oversees finances and acts as industry liaison
Internal Vice President	[redacted]	Oversees social events and mentorship
Technical Projects Vice President	[redacted]	Oversees technical projects
Treasurer	[redacted]	Oversees finances and applies for UCLA funding
Finance Committee	[redacted]	Assists treasurers
Secretary	[redacted]	Oversees recordkeeping and communications
Community Outreach Chairs	[redacted]	Oversees community outreach programs
Community Outreach Committee	[redacted]	Assists Community Outreach Chairs
Industry Chairs	[redacted]	Oversees industry relations and events
Academic Chairs	[redacted]	Oversees academic events and alumni affairs
Academic/Industry Committee	[redacted]	Assists Industry and Academic Chairs
Mentorship Coordinator	[redacted]	Oversees mentorship events
Mentorship Family Heads	[redacted]	Oversees individual mentorship families
Publicity Chairs	[redacted]	Oversees publicity and media presence

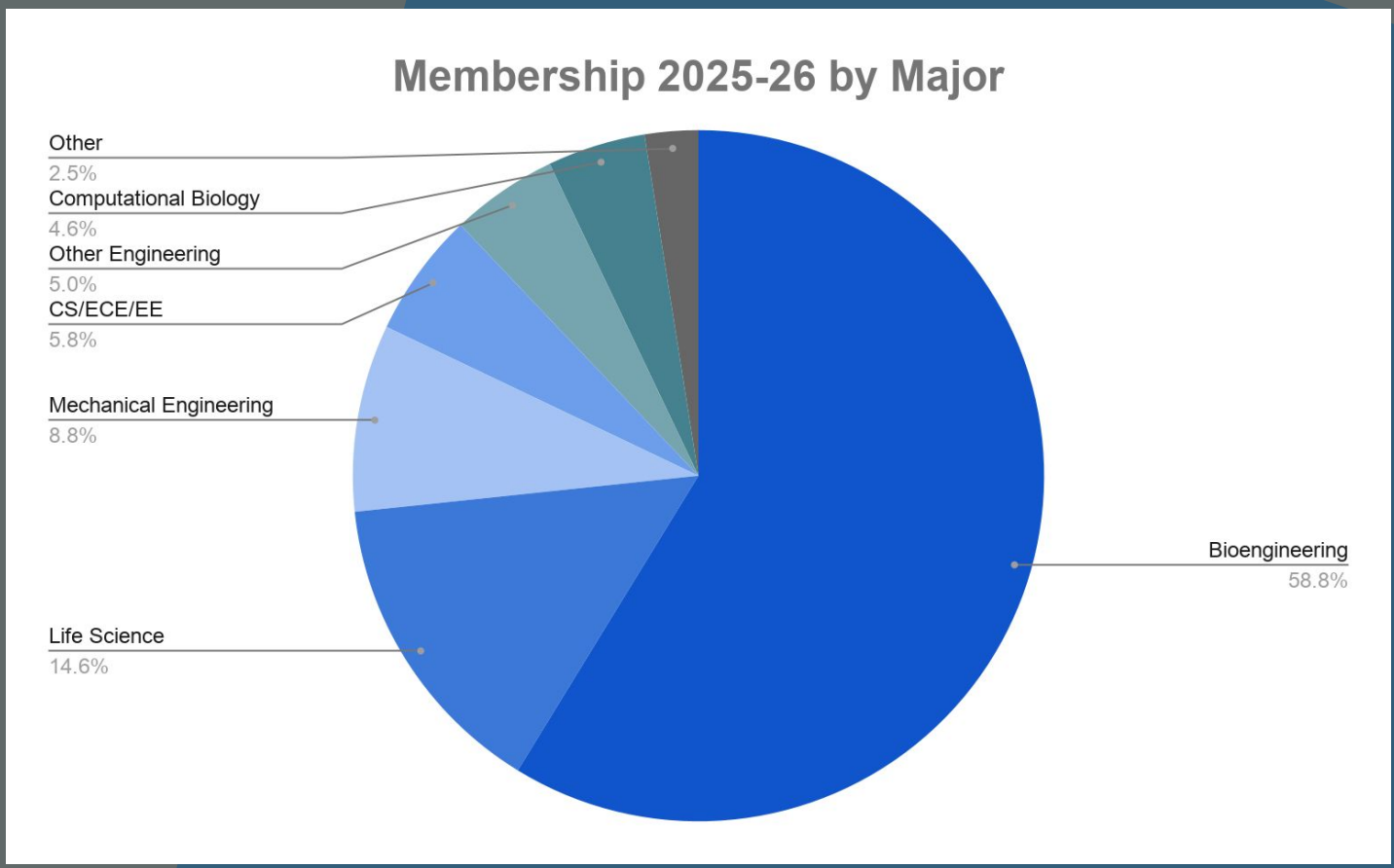
BMES Board Responsibilities

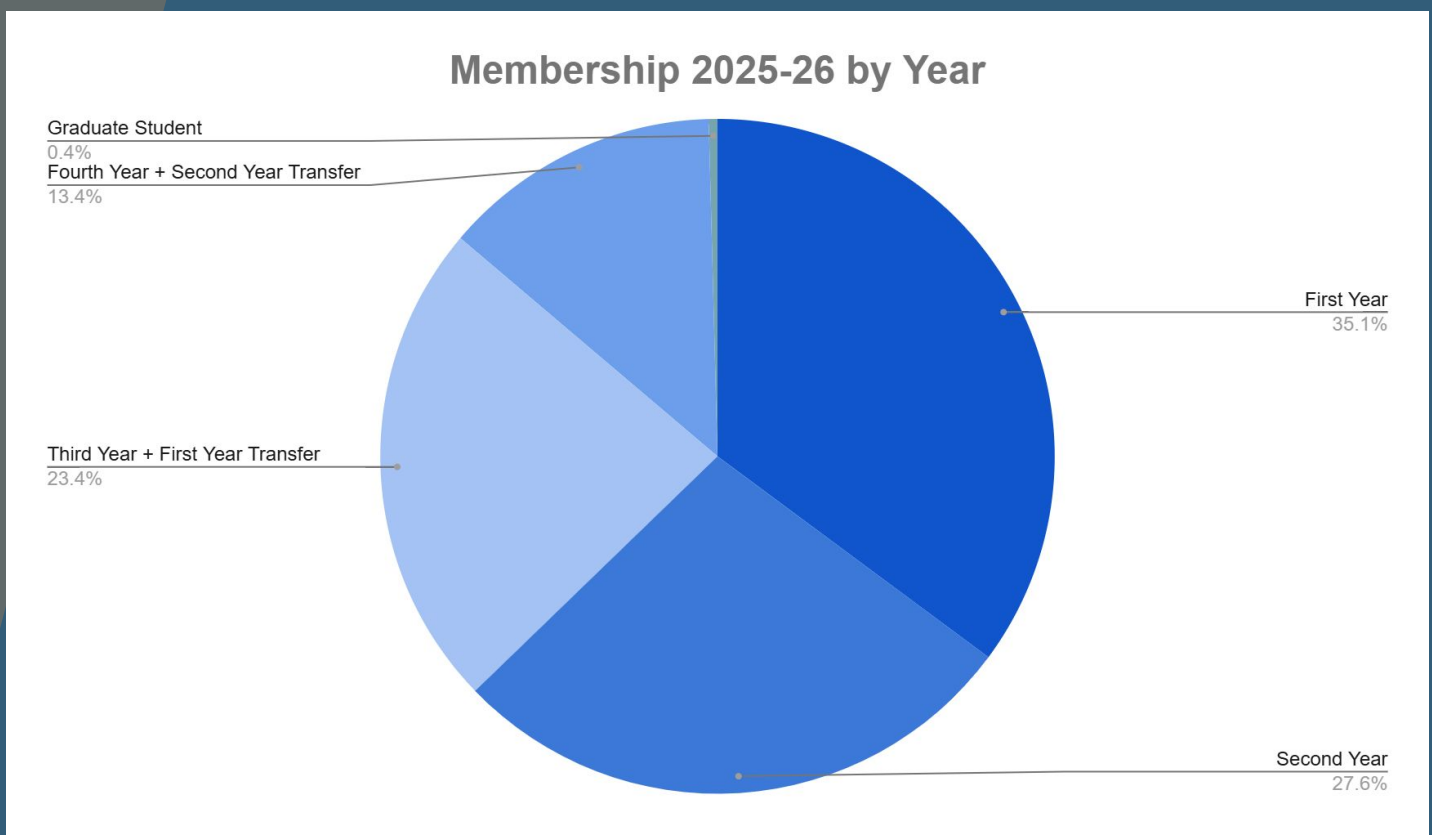
Position	Name	Responsibilities
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) Chair	[redacted]	Oversees EDI initiatives and events
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee	[redacted]	Assist EDI Chair
Historian	[redacted]	Oversees media documentation of events
Publicity/Publicity Committee	[redacted]	Assists Publicity Chairs
Workshops Officers	[redacted]	Oversees technical workshops
Build Team Project Managers	[redacted]	Oversees Build Team
Cell Team Project Managers	[redacted]	Oversees Cell Team
Design Team Project Managers	[redacted]	Oversees Design Teams
Research Team Project Managers	[redacted]	Oversees Research Teams

BMES BOARD
Management Overview



Membership Overview





BMES at UCLA Meetings

General Meetings (GM)
Executive Board and General Board Meetings

01 General Meetings and Agendas

	Date	Attendance	Agenda
Fall GM	09.29.2025	170 students 2 faculty	Introduce 2025-26 General Board Members, announce committee and technical projects applications, announce Fall Quarter events
Winter GM	01.09.2026	65 students	Introduce 2025-26 Committee Members, announce Biohack committee applications, announce Winter Quarter events
Spring GM	04.02.2026	44 students 1 faculty	Introduce 2026-27 Executive Board Members, announce Spring Quarter events, announce General Board applications

02 Executive Board Meetings and Agendas

The BMES Executive Board meets on a weekly basis to cover any topics that we need to discuss with General Board members during Board Meetings as well as assign any action items for the President and Vice Presidents. During these meetings, each Executive Board member gives updates on any upcoming branch activities and funding needs. Overall, these meetings ensure all club-wide BMES administrative and logistical tasks are handled smoothly and long-term visions are enacted.

03 General Board Meetings and Agendas

Our General Board Meetings, led by the chapter's Executive Board, occur on a weekly basis. These hour-long meetings provide chairs the opportunity to give updates on event planning progress and ideas. Chairs are also able to discuss new event ideas with others, make announcements, and receive feedback on previous events. An example meeting agenda can be found below:

1. Recap the previous week's events and get feedback from other board members on them.
2. Announce upcoming events for the next week.
3. Chair updates: officers discuss relevant updates and ask for help from the rest of the General Board and Executive Board if needed.
4. Individual work time: chairs have the last half of the board meeting to work amongst themselves and work on event logistics.

General Meeting Highlights

Fall Quarter:

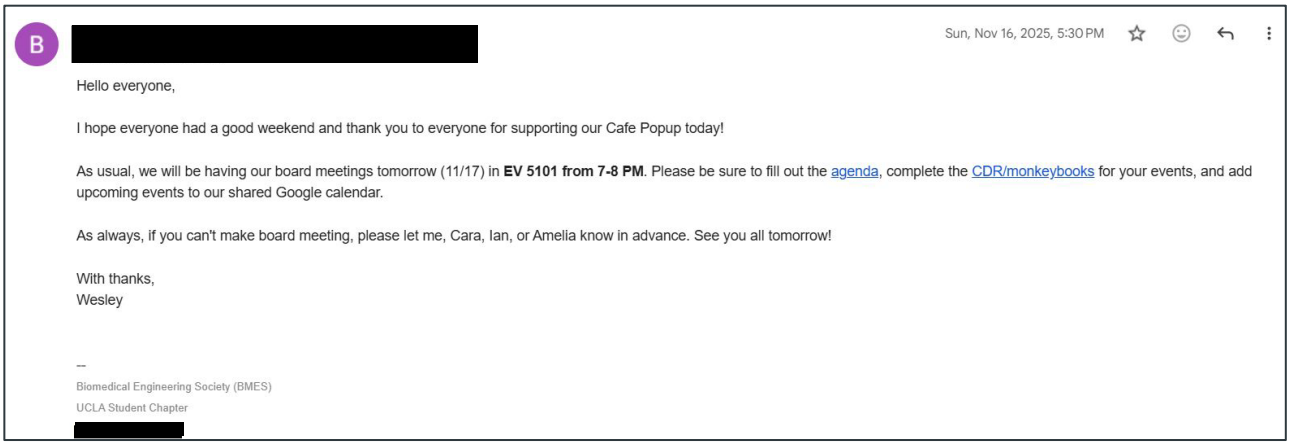
Winter Quarter:

Spring Quarter:

Our quarterly General Meetings (GMs) serve as a chance to provide all BMES members with updates on upcoming events, opportunities, and ways to get more involved in the organization. These meetings introduce members to BMES's professional, academic, social, mentorship, outreach, and technical programs, while also giving students the chance to ask questions, connect with board members, and learn about new initiatives. Members can also buy t-shirts at any GM!

Administrative & Logistical Overview

Here, we provide a brief overview of the major infrastructural tools in place to ensure streamlined communication and to keep BMES at UCLA running smoothly. Every week, the President sends out an email to the general board a few days before our weekly board meetings with major updates and action items.



B [redacted]

Sun, Nov 16, 2025, 5:30 PM

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a good weekend and thank you to everyone for supporting our Cafe Popup today!

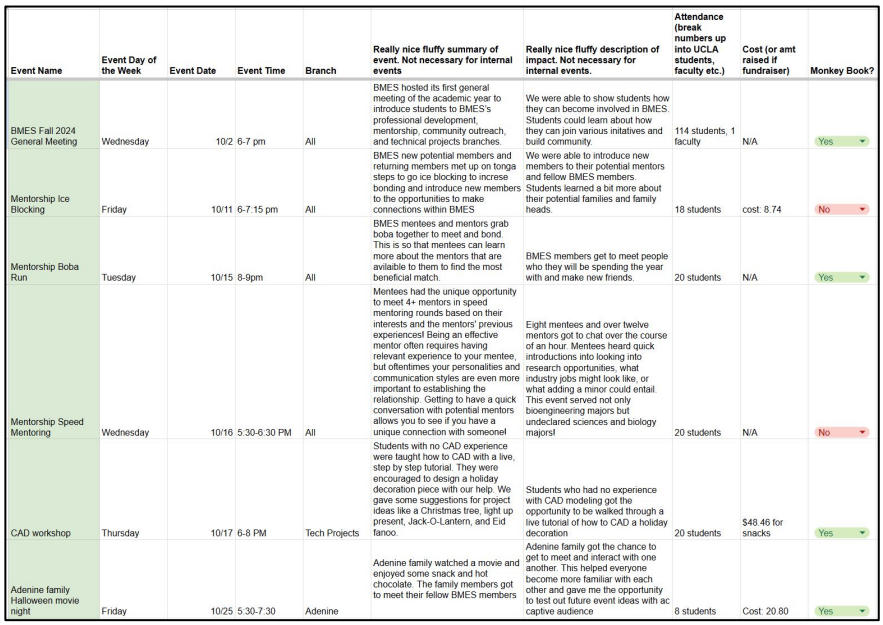
As usual, we will be having our board meetings tomorrow (11/17) in **EV 5101 from 7-8 PM**. Please be sure to fill out the agenda, complete the CDR/monkeybooks for your events, and add upcoming events to our shared Google calendar.

As always, if you can't make board meeting, please let me, Cara, Ian, or Amelia know in advance. See you all tomorrow!

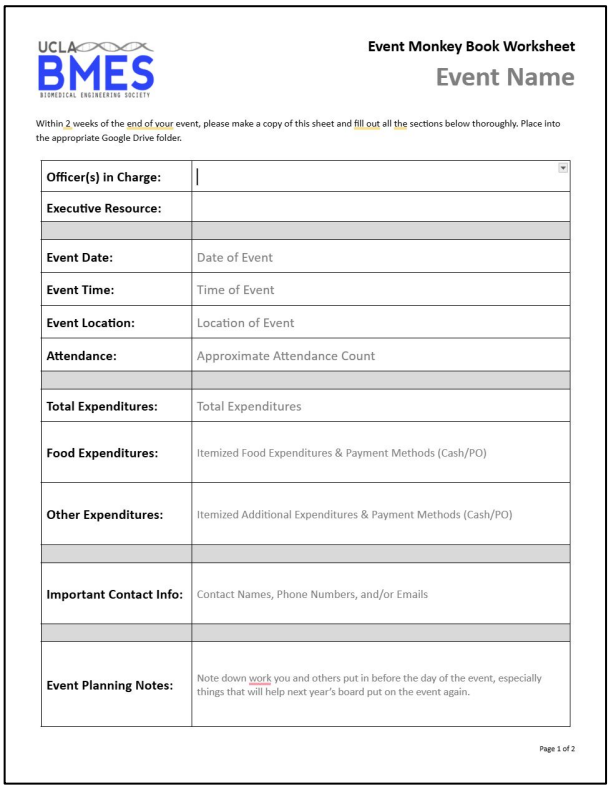
With thanks,
Wesley

--
Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)
UCLA Student Chapter
[redacted]

In this email, board members are asked to update their sections of the weekly agenda as well as a spreadsheet to document event outcomes. In the Google spreadsheet (left), basic event details are recorded. In our MonkeyBooks document (right), board members reflect on the planning and execution of every event to help future board members plan similar events. All of these documents are stored in the BMES Google Drive.



Event Name	Event Day of the Week	Event Date	Event Time	Branch	Really nice fluffy summary of event. Not necessary for internal events	Really nice fluffy description of impact. Not necessary for internal events.	Attendance (break numbers up into UCLA students, faculty etc.)	Cost (or amt raised if fundraiser)	Monkey Book?
BMES Fall 2024 General Meeting	Wednesday	10/2	6-7 pm	All	BMES hosted its first general meeting of the academic year to introduce students to BMES's professional development, mentorship, community outreach, and technical projects branches.	We were able to show students how they can become involved in BMES. Students could learn about how they can join various initatives and build community.	114 students, 1 faculty	N/A	Yes
Mentorship Ice Blocking	Friday	10/11	6-7:15 pm	All	BMES new potential members and returning members met up on tonga steps to go ice blocking to increse bonding and introduce new members to the opportunities to make connections within BMES	We were able to introduce new members to their potential mentors and fellow BMES members. Students learned a bit more about their potential families and family heads.	18 students	cost: 8.74	No
Mentorship Boba Run	Tuesday	10/15	8-9pm	All	BMES mentees and mentors grab boba together to meet and bond. This is so that mentees can learn more about the mentors that are avilaible to them to find the most beneficial match.	BMES members get to meet people who they will be spending the year with and make new friends.	20 students	N/A	Yes
Mentorship Speed Mentoring	Wednesday	10/16	5:30-6:30 PM	All	Mentees had the unique opportunity to meet 4+ mentors in speed mentoring rounds based on their interests and the mentors' previous experiences! Being an effective mentor often requires having relevant experience to your mentee, but oftentimes your personalities and communication styles are even more important to establishing the relationship. Getting to have a quick conversation with potential mentors allows you to see if you have a unique connection with someone!	Eight mentees and over twelve mentors got to chat over the course of an hour. Mentees heard quick introductions into looking into research opportunities, what industry jobs might look like, or what adding a minor could entail. This event served not only bioengineering majors but undeclared sciences and biology majors!	20 students	N/A	No
CAD workshop	Thursday	10/17	6-8 PM	Tech Projects	Students with no CAD experience were taught how to CAD with a live, step by step tutorial. They were encouraged to design a holiday decoration piece with our help. We gave some suggestions for project ideas like a Christmas tree, light up present, Jack-O-Lantern, and Eid fanoo.	Students who had no experience with CAD modeling got the opportunity to be walked through a live tutorial of how to CAD a holiday decoration	20 students	$48.46 for snacks	Yes
Adenine family Halloween movie night	Friday	10/25	5:30-7:30	Adenine	Adenine family watched a movie and enjoyed some snack and hot chocolate. The family members got to meet their fellow BMES members	Adenine family got the chance to get to meet and interact with one another. This helped everyone become more familiar with each other and gave me the opportunity to test out future event ideas with ac captive audience	8 students	Cost: 20.80	Yes



UCLA BMES BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Event Monkey Book Worksheet

Event Name

Within 2 weeks of the end of your event, please make a copy of this sheet and fill out all the sections below thoroughly. Place into the appropriate Google Drive folder.

Officer(s) in Charge:	
Executive Resource:	
Event Date:	Date of Event
Event Time:	Time of Event
Event Location:	Location of Event
Attendance:	Approximate Attendance Count
Total Expenditures:	Total Expenditures
Food Expenditures:	Itemized Food Expenditures & Payment Methods (Cash/PO)
Other Expenditures:	Itemized Additional Expenditures & Payment Methods (Cash/PO)
Important Contact Info:	Contact Names, Phone Numbers, and/or Emails
Event Planning Notes:	Note down work you and others put in before the day of the event, especially things that will help next year's board put on the event again.

Page 1 of 2

Administrative & Logistical Overview

For our board members, all documents and planning are centralized to our shared BMES Google Drive. Within the Drive, we have our weekly meeting agendas (left). Additionally, a shared Google Calendar (right) helps board members plan their events around each other and ensures the events are well publicized.

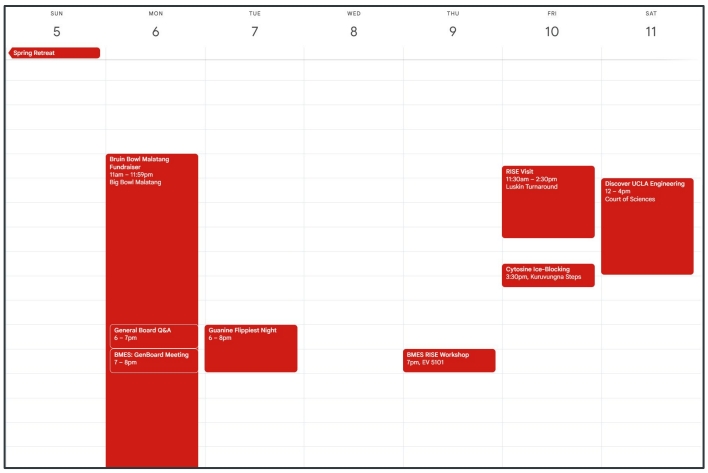
S26 Week 1 Board Meeting (3/30/2026)

Week 10 Events!
- Biohack
- Cytosine HeyTea Boba Run
- Guanine Froyo

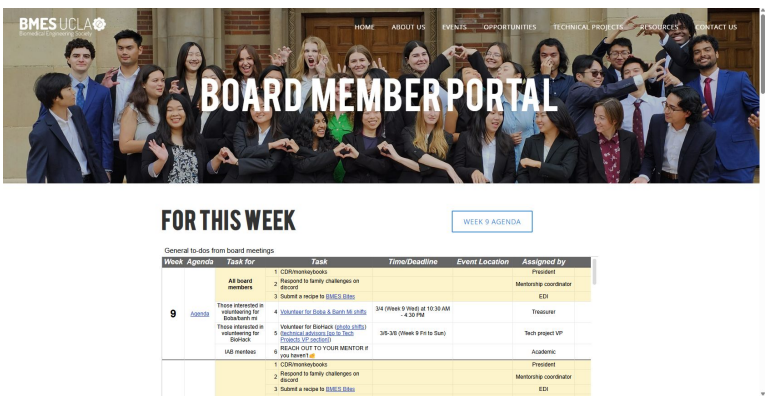
Event Documentation
Info for CDR/Annual Report 2025-26
Monkeybook template
- ☐ Adenine BMES x Jeopardy Club Meeting
- ☐ Adenine x Guanine Mystery Event
- ☑ ~~Thymine Movie Night~~
- ☑ ~~Thymine Cookie Decorating~~
- ☐ Biohack
- ☐ BioHack x Revilico Fireside Chat w/ Christopher Korban
- ☐ Guanine Froyo
- ☐ Suturing Workshop

Please do your MonkeyBooks! Check the spreadsheet above to see if you haven't completed yours yet!

Consistent Reminders/Links
- **BMES: Board Expectations and Guidelines 2025-26**
- Booking EV rooms
- Booking 2101:
  - Book directly through Eboard
- Add events here!
- Publicity Request Form
  - Please submit at least one week in advance (from the day you need the graphic posted, not the day of the event) - submit as soon as you can would be amazing
  - Late Publicity Request Form
- How to get $$$:
  - Fill out the funding request form here and send it to (ian email)
  - Please try to fill it out with as many details as possible. This is one example of what I need to submit so more is more.. thanks :D
- Reimbursement Form
  - Funding Workshop Slides
- Please add your birthday to the calendar here



One major initiative by our Secretary this year was to further streamline our website and agendas by creating a board portal on the BMES at UCLA website (left) as well as a to-do list for board members and a BMES event planning guide (right). Together, these resources improved the planning, communication, and logistics required to manage a large organization like BMES.



BEFORE

1. Book your room
   Book EV rooms here (Note: 5101/4101 are bigger than 5129/4129.)
   To book EV room 2101, book directly through Eboard.
   Keep in mind, you should reserve some time before and after in case you need to set-up.
2. Funding
   Obtain any necessary funding.
   You may submit a Funding Request (example).
   If not, submit a Reimbursement Request.
   If available, use other funding sources.
   For more info, check out the Finance Workshop slides.
3. Publicity requests
   Submit a Publicity Request at least 1 week before you want the event to be publicized.
   If you would like it within 1 week, use the Late Publicity Request form.
   Send a message in #publicity-requests saying you filled out the form, tagging both @Publicity Chair and @Publicity Committee
4. Add to both BMES calendars
   Add your event to both the BMES Board Calendar and the BMES Events Calendar.
   Note: Create it once, then duplicate it to the other calendar.
5. Discord announcements
   Make any necessary event announcements on Discord yourself, adding the flyer as an attachment.
   You should announce a couple days before and once at the time of your event.
6. Website updates
   Is there anything new about the event that isn't reflected on the BMES Website?
   Submit a Website Update Request if so.

DURING

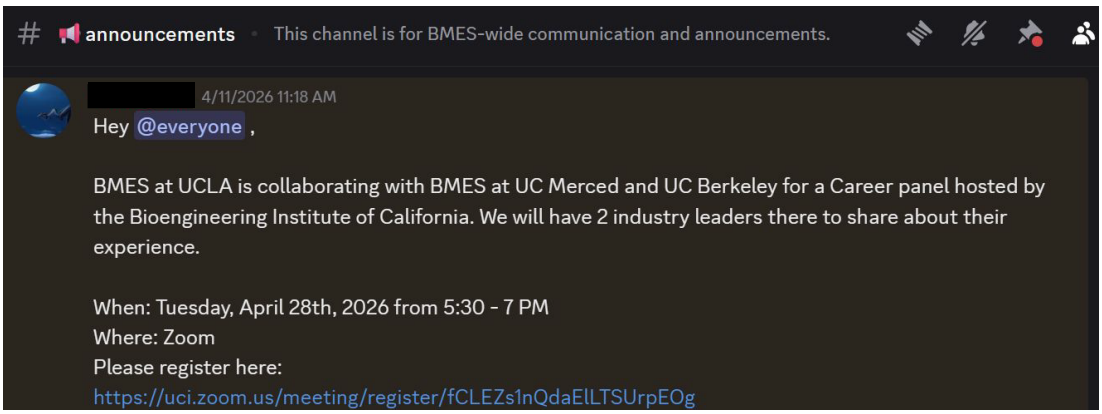
1. Set-up
   Try to set-up ahead of time, especially if you are catering.
   You can find the keys from Emilia at EV 5121N.
2. Sign-in forms
   Create a sign-in form and a QR code / TinyURL. Either print this or put it on a slideshow during your event.
3. Photos
   Coordinate with Gouri to come in for pictures, or take a couple yourself. This is not mandatory, but it will be helpful for Wesley when he assembles the CDR (see below). If you take them yourself, please upload them to the BMES event photos form.

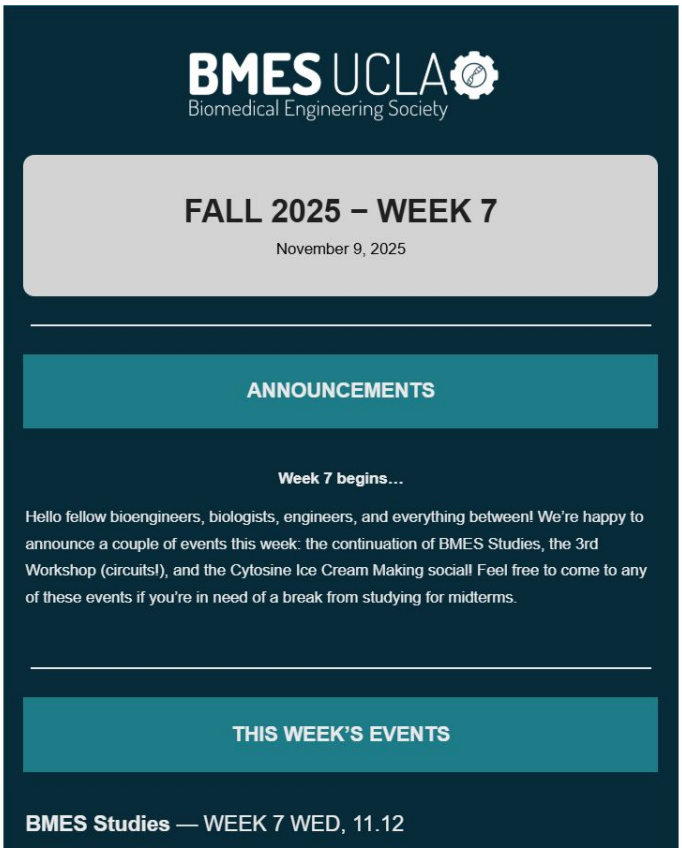
AFTER

1. Event summary for BMES CDR
   As a student chapter of BMES, we are required to create a Chapter Development Report (CDR), which Wesley will assemble at the end of the school year. Since we write down all events that happened throughout the school year, make sure to do fill out the event details on the CDR events spreadsheet ASAP while they are still fresh in your head!
2. Fill out Monkeybook template
   (I think) this is for our internal usage, to improve events next year. In the Monkeybook Drive folder, create a copy of the template, name it your event name, and drag it into your group's folder.
   Check out the Monkeybook example if you need to.

Administrative & Logistical Overview

Our club communications are broadly organized through our Discord (with 850 members and alumni), an active Instagram account with 1,500+ followers, and a weekly newsletter sent out to all signed-up members and faculty. Additionally, our Discord includes separate channels for the entire general board, each committee, and all technical project teams. This serves as a consolidated hub for chapter communications.





Treasury Report

BMES at UCLA maintains an organized budget throughout the year, ensuring that we are able to financially support all our events and provide our members with high-quality programming. Our External Vice President and Treasurer work closely to acquire funding from various external sources (e.g., UCLA grants for student organizations, corporate sponsorships) to supplement the funds from chapter membership dues. This year, we sought to further standardize and make funding resources transparent to our board, leading to the development of funding guidelines for specific events based on funds that have been used in prior years. Moving forward, we will continue to strive for further optimization of our budget and identification of new funding sources for continuous improvement of our resources and events in the upcoming school year.

Beyond membership dues, our chapter uses a variety of funding methods such as applying for our university's student organization funds, seeking company sponsors, organizing our UCLA SPARK crowdfunding campaign, and hosting fundraising events over the course of the year. Our annual Career Fair and Science Vendor Expo also generate significant revenue through company and vendor participation. Together, these efforts from both our finance team and club members have led to increased fundraising success this year, particularly through our crowdfunding campaign. This has resulted in a substantially larger operating budget, enabling the expansion of our organization’s offerings.

Chapter Expenses Breakdown

Overview of withdrawals and deposits by event category

Event Type:	Withdrawals:	Deposits:
Administrative	[redacted]	[redacted]
Fundraisers	[redacted]	[redacted]
Social	[redacted]	[redacted]
Community Outreach	[redacted]	[redacted]
Mentorship	[redacted]	[redacted]
EDI	[redacted]	[redacted]
Industry and Professional Development	[redacted]	[redacted]
Technical Projects	[redacted]	[redacted]
Total:	[redacted]	[redacted]
Net Change in Balance:		[redacted]

Fundraisers

Membership Dues & T-Shirt Sales

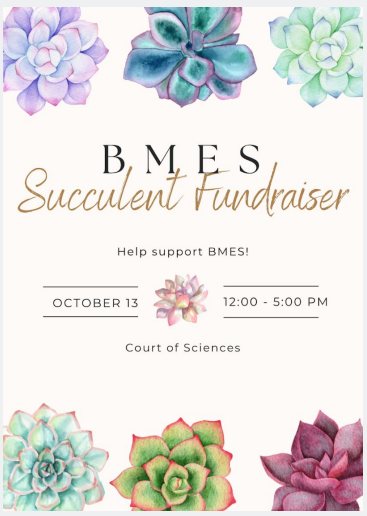
Date: Ongoing **Profit Raised:** $468.00

Over the course of the school year, BMES at UCLA maintains a one-time member registration fee of $15 to help cover the costs of the events and programs we put on throughout the year. This membership fee provides full access to all BMES resources and events. We also sell T-shirts for members to show their pride for BMES at UCLA!

Succulent Fundraiser

Date: 10.13.2025
Profit Raised: $152.42

BMES held its very first Succulent Fundraiser at the Court of Sciences where students and faculty from across campus stopped by to pick up succulents to brighten their dorms and apartments at the start of the year. We nearly sold out and raised $152.42 in profit!



Fundraisers

Panda Express Fundraiser

Date: 11.03.2025 **Profit Raised:** $23.46

BMES collaborated with ASUCLA Panda Express for a quick and easy fundraiser that allowed club members to connect over a meal while also supporting the club whenever it was convenient for them during the day. Club members got to connect with each other over a meal while simultaneously supporting the club.

Fall Cafe Pop-up

Date: 11.16.2025 **Profit Raised:** $300.00

BMES hosted our first pop-up fundraiser of the year selling homemade baked goods and drinks, including maple matcha latte, pumpkin spice chai with cold foam, and Thai iced tea. There were also delicious baked goods on sale. Besides serving as an opportunity for members to meet new people at this delicious fundraiser, this event was also planned with the help of board members as an additional opportunity for board bonding over baking and preparing delicious food for this event. Over 40 orders were placed, and our total revenue was $300.

Fundraisers

Chipotle Fundraiser

Date: 01.12.2026 **Profit Raised:** $79.89

BMES partnered with Chipotle to host a fundraiser at a popular student dining spot in Westwood. Students supported the event by dining in or ordering takeout. Some members walked to the restaurant together as a casual social activity, while others invited their friends from outside of BMES.

Winter Cafe Pop-up

Date: 02.21.2026 **Profit Raised:** $174.00

Our follow-up cafe popup in Winter quarter had new homemade baked goods and handmade iced drinks on the menu, including matcha and hojicha lattes, brown sugar lattes with cold foam, sourdough bagels, matcha waffles, and cheesy garlic focaccia. BMES members and friends enjoyed delicious drinks and pastries, spent time chatting and studying, and watched the Winter Olympics together. This event was a fun and social way to bring members together during the middle of the quarter through baked goods and drinks while supporting BMES at UCLA.

Fundraisers

BMES Boba and Banh Mi Fundraiser

Date: 03.04.2026 **Profit Raised:** $429.65

In our biggest BMES fundraiser of the year, BMES sold boba and banh mi sandwiches in the UCLA Court of Sciences! Hungry club members, faculty, and passersby alike stopped by and purchased delicious food at an affordable price, leading us to sell out in 5 hours!

Bruin Bowl Malatang Fundraiser

Date: 04.06.2026 **Profit Raised:** $28.02

BMES collaborated with Bruin Bowl Malatang, a well-known local favorite near UCLA, to host a fundraiser for members and the wider student community. Students participated by dining in or ordering takeout, with some members taking the chance to walk over together for a group dinner after our weekly board meeting.

ShareTea Fundraiser

Date: 04.13.2026 **Profit Raised:** $35.00

BMES organized a fundraiser at Sharetea, where supporters contributed by purchasing drinks throughout the event. The fundraiser also served as a social outing, with members gathering in small groups and bringing friends, creating a relaxed and engaging way to support the organization.

Total Profit: $1690.44

Upcoming Fundraisers

BMES Boba and Banh Mi Fundraiser Part 2

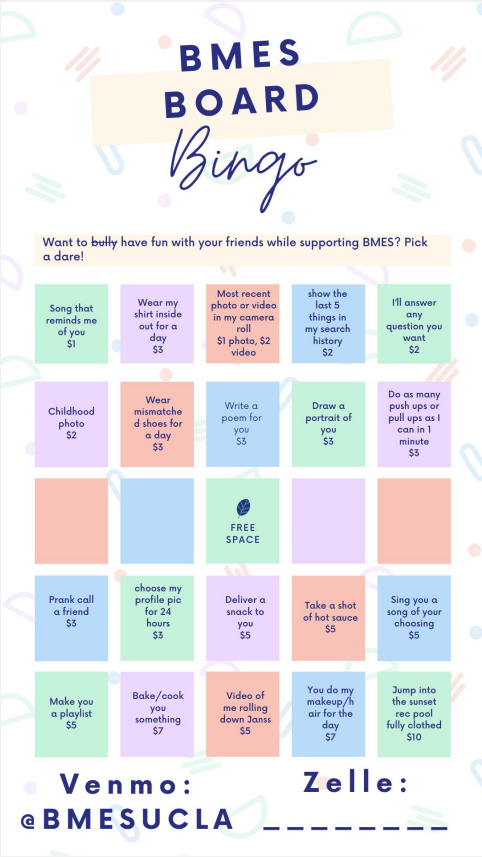
Date: 05.06.2026 **Profit Raised:** TBD

Due to the popularity of our beloved boba and banh mi fundraiser amongst students, we are bringing it back for the spring quarter!

Instagram Bingo Card Fundraiser

Dates: Spring Quarter **Profit Raised:** TBD

Every Spring, our general board members participate in posting bingo dares on their instagram stories in which followers and friends can pay board members in exchange for completing a dare. Some notable dares include posting a baby photo and jumping fully clothed into a swimming pool. This fundraiser is a lot of fun and has brought the BMES at UCLA community together! For example, last year the BMES board raised $269 from our 45 board members, and the top fundraiser won a fancy film camera!



BMES x UCLA SPARK Crowdfunding Campaign

Dates: 01.22.2026 - 02.19.2026 **Profit Raised:** $6,707

The BMES Campaign: Support Biomedical Innovation, in affiliation with UCLA Spark, planned our third annual crowdfunding campaign to raise money for our five advanced technical projects. Through this campaign, we ensure we have as much creative freedom as possible in our engineering projects, as these funds support the materials and tools for building prototypes. Our technical projects provide invaluable hands-on engineering experience to students as they tackle pressing bioengineering challenges, and the Spark campaign ensures the necessary resources for creative, student-driven innovations.

Our technical project managers, with the help of their 56 team members, worked to promote the crowdfunding effort throughout the month by sharing it on social media and with their professional networks. The campaign lasted from 01.22.2026 - 02.19.2026 and **raised a total of $6,707** for our Design and Research Teams and **surpassing our $6,000 goal by nearly 12%**. Additionally, our campaign surpassed our previous record from 2024 ($4,870) by $1,837 and connected us with a major UCLA donor who matched donations up to $1,500 and is **now interested in a long-term collaboration with BMES.**

Overview of External Funding:

Funding Source Name:	Amount:
Industry Sponsorships	$3,000.00
[UCLA] Academic Success Referendum Fund	$672.05
[UCLA] Campus Programs Committee Youth Programming Fund	$2,844.98
[UCLA] Campus Support for Student Programming	$4,665.14
[UCLA] Community Activities Committee Regular Fund	$6,152.08
[UCLA] Contingency Programming Fund	$3,319.00
[UCLA] Engineering Alumni Association	$12,050.00
[UCLA] Graduate Student Association Fund	$1,000.00
[UCLA] Recreation Event Fund	$1,600.46
[UCLA] Spark Campaign Crowdfunding	$6,707.00
[UCLA] Student Union Event Fund	$419.50
[UCLA] The Green Initiative Fund	$1,582.79
Total:	**$44,013.00**

Chapter Activities

BMES at UCLA offers a wide range of events to enrich the undergraduate experience and prepare members for future careers in bioengineering. Our events are divided into seven main categories: social, EDI, community outreach, mentorship, academic advancement, professional development, and technical skills development. Our social events have always attracted a large proportion of the UCLA Bioengineering community. They can largely be divided into department-wide (including faculty and graduate students) and undergraduate-specific. All of our social events emphasize relationships that last throughout students' undergraduate careers. We have also been very fortunate to have met leadership from other chapters at the 2025 BMES Annual Meeting. From those contacts, we have co-hosted events to foster strong interchapter relationships, both within California and with chapters across the US. Our community outreach efforts center on inspiring students in underserved communities while simultaneously providing our members with opportunities to create a positive impact in the greater LA area. For instance, our new Science Literacy workshop aims to tackle the growing need for students to critically engage with scientific information, making science more accessible at an earlier age. Recognizing that students may feel uneasy about science right now, we also expanded upon our EDI initiatives to promote inclusion, self-advocacy, and mental well-being in our tight-knit bioengineering community. Our academic events expose students to opportunities in further education, connect them with research experiences, and provide resources to help them succeed academically at UCLA and beyond. We also prioritize professional development by creating opportunities for students to build relationships with industry leaders through panels, networking events like our flagship Career Fair, and our annual BioHack. Our chapter takes pride in bringing accomplished professionals from across the biomedical engineering field to campus. To further prepare students for future careers, our technical projects provide hands-on opportunities to develop practical engineering skills through four, established tracks that served over 110 students this year.

One emphasis this year was expanding collaborations to promote community: between BMES chapters, between committees within our chapter, with other student organizations at UCLA, with industry partners and alumni, with the UCLA Bioengineering department, and more. Overall, all of our events support members in their exploration of biomedical engineering during their time as undergraduate students while creating a supportive community. Our wide breadth of programming creates well-rounded individuals, and we are continuously expanding our resources to better serve our members.

Social or Other Activities

Social events are core to BMES community building, connecting our members, and recruiting new students into our community. Because UCLA Bioengineering is such a large community, BMES implements support systems to help first-year and transfer students form long-lasting relationships. We often see members build long-lasting friendships at our socials and continuously return to our events year-round. Overall, we host major quarterly events and robust mentorship programs to engage our entire member base. Because we extend invitations to faculty, graduate students, and alumni to these major quarterly banquets, our undergraduate members are also able to interact with our extended community. Each of our quarterly social events center around a theme and are accompanied by exciting games and activities that foster a fun environment. BMES at UCLA has consistently demonstrated that building these relationships outside of the classroom has been essential for building successful individuals. This year, we expanded upon our new EDI committee by integrating initiatives and events into our social events to foster a more inclusive environment in our bioengineering community.

Department-Wide Celebrations

Once a quarter, BMES at UCLA hosts a department-wide formal social event to bring together the entire UCLA bioengineering community, allowing our members the opportunity to interact with graduate students, faculty, and staff in the department.

UCLA Student Organization Fairs

Date: 09.22.2025 and 09.24.2025 **Attendance:** 100 **Cost:** $0

Officers of BMES at UCLA hosted an in-person booth at UCLA's annual student organization fairs: Enormous Activities Fair for all UCLA students and Engineering Welcome Day targeted at Engineering students. Incoming and returning students had the opportunity to learn about BMES and our programs. Besides sharing information about our initiatives, we also recorded their contact information and invited them to our quarterly general meeting, which further details how to get involved.

Holiday Party

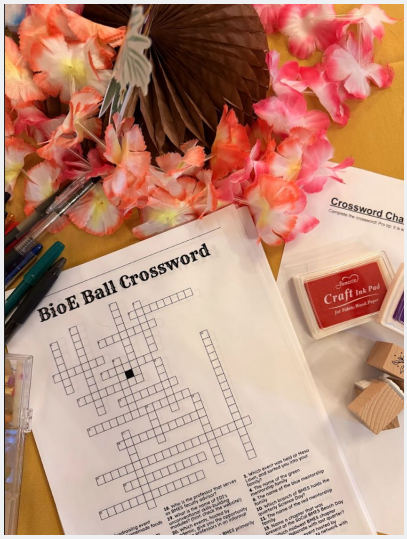
Date: 11.24.2025 **Attendance:** 90 (1 graduate student, 3 faculty)
Cost: $1,544.78

Holiday Party is a large social event for undergraduate students, graduate students, and bioengineering faculty for a celebration of the holiday season. This Golden Gala themed event is an opportunity for the entire BMES community to get together for a fun night filled with holiday activities like a gingerbread house making contest, music, dancing, hot chocolate, and delicious Southern cuisine. A fun bingo icebreaker also encouraged our members, board, and faculty to connect.

BioE Ball: Memories in the Making

Date: 02.26.2026 **Attendance:** 45 **Cost:** $3,264.68

This end-of-the-quarter celebration allowed members to mingle with each other, enjoying catered food, singing, and dancing. Our theme this year was Memories in the Making, so activities included a scavenger hunt with four sub-activities (a BMES crossword, polaroid challenge, a cipher puzzle, and memoir challenge) with prizes for the winners!



[Upcoming] End-of-the-Year Banquet

Date: 05.29.2026 **Attendance:** TBD (55 people in 2025) **Cost:** TBD

The end-of-the-year banquet provides BMES members and bioengineering faculty the opportunity to look back on all of the chapter's achievements from the past year, enjoy a meal together, and bid farewell to the graduating seniors. For reference, last year's banquet featured an earthy Ethereal Forest theme, celebrated our 17 BMES seniors, and included 55 total attendees. Photos from our annual banquet last year are included as well.

Undergraduate Socials

In addition to departmental wide events, a number of major club-wide and board-wide events are held over the course of the year to foster stronger relationships within the undergraduate community.

Fall Board Retreat

Date: 09.27.2025-09.28.2025 **Attendance:** 29 **Cost:** $578.00

Each Fall Quarter, the incoming BMES General Board participates in a weekend of team-building activities and bonding. This year, we went to Oxnard, California, where we had lots of fun playing games, going to the beach, taking fun photos, playing card games, and getting to know each other. Board members cooked dinner and breakfast together as well. The goal of this retreat was to create stronger relationships within the board at the start of the year, which led to more successful events during the school year.

Fall BBQ

Date: 10.18.2025 **Attendance:** 80 students and 1 faculty **Cost:** $760.30

Fall BBQ is the first major club-wide BMES event of the year. BMES kicked off the mentorship system for the year, where the mentorship family matching is revealed for the year and new members meet their mentors. This event involved many team bonding activities, including a tug-of-war, relay race, and balloon toss to allow students to mingle and get to know each other. We served snacks, hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Overall, members had the opportunity to meet new friends across years and majors and this bonding event encouraged students to stay involved throughout the year. In doing so, we were able to strengthen the BMES community and welcome all of our new members.

Undergraduate Socials

Halloween Party

Date: 10.31.2025 **Attendance:** 17 **Cost:** $30.00

A Halloween-themed social where board and new committee members gathered in a fun, social setting to celebrate Halloween together with costumes, snacks, and a spooky movie. The event provided a fun, low-pressure environment for board members to bond and connect outside of their usual responsibilities.

Winter Bonfire

Date: 01.16.2026 **Attendance:** 15 **Cost:** $133.42

This year, we hosted a bonding event for our General Board members to start the Winter Quarter on a high note! This sunset bonfire was held at the Dockweiler Beach fire pits and included classic bonfire activities like making hot chocolate, roasting marshmallows, and making s'mores, as well as music for a chill and relaxing evening. We also got dinner together afterwards, further strengthening connections between our board members.

Undergraduate Socials

KBBQ Night

Date: 02.22.2026 **Attendance:** 14 **Cost:** $0

This annual mentorship event brings BMES members together over KBBQ! Members went to Bud Namu, a Korean BBQ restaurant in LA Ktown, to enjoy dinner and lively conversation. Afterwards, we walked to get shaved ice and boba to end the night on a sweet treat. KBBQ Night is a great way to get members out of the Westwood area and to explore a new place in LA. This event helped to foster a strong community as members had the opportunity to socialize with each other over delicious food.

Spring Retreat

Date: 04.03.2026-04.06.2026 **Attendance:** 30 **Cost:** $1804.41

BMES board members went to Joshua Tree, CA for our final retreat of the year! Activities ranged from group hikes, stargazing, watching movies, bowling, and more. This two-night retreat cemented the board's strong bond this year, fostering deeper friendships and providing a meaningful opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments and growth as a team.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Events

To create a community in which all students feel welcome and supported, our EDI committee hosts events centered around education on equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the year. This year, one of our goals was to increase the presence of EDI integrated throughout the BMES and UCLA communities via various collaborative workshops and events with other branches of BMES.

SWE Advocacy x BMES EDI "Therapeutic Tuesday" & Lip-Scrubs Making Event

Date: 11.25.2025 **Attendance:** 8 **Cost:** $8.78

In partnership with the UCLA Society of Women Engineers' (SWE) Advocacy team, this event was geared towards community well-being and stress management during exam season. Aligned with the SWE advocacy team's focus on community representation and capacity-building, attendees had the opportunity to listen to a brief module on mental health resources at UCLA and stress management. Then, they were encouraged to socialize and meet new people while crafting lip scrubs consisting of sugar, honey, and fragrance oils for a hands-on experience! Overall, this event aimed to improve community well-being through stress management education and by providing the space and time to pause and create. This event was also during Mental Health Awareness Week!

BMES EDI x Cytosine x Guanine Finals Week Survival Kits

Date: 12.04.2025 **Attendance:** 20 **Cost:** $162.91

The EDI committee collaborated with the Cytosine and Guanine families to host a Finals Week Survival Kit event where students assembled personalized goodie bags with snacks, school supplies, and wellness items to support them during finals. Attendees also created DIY stress balls and used the space to study, relax, and connect with peers. The event promoted student well-being by providing resources for hydration, stress relief, and academic success in a supportive, low-pressure environment.

BMES EDI x Crusade Medicine: Equitable and Inclusive Biomechanic Idea Sesh

Date: 01.29.2026 **Attendance:** 7 **Cost:** $37.80

BMES EDI and Crusade Sports Medicine hosted an Equitable and Inclusive Biomechanics Idea Session centered on inclusive design and accessibility. Participants engaged in a hands-on design module, developing brace prototypes while considering the diverse ways individuals navigate physical environments and tasks. The event highlighted the importance of equity in biomedical innovation, encouraging students to integrate inclusive perspectives into their design and problem-solving approaches.

Personal Finances and Basic Needs Guidance Workshop

Date: 02.25.2026 **Attendance:** 7 **Cost:** $10.26

BMES EDI hosted a Personal Finances and Basic Needs Guidance Workshop to support students in navigating financial and campus resources. Attendees learned about programs such as FAFSA and EBT, as well as UCLA's Basic Needs services, with the opportunity to ask questions ahead of key application deadlines. The workshop emphasized financial literacy, stability, and self-advocacy, equipping students with tools for both college and post-graduate planning.

EDI x Cytosine x Good Molecules "Engineering as Artistry": Formulation Science Day

Date: 03.03.2026 **Attendance:** 30 **Cost:** $68.43

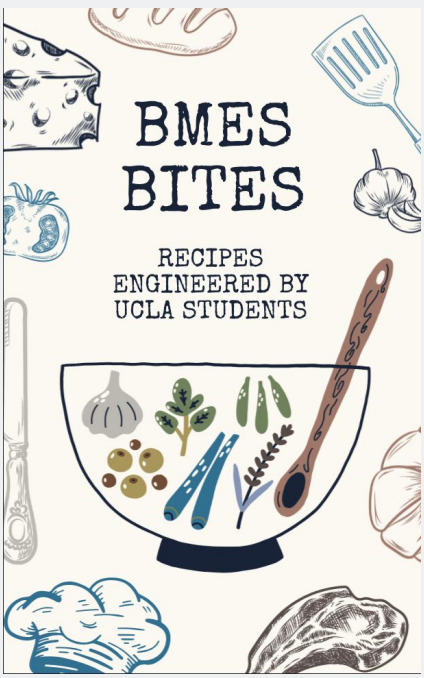
BMES Cytosine and EDI partnered with Good Molecules, a skincare brand, to host "Engineering as Artistry: Formulation Science Day," blending creativity with hands-on engineering. After a brief introduction and sample distribution, students formulated their own perfumes, lip glosses, and bath scrubs across interactive stations. The event highlighted inclusivity and self-expression in engineering, while offering a relaxing, social environment that encouraged creativity and exploration of formulation science.

BMES Bites

Date: Ongoing **Participation:** 9 recipes collected **Cost:** $0

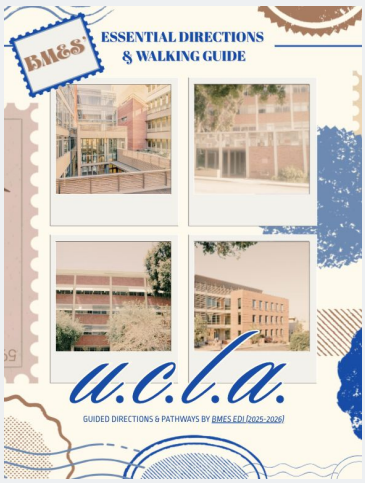
Among UCLA students, 39% of students reported being food insecure. BMES Bites was created this year as a student-created cookbook to support students where they are already at. Each recipe in this book comes from a BMES member and reflects meals they actually make in their daily lives. Recipes include budget-friendly substitutions and time-saving options for real student schedules and resources. By sharing realistic, accessible meals, BMES hopes to promote equity, normalize conversations around food insecurity, and make food-related support more visible.

By contributing and exploring recipes, members and alumni can stay connected over the years through a fun, collaborative project that celebrates creativity, culture, and community. BMES is set to "publish" this book in the upcoming month!



Essential Directions Guide

As a complement to the official interactive UCLA campus map, this directions guide features comprehensive data on ADA-accessible routes, general walking directions, etc. to BMES' locations of interest. In response to demonstrated confusion by new UCLA students and BMES members about how to access common meeting rooms, this resource promotes easier navigation to the engineering buildings, mathematical science rooms, and makerspaces!



BMES Continuous Feedback Form

Contrasting a one-time town hall event, this running feedback form aims to create an inclusive, continuously-improving environment that caters to demonstrated community needs! Collection of ongoing, actionable insights helps us understand bottlenecks in leadership and drives evidence-based, culture-shifting improvements.

BMES Academic/Industry x BMES EDI: General and Technical Interview Skills Workshop

Date: 04.23.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD

Aiming to empower underrepresented students and promote an inclusive hiring environment, this professional development event will combine career preparation with confidence-building. In collaboration with our internal Academic and Industry committees, we hope to educate members about the necessary skills and tools to navigate the job market, succeed in behavioral interviews, and ace technical questioning rounds.

Multicultural Snack Night

Date: 05.01.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD

Organized by BMES EDI, this event aims to provide hands-on educational experiences and foster community connections through the sharing of traditional snacks, desserts, or dishes.

We will provide snacks of different cultures along with games and discussion prompts, prompting discussions about the importance of diversity, why EDI can be misrepresented in mainstream media, and what we can do to make sure everyone–regardless of culture and ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and disability–feels included in our organization. For reference, last year's multicultural snack night had 26 attendees.

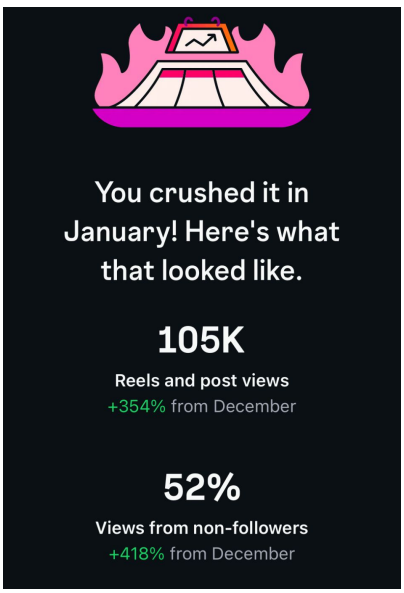
Expanding Publicity & Social Media Engagement

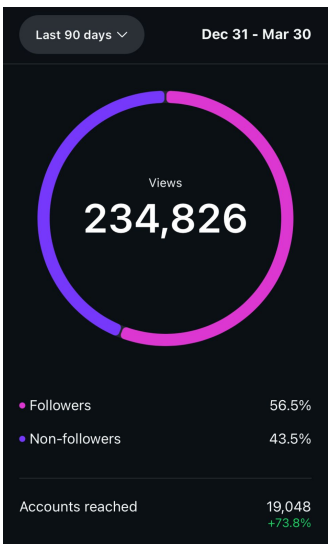
BMES is the largest and most established student organization at UCLA that is specifically catered to bioengineering majors and students interested in translational biomedical research. As such, BMES made a concerted effort this year to elevate our publicity and accessibility to the UCLA community through fun social media initiatives.

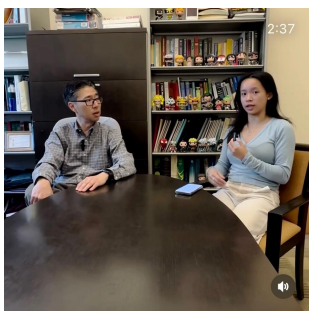
As mentioned in the administrative report, the weekly newsletter, BMES at UCLA Instagram account, and Discord server act as the three main pillars of communication for events and resources with our 250 members. This year, the Publicity Committee has sought to better showcase our tight-knit, supportive, and warm community to the broader UCLA and bioengineering communities. Specifically, we focused on closing the gap between the BMES board and general members, promoting more of BMES's resources, and increasing engagement and positivity through short-form content.

We kicked off the school year with a series of Instagram posts introducing each board member and, later, committee members, with fun facts and pictures. To emphasize the diversity of our community, our board members filmed a series of Day-in-the-Life videos across all four grades. We also began conducting recorded lab interviews with faculty from the Bioengineering Department for Instagram to provide our members with insight into their research and lab environments.

We challenged ourselves to generate short-form content every week of the quarter and create event recap videos and carousels to show how amazing our events are. As of March 31st, our Instagram posts have an average view count of 1,500-1,700, and our reels have an average view count of 2,200-2,700. Our SPARK crowdfunding post also reached a record 15.7k views, and our BMES 2025 Wrapped post was seen by 10.2k people.







Inter - Chapter Activities

Our chapter has always emphasized the importance of collaboration, both within our General Board and with other organizations. As such, we utilize connections we make from the BMES annual meeting, prior contacts with other student chapters, and a Discord server with all of the California BMES chapters to make meeting plans and establish event logistics. This year we were able to put on multiple in-person and virtual cross-chapter events, ranging from our fellow Southern California BMES chapters (UCI, USC, and CSULB) to cross-country chapters we met at the national BMES conference (OSU). In addition, we also forged new relationships with high school BMES chapters and newly formed chapters (Stanford). Beyond social events, we have also sought to collaborate on professional development initiatives, fostering shared learning, resource exchange, and broader access to industry and academic opportunities across chapters.

Stanford x UCLA BMES Meeting

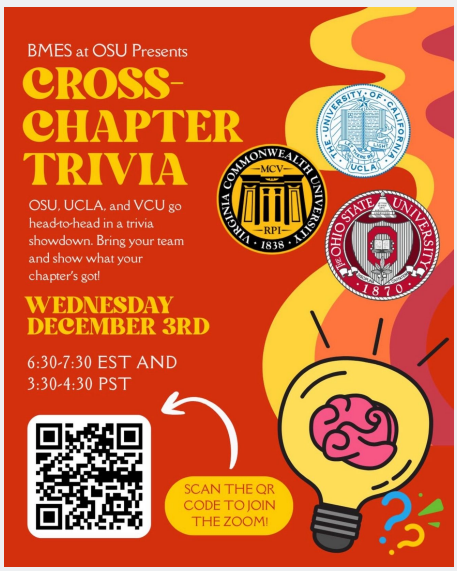
Date: 07.08.2025 **Attendance:** 6 **Cost:** $0
Collaborating Chapter(s): Stanford

Last summer, Stanford bioengineering students reached out to UCLA BMES to learn more about starting a BMES chapter. During a virtual meeting, we shared about our BMES experience, the structure of our chapter, initiatives we are proud of, and general advice with our fellow bioengineers at Stanford. This conversation gave our Stanford friends insight into how to start an effective chapter and opened the door to upcoming collaborations with their new chapter.

OSU x VCU x UCLA Trivia Night

Date: 12.03.2025 **Attendance:** 22 **Cost:** $0
Collaborating Chapter(s): OSU and VCU

UCLA BMES hosted a cross-chapter Trivia Night in collaboration with Ohio State University BMES and Virginia Commonwealth University BMES, marking one of our first-ever cross-state collaborations. The virtual format made it possible to bring together members from across the country, featuring science and bioengineering-themed trivia alongside breakout room icebreakers. This accessible, low-commitment event strengthened national connections and set a strong precedent for future remote collaborations.



SoCal BMES Beach Day

Date: 01.24.2026 **Attendance:** 60 **Cost:** $307 from UCLA
Collaborating Chapter(s): UCI, CSULB, USC

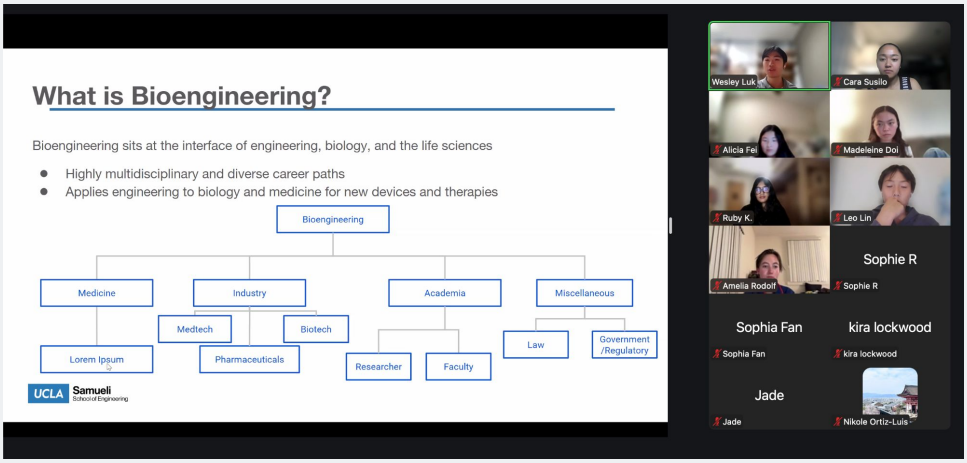
UCLA BMES hosted a SoCal BMES Beach Day in collaboration with University of California, Irvine, California State University, Long Beach, and University of Southern California, marking our first major in-person collaboration of the year. Building on the success of last year's UCLA–UCI beach day, this expanded event brought together multiple Southern California chapters to foster a broader regional community. Held in Long Beach, members connected through games, conversations, and shared meals, creating a relaxed environment for cross-chapter interaction. Activities like limbo, football, pizza, and even TikTok-making made it a fun and memorable way for students to bond.

Other Inter-Chapter Activities

UCLA BMES x MCHS Panel

Date: 03.04.2026 **Attendance:** 12 **Cost:** $0
Collaborating Chapter(s): Mira Costa High School (MCHS)

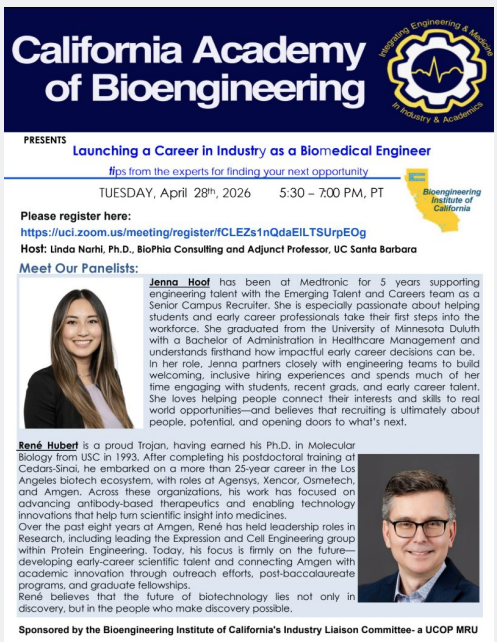
UCLA BMES hosted a virtual panel with students from Mira Costa High School's BMES chapter (in Manhattan Beach) to introduce bioengineering and pathways into the field. UCLA students shared insights on what bioengineering entails, how to prepare for a bioengineering education, and ways to get involved as a high school student. The session engaged a group of seven motivated MCHS students, helping to demystify bioengineering and inspire early interest in biomedical careers.



[Upcoming] BIC ILC Career Panel with UC Berkeley BioEHS and UC Merced BMES

Date: 04.28.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** $0
Collaborating Chapter(s): UC Berkeley and UCM

In collaboration with UC Berkeley Bioengineering Honor Society and UC Merced BMES, BMES at UCLA is co-hosting a Bioengineering Institute of California (BIC) Industry Liaison Committee (ILC)-sponsored career panel with two industry leaders. The panel will be hosted virtually to ensure accessibility to bioengineering students across California. It will be moderated by a member of the UCLA bioengineering department's Industry Advisory Board and will highlight two scientists from the BIC-ILC with expertise in early career development, resumes, and interviewing.



Other Inter-Chapter Activities

[Upcoming] USC x UCLA Annual Meetup

Date: TBD **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD

Building upon the success of our meet-up with USC at the Griffith Observatory last year, we are planning our next annual collaboration between Bruins and Trojans. Currently, we are planning either a fun get-together at another iconic LA attraction or an outreach event to improve our local LA community (e.g. beach cleanup day). We hope to get comparable turnout to our meetup last year (~22 people).

[Upcoming] Stanford x UCLA Annual Meetup

Date: TBD **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD

Following our initial meeting, UCLA BMES is planning a virtual collaboration with Stanford once their chapter is off the ground. We are currently in contact to organize either a social event or a professional development and knowledge-sharing opportunity to strengthen connections between our chapters.

Participation in National BMES Meetings

This year, Kaitlyn Baich, the Content & Student Engagement Manager at BMES, spearheaded several initiatives to engage BMES award-winning student chapters and improve the student chapter experience nationwide. As the recipient of last year's Societal Impact Award, BMES at UCLA was grateful to participate in these collaborative meetings with Kaitlyn and fellow awardees. On this page, we highlight our involvement in these discussions, where chapters shared ideas and initiatives to strengthen engagement across the BMES community.

- Student Chapter Awardee Meeting [12.16.2025]
- From Submission to Success: CDR Insights from Student Chapter Award Winners Webinar [02.04.2026]
- Student Chapter Awardee Meeting Webinar Follow-up [03.11.2026]

Outreach Activities

Members of BMES at UCLA hold a strong passion for inspiring the community and bringing much-needed resources to underserved populations. Our impact is consistently the strongest in elementary, middle, and high schools, where we prioritize mentorship alongside learning and service.

Our flagship program, Reaching and Inspiring Students in Engineering (RISE), is our biggest commitment to creating opportunities for students to engage with engineering. Our lessons build fundamental skills and encourage critical thinking. Above all, our goal as volunteers is to inspire the upcoming generation to pursue higher education.

In addition to these site visits, we bring students on campus for a full day of STEM-based activities through our Science Days. We pride ourselves on providing the unique experience of showing students UCLA's incredible learning environment. Our chapter hosts two of these events per year with different schools to maximize the number of students we impact.

Reaching and Inspiring Students in Engineering (RISE)

Our RISE program focuses on establishing a fruitful connection with the students at James Madison Middle School. Our goal is not only to foster interest in pursuing a career in the engineering field, but also to promote the idea of continuing education. Madison is a Title I school in the Los Angeles Unified School District and over 80% of students come from low-income backgrounds. Our program focuses on providing a supportive, educational, and engaging learning experience to these students.

Throughout the program, we provide step-by-step mentorship as students learn basic engineering concepts, culminating in final projects demonstrating their hard work and new knowledge. In doing so, we provide students from underserved communities the opportunity to explore the vast possibilities in science without financial limitations and introduce accessibility of learning STEM from a hands-on approach. Additionally, we instill a long-lasting passion for learning and exploration often associated with higher education and interests beyond the scope of the program.

We accomplish these goals through on-site interactions, where volunteers hold workshops to teach various concepts, where each workshop builds off the previous. With this structure, we are able to foster continued mentor-mentee relationships throughout the school year and beyond. Our goal is for participants to feel comfortable asking for help and advice not only about the concepts they were learning but also about their interests outside of the curriculum.

Over the course of the year, we have received a great amount of positive feedback from teachers, principals, as well as our student volunteers. It has been an extremely rewarding experience to see the development of student interest in the engineering field over the course of these visits. We continue to strive to increase the quality and breadth of our programs and are excited to see how future years may continue to expand the RISE program.

Visit Breakdown

Before each site visit, the Community Outreach chairs hold in-person workshops to go over the upcoming visit's plan with volunteers. Volunteers have the opportunity to look over slides and ask questions prior to implementing the curriculum. Volunteers are also given tips for how to most effectively teach the students. Each of these volunteer workshops are held during the week prior to the site visit.

The day of the visit, volunteers meet at the UCLA Luskin Turnaround at 11 AM to carpool to James Madison Middle School. They set up supplies for the lesson during the students' lunch and teach from 1-2 PM. We also like to give out snacks after our lesson to encourage engagement and participation. Our volunteers return to campus around 3 PM after a half-day of engaging with students.

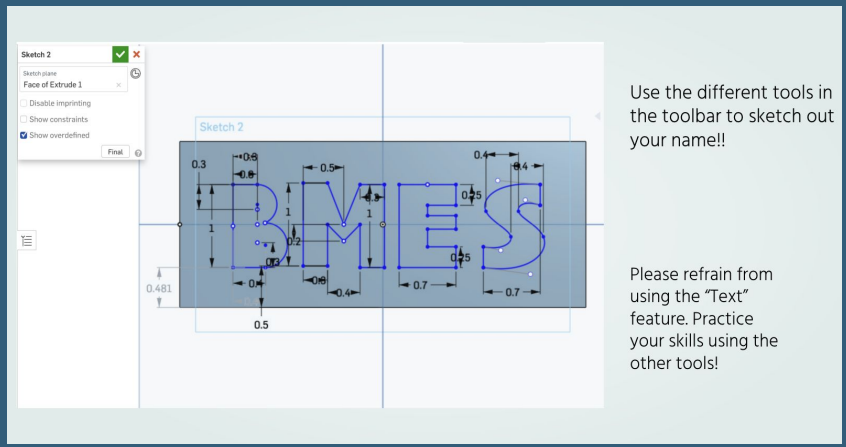
RISE Lesson Plans

Over the past seven years, students at James Madison Middle School have taken part in our structured learning environment that is designed to introduce them to STEM concepts such as circuitry, iterative design, and computer assisted design. They also learn about the opportunities available to them in higher education. This year, our workshops focused on teaching particular science and engineering topics using Arduino UNO microcontrollers, circuit breadboards, and online CAD programs. Our Community Outreach Chairs have also created space in the curriculum for the students to work on independent design projects. During each visit, 5-7 UCLA BMES student volunteers work with 30 7th grade students. All of the visits for the entirety of the year cost $6,152.08 for transportation, supplies, and food.

Lesson Title	Date	Description
Lesson 01 - Intro to Arduino	11.05.2025	Students learned basic concepts in circuitry including current, resistance, and Ohm's Law in addition to how it applies to Arduino components. They also learned the difference between a series and a parallel circuit and built a working LED circuit using TinkerCAD.
Lesson 02 - Intro to Arduino Programming	11.19.2025	Students learned the general use cases for the digital pins on an Arduino. Then, they learned how to program a flashing LED light in TinkerCAD. Students applied their knowledge to create an LED that flashed their name in Morse code.
Lesson 03 - Simple Circuits + Arduino	12.03.2025	After reviewing the previous two lectures, students physically built LED circuits. They also uploaded the code they made in Lesson 02 to have the LEDs flash their name in Morse code.
Lesson 04 - CAD with OnShape: Basics	01.16.2026	Students were introduced to 3D computer aided design in OnShape. They learned how to create sketches and extrude those sketches to make 3D shapes. Students applied their

RISE Lesson Plans

Lesson 05 - CAD with OnShape: Assemblies	02.27.2026	Students continued to learn CAD skills by being introduced to multi-part CAD designs that interact. They also learned the importance of dimensioning their objects to have functional designs.
Lesson 06 - CAD with OnShape: Complex Designs	03.06.2026	Students learned how to revolve a shape around a fixed line. They were then guided through creating a more complex design by designing a crewmate from the hit game, Among Us.
Lesson 07 - Intro to Final Project	04.10.2026	Students applied the CAD skills developed throughout the winter quarter to design their final projects: custom 3D-printed lamps, with guidance provided by BMES volunteers throughout the design process
Lesson 08 - Final Projects (cont.)	04.24.2026	Students will continue refining their lamp designs, receiving assistance and design ideas from volunteers. The completed designs will be 3D printed by volunteers utilizing UCLA's 3D printing resources.
Lesson 09 - Lighting the Lamp!	05.15.2026	Students will assemble LED circuits to illuminate their 3D-printed lamps, exploring various circuit configurations and experimenting with different LED colors to enhance their designs.



Science Days

As part of BMES at UCLA's outreach efforts, we engage with low-income and historically underrepresented students to inspire them to pursue higher education. Science Days are a key initiative in this mission, where we bring students from local Title I schools onto UCLA's campus for a full day of hands-on learning and exploration. Activities range from interactive experiments, such as rover-building and using yeast fermentation to blow up balloons, to campus tours, giving students a glimpse into both college life and applied bioengineering. These experiences allow students to connect classroom concepts to real-world applications while hearing directly from UCLA undergraduates about their journeys, leaving many inspired by the campus environment and the possibilities ahead. This year, we are holding two Science Days to impact two different Title I schools in the LA area.

Fall Science Day

Date: 11.12.2025
Attendance: 20 UCLA student volunteers, 90 middle school students and chaperones
Cost: $2,842.48

BMES hosted Fall Science Day by welcoming 90 students and staff from James Madison Middle School to the UCLA campus for a day of hands-on STEM exploration. We guided them through three engaging STEM activities: a Rover Activity, a Yeast Balloon Activity, and a campus tour. These activities were designed to introduce students to hands-on learning and provide an exciting glimpse into science, engineering, and university life.

This event built upon our ongoing partnership with James Madison Middle School, a Title I school that BMES has worked with in the past. The event fostered meaningful connections as students reconnected with returning volunteers and engaged in conversations about engineering and their experiences at UCLA. These interactions reinforced student interest in science and engineering, and provided relatable role models, all while strengthening trust and continuity between BMES and the James Madison community.

[Upcoming] Spring Science Day

Date: 05.21.2026
Attendance: 54 students (tentative)
Cost: TBD

This quarter's science day will bring a projected 54 5th grade students from Purch Avenue Elementary STEAM Magnet to the UCLA campus for a day filled with fun and learning! Activities will be similar to Fall Science Day, including a Rover Activity, campus tour, and potential strawberry DNA extraction experiment.

Special Outreach Programs

Beyond our flagship RISE Visits and Science Days, BMES develops additional outreach initiatives each year to explore new ways of engaging with the community. These events are often driven by student passion and creativity, allowing us to pilot programs such as science literacy workshops, campus tours, and collaborative outreach efforts. By expanding beyond traditional formats, we aim to reach diverse audiences, address evolving educational needs, and continuously innovate how we inspire interest in STEM.

BMES x ASME WHS Campus Tour

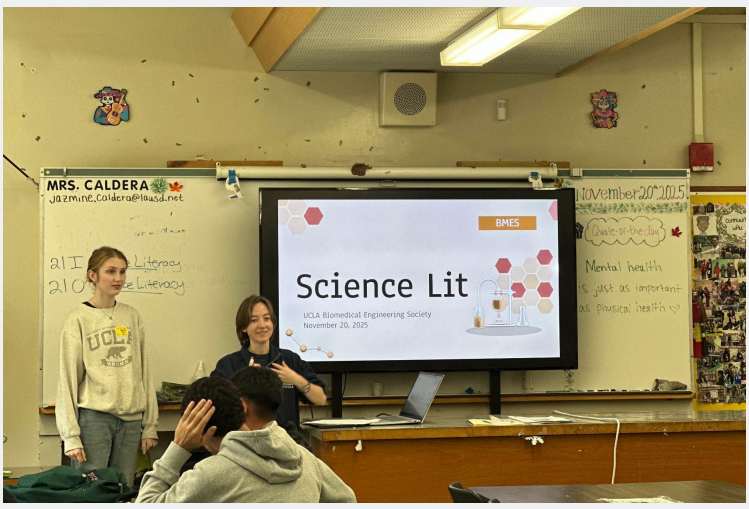
Date: 10.14.2025
Attendance: 8 UCLA student volunteers, 8 chaperones, 50 high school students
Cost: $0

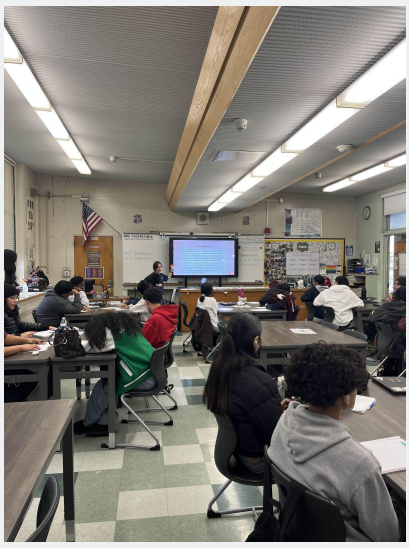
BMES collaborated with American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) at UCLA to host a campus visit for students from Whittier High School Cardinal Academy of Technology. Students toured the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering and attended a joint panel on bioengineering and mechanical engineering, led by outreach chairs and student leaders from both organizations. The visit concluded with an interactive Q&A, giving seniors the opportunity to ask questions about college life, engineering pathways, and student experiences. It also marked a successful first collaboration between BMES and ASME outreach teams, creating momentum for future joint initiatives.

Science Literacy Visit

Date: 11.20.2026
Attendance: 8 UCLA student volunteers and 60 elementary school students from Gardena Elementary
Cost: $181.74

BMES hosted our first-ever Science Literacy Visit to introduce students to reading and interpreting scientific papers in an accessible, collaborative setting. This initiative was inspired by our recognition that, while scientific literacy is a critical skill for STEM students, many do not encounter it until college when it becomes essential for coursework and research. Through hands-on, group-based activities, students explored a digestible Scientific American article, “Cats Kill a Staggering Number of Species across the World,” developing foundational skills in analyzing scientific literature. The session aimed to prepare students for future academic success while also building broader scientific literacy, empowering them to critically engage with scientific information in their everyday lives. We plan to continue this initiative with another session in the spring, with the goal of establishing it as a recurring event given the growing importance of scientific literacy.





Outreach Event: How-To Guide

Event Name: ***RISE Visits***

Officers in Charge:

- Community Outreach Chairs

Overview of Planning:

- RISE events require long-term planning, strong communication with partner schools, and careful coordination of volunteers, materials, and transportation. Successful RISE programming depends on preparing workshops in advance, maintaining strong relationships with teachers, and ensuring volunteers are trained and supported before each event.

Main Tasks/Goals:

- Apply for funding and complete any required youth clearance/background check processes
- Coordinate with partner schools to determine dates and event topics
- Develop presentations, worksheets, and experiments for each workshop
    - If working with programming from prior years, be sure to update them and make adjustments to ensure everything is accurate and complete
- Recruit volunteers and collect availability through surveys
- Schedule BruinCars and transportation early through UCLA
- Hold volunteer trainings and dry runs before each event
    - Schedule rooms and develop presentations for these RISE workshops
- Submit publicity requests and RSVP forms for volunteers
- Purchase, organize, and pack materials for the event
- Follow up with teachers, track attendance, and check inventory after the event

Funding Source(s):

- Community Activities Committee Regular Fund
    - This may vary year to year, but in 2025-26, we used this fund for our RISE Visits
- Alternative funding sources for community outreach initiatives:
    - Campus Programs Committee Youth Programming Fund
    - Undergraduate Students Association/Board of Directors Programming fund
    - For different institutions, look into whether the school has some dedicated funding or grants for community outreach activities like UCLA does

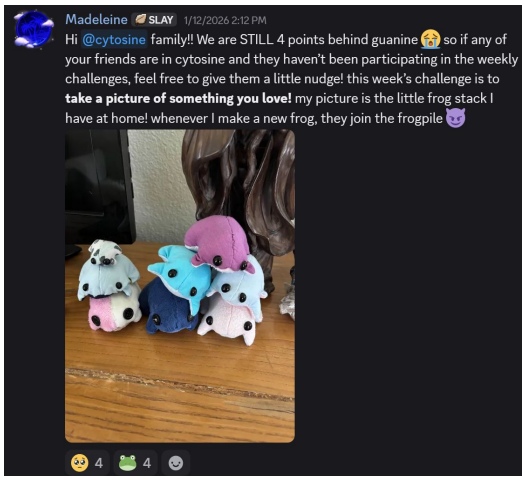
Mentoring Activities

The BMES at UCLA Mentorship Program strengthens our chapter through robust social, professional development, and community-building initiatives that foster meaningful relationships and a strong sense of community. Our General Board has 4 Family Heads (Guanine, Cytosine, Thymine, and Adenine) and 1 Mentorship Coordinator who oversees the program and larger social events. Each family adopts a unique theme each year that they share at general meetings, and members can join a family based on shared interests and the types of events hosted by its Family Head. This system ensures members can join families of like-minded individuals. Within each family, upperclassmen mentors are paired with underclassmen mentees, with a series of “rush” events at the start of the year helping mentees organically meet potential mentors before matches are revealed at the Fall BBQ.

Our mentoring activities also extend beyond our chapter. Through our high school mentorship, we host events that help students explore futures in bioengineering and prepare for higher education. In addition, our strong alumni network and industry connections have allowed us to build an integrated alumni and industry mentorship program. This year, we combined our previous IAB and alumni mentorship programs into a unified structure to streamline professional mentorship resources, expand access, and diversify the mentor pool available to all members. As a result, students pursuing a wide range of career paths can find mentors best aligned with their goals.

POINT STANDINGS (as of 04.11.2026):

Guanine: 1099
Cytosine: 942
Adenine: 799
Thymine: 243



BMES STUDIES:

Date	Attendance
10.29.2025	8
11.12.2025	8
12.03.2025	11
01.22.2026	7
02.05.2026	7
02.19.2026	13
03.05.2026	6
Total Cost:	**$18.33**

Mentorship Point System

This year, the BMES mentorship team introduced a new family point system to our mentorship programming. The family point system was designed to promote healthy competition among families and encourage general members to come to more BMES events. The family with the most amount of points at the end of the year will win a prize of their choosing.

There were two ways to accumulate points under this system: participating in weekly challenges and coming to family events. Every week, a challenge was posted to each family channel on the BMES Discord, either asking members to answer questions (e.g. favorite courses) or to submit a themed photo (e.g., fall). An example of these weekly challenges is provided to the left. Three points were awarded for each participating member. Additionally, families earned five points for each member who attended mentorship events, incentivizing consistent engagement.

Attendance at family events was tracked through sign-in sheets, allowing for more accurate participation data. This year, we observed increased member involvement and more consistent event attendance. This promoted community among the general members, building connections amongst different years and majors. Furthermore, in the pursuit of gaining more points, the family group chats saw more activity as well as increased social events.

Overall, the family point system encouraged all members, from general to board, to participate in social activities and create friendships. This strengthened the BMES community and motivated members to be more active.

BMES Studies

BMES launched a new mentorship and community-building initiative, BMES Studies, to create a welcoming, bi-weekly space for students to study, connect, and unwind together. Held in a designated campus location with snacks and collaborative materials, the program encouraged general member participation by offering an alternative to traditional study environments like libraries or dorms. Beyond academics, BMES Studies fostered casual conversations, class planning discussions, and a cozy atmosphere that made productivity more social and accessible.

Mentorship Families

All BMES members are strongly encouraged to join our BMES mentorship families. At the start of the year, members are sorted into one of four families—Adenine, Cytosine, Guanine, and Thymine—based on shared interests, hobbies, and personalities. Within these families, students can choose to participate as mentors (3rd and 4th years), mentees (1st and 2nd years), or remain general members, fostering connections across class years. While events are organized by individual family heads, they remain open to all BMES members, with a unique emphasis on cross-family collaboration to encourage broader connections across the club. This approach creates opportunities for members to build relationships both within and beyond their own family. In this section of the CDR, we detail the events put on by our Adenine, Cytosine, Guanine, and Thymine Family Heads.

Adenine Mentorship Family

Name Of Event	Description	Date	Attendance	Cost
Adenine Sunset Picnic	A casual sunset picnic at the start of the quarter where members connected in a relaxed outdoor setting, helping break the ice and introduce the social side of BMES.	10.02.2025	22	$25.00
Adenine Game Night	End-of-quarter social to celebrate finishing lectures and connect before finals week. Members played games and enjoyed snacks, offering a chance to de-stress and socialize one last time in a BMES setting before the quarter ends.	12.05.2025	14	$55.00
Adenine BMES x Jeopardy Club Meeting	Joint meeting with Jeopardy Club at UCLA where members participated in buzzer-style science trivia. Attendees were split into teams, fostering collaboration alongside lighthearted competition.	01.28.2026	15	$36.05

Adenine Mentorship Family

Name Of Event	Description	Date	Attendance	Cost
Adenine x Guanine Mystery Event	**[Collaboration with Guanine]** A family-based competition where members worked in teams to play guessing games and earn points. The event fostered inter-family connections and bonding, allowing members to meet new people. Attendees enjoyed snacks and a relaxed environment, providing a fun way to de-stress near finals.	03.02.2026	28	$77.06
[Upcoming] Adenine BMES x Jeopardy Club Meeting Part 2	Building on the success of the first event, BMES partnered again with the Jeopardy Club for a second round of buzzer-style science trivia. Members competed in teams, strengthening collaboration and camaraderie while enjoying a fun and engaging competitive atmosphere.	TBD	TBD	TBD
[Upcoming] Subversive Game Night	Yet another mystery event!	TBD	TBD	TBD

Adenine Event Highlights

Sunset Picnic

Mystery Event

Jeopardy Club Collaboration!

Cytosine Mentorship Family

Name Of Event	Description	Date	Attendance	Cost
Cytosine Ice Blocking	A social where members met the Cytosine family through the UCLA tradition of ice blocking down the Tongva Steps. With pizza and many first-year students, the event helped members connect with peers and upperclassmen through a fun introduction to BMES.	10.07.2025	15	$0
Cytosine Ice Cream Making Social	Members made their own ice cream using the plastic bag method with ice and salt, learning about freezing point depression through a hands-on activity. The event provided a fun way to meet new people, with underclassmen receiving advice from upperclassmen while enjoying their treats.	11.13.2025	15	$46.00
EDI x Cytosine x Guanine Finals Week Survival Kits	**[Collaboration with Guanine and EDI Committee]** Students created personalized goodie bags with snacks, study supplies, and wellness items to support them during finals week. The event provided a relaxing space to de-stress, study, and connect with peers while emphasizing self-care and well-being.	12.04.2025	20	$162.91

Cytosine Mentorship Family

Name Of Event	Description	Date	Attendance	Cost
Cytosine The Price is Right	Members played a lab-themed version of The Price is Right featuring Thermo Fisher Scientific products, with a $25 gift card prize for the winner and pizza for attendees. The event helped students test their understanding of lab equipment costs while providing an interactive competition to socialize.	01.30.2026	8	$25.00
BMES Cytosine x EDI x Good Molecules Engineering As Artistry: Formulation Science Day	**[Collaboration with EDI Committee]** Members received samples from Good Molecules and created products like perfumes, lip gloss, and scrubs at hands-on stations. The event offered a creative, social way to explore formulation and de-stress.	02.27.2026	30	$68.43
Cytosine HeyTea BOGO Boba Run	Members traveled together to HeyTea in Beverly Hills to take advantage of a BOGO deal and enjoy drinks together. The outing provided a fun, low-pressure opportunity to de-stress and bond outside of academics.	03.12.2026	7	$0
Cytosine Ice-blocking (Part 2)	Bringing back this popular UCLA tradition, members gathered again for ice blocking down the Tongva Steps.	04.10.2026	8	$35.00

Cytosine Event Highlights

Ice Blocking

Ice Cream Making

The Price is Right

HeyTea Boba Run

Guanine Mentorship Family

Name Of Event	Description	Date	Attendance	Cost
Guanine Rock Decorating	A flexible mentorship social where members painted and decorated rocks while meeting each other and the Guanine Family head. The event offered a creative, low-stress space to connect with peers, and attendees took home their decorated rocks as keepsakes.	10.09.2025	12	$10.98
Guanine Learn How to Flip Night	Members gathered at Yates Gym to learn and practice flips, with beginners trying skills like backflips into the foam pit and experienced members refining techniques. The event provided a safe, supportive space to build new skills while socializing with peers.	11.06.2025	6	$0
EDI x Cytosine x Guanine Finals Week Survival Kits	**[Collaboration with Cytosine and EDI Committee]** Students created personalized goodie bags with snacks, study supplies, and wellness items to support them during finals week. The event provided a relaxing space to de-stress, study, and connect with peers while emphasizing self-care and well-being.	12.04.2025	20	$162.91

Guanine Mentorship Family

Name Of Event	Description	Date	Attendance	Cost
Guanine Learn How to Flip Night Pt 2: Flippier Night	Following the success of the first event, many members returned to Yates Gym, with several successfully learning how to flip for the first time. The event provided a safe, supportive space for members across families to build skills and socialize.	01.15.2026	22	$0
Adenine x Guanine Mystery Event	**[Collaboration with Adenine]** A family-based competition where members worked in teams to play guessing games and earn points. The event fostered inter-family connections and bonding, allowing members to meet new people. Attendees enjoyed snacks and a relaxed environment, providing a fun way to de-stress near finals.	03.02.2026	28	$77.06
Guanine Froyo Trip	Members met up and commuted to The Yogurt Shoppe in Brentwood to enjoy frozen yogurt together before finals week. The outing provided a relaxing study break and a chance to unwind and socialize without academic stress.	03.13.2026	4	$0
Guanine Learn How to Flip Night Pt 3: Flippiest Night	As the final flip night of the year, backflips were taught for the first time, with members achieving a 100% success rate under guidance from the Guanine fam head.	04.07.2026	20	$0

Guanine Event Highlights

Rock Painting

Froyo Trip

Learn to Flip Night

Flipping!

Thymine Mentorship Family

Name Of Event	Description	Date	Attendance	Cost
Thymine Boba Run	An early-quarter mentorship social where members met at Bruin Bear and walked to Sharetea for drinks. The event helped first-year students connect with peers and upperclassmen while providing a relaxed setting to socialize and meet new people.	10.14.2025	15	$0
Thymine Pizza Making	Members built and baked their own custom pizzas, assembling toppings and cooking them together throughout the event. The hands-on activity created an interactive, engaging environment for students to socialize while enjoying their creations.	11.20.2025	12	$78.00
Thymine Movie Night	Members gathered to watch the third Knives Out film while enjoying provided snacks and drinks. The event offered a relaxed setting for students to unwind and socialize together.	01.30.2026	5	$22.00
Thymine Cookie Decorating	Members decorated cookies with icing and enjoyed their creations while chatting throughout the night. The activity brought members together in a fun, creative setting to connect and socialize.	03.05.2026	15	$36.00
[Upcoming] Thymine Air-Dry Clay Making	Members will create and shape their own designs using air-dry clay in a fun, hands-on, and creative setting.	04.18.2026	TBD	TBD

Thymine Event Highlights

Boba Run

Movie Night

Cookie Making

Mentor-Mentee Rush Events

To create stronger bonds and more compatible mentor-mentee relationships, our Mentorship Coordinator and Family Heads put on a series of events modeled after the popular Greek Life "rush" system. Over the course of a week, potential mentees met a wide variety of mentors that they could request at the end of the rush events, with final family matching revealed at the Fall BBQ event (discussed in the Chapter Activities section). Each family head hosted one event representative of their family theme as their first event of the year. In total, **64 students** attended these four events.

Sunset Picnic

Host: Adenine Family
Date: 10.02.2025

Ice Blocking

Host: Cytosine Family
Date: 10.07.2025

Rock Painting

Host: Guanine Family
Date: 10.09.2025

Boba Run

Host: Thymine Family
Date: 10.14.2025

Mentorship Programs

BMES has a robust set of mentorship programs supporting members professionally, academically, and socially. A major initiative this year was streamlining these programs to expand access and impact. Previously limited to board members, our Industry Advisory Board (IAB) mentorship program was integrated with our alumni mentorship program (open to all members), allowing for more targeted pairings based on career interests while extending access to industry mentors. We also continued building on our Best Buddies program from last year, further reinforcing peer connections. Overall, BMES at UCLA prioritized fostering genuine relationships through mentorship and friendship, an effort especially important in today's uncertain environment, and we look forward to continuing to grow these initiatives.

BMES Mentor-Mentee Program

A central component of our base pair family system is a mentorship program that matches upperclassmen with underclassmen in BMES, which helps connect members across years. At our annual Fall BBQ event, mentor-mentee pairings are unveiled through a grand reveal. Typically, one upperclassman mentor is paired with 2–3 underclassmen within the same family to maintain a personalized experience. For instance, mentors will take their mentees to their respective family events. These pairings continue throughout the year, with mentors serving as consistent resources for navigating life at UCLA.

Participating Mentors (30): Isaac Rodney, Rubaba (Ruby) Kamal, Amelia Rodolf, Sarah Meadows, Nathan Ou, Cara Susilo, Iris Sloan, Ian Morales, Enoch Lee, Allison Cheng, Ellen Zulkarnain, Evelyn Bennett, Alisha Bhat, Sofia Bogoniewski, Eve Sprute, Hannah Yared, Wesley Luk, Khanh Tran, Nathan Choup, Madeleine Tsoi, Sophia, Ena Pejovski, Lily Sarkissian, Fiona Zhang, Douglas Wu, RJ Nova, Ashley Do, Emilie Liao, Trisha Tanaka, Audrey Luu
Participating Mentees: 41 students

BMES Best Buddies

As a part of our goal to make BMES a diverse and inclusive space, BMES Best Buddies is an EDI committee initiatve that matches members with others who share similar interests, classes, and goals, encouraging connections through activities like studying, meals, and casual hangouts. In the past year, this program has led to the creation of many meaningful friendships that have helped members feel included and supported in bioengineering.

Participating Buddies: 28 students
Successful Matches: 8 buddy groups of 3-4 students

Industry and Alumni Mentorship Program

This year, BMES at UCLA streamlined its mentorship offerings by integrating our Industry Advisory Board (IAB) mentorship program into our existing alumni mentorship program. The IAB is composed of established professionals across biotechnology, medical devices, and pharmaceuticals, and they now participate in mentorship alongside our diverse alumni network to support students through a unified, yearlong mentorship program. This combined structure allows for more targeted one-on-one pairings based on career goals and shared interests, connecting undergraduate members with both alumni and industry leaders across paths such as industry, product management, graduate school, and medicine, while expanding access to high-impact mentorship for the broader BMES community.

Participating Alumni (13): Erik Reinertsen, Kayla (Jeeyoung) Choi, Shikha Mody, Anya Bekhtel, Mayilone Sathialingam, Julia Zhong, Thamira Skandakumar, Alexandra (Lexi) Jensen, Jennifer Wang, Jay Lesny Drake, David Li, Kelly Tamura, Natalie Tsubamoto
Participating IAB Mentors (6): Austin Copp, Zoe Deng, Linda Narhi, Jin Jin, Amit Vaish, William Pratt
Paticipating Mentees: 43 students

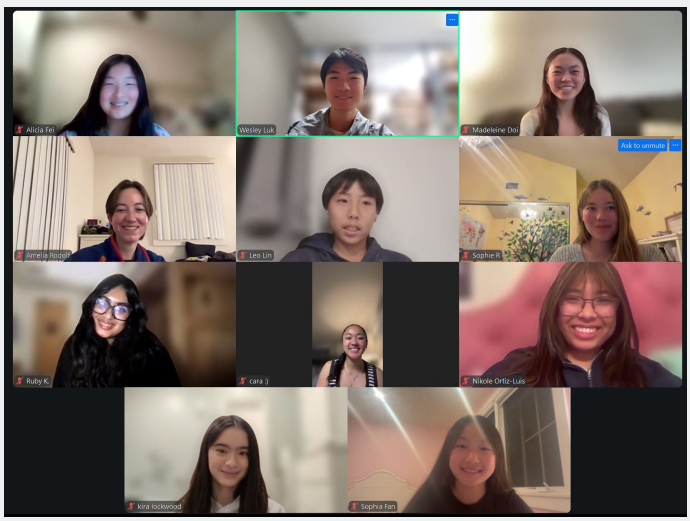
High School Outreach

Continuing last year's high school outreach initiatives, UCLA BMES hosted events to connect with students and share insights on bioengineering careers and college life. We aim to expand these efforts into a more structured mentorship program to provide individualized support and deepen student engagement.

Mira Costa High School Panel

Date: 03.04.2026 **Attendance:** 5 UCLA students and 7 MCHS students **Cost:** $0

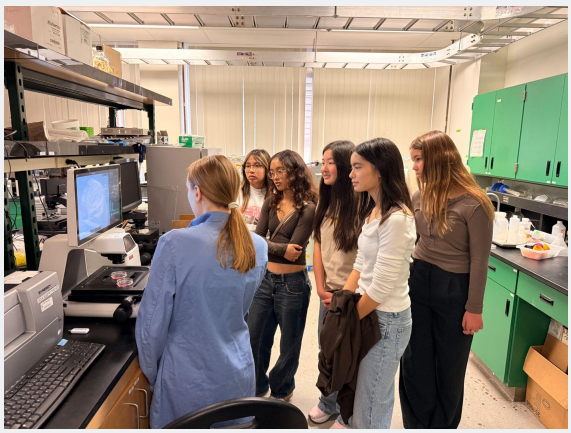
As previously mentioned in the **inter-chapter activities section**, UCLA BMES hosted a virtual panel with students from Mira Costa High School's (MCHS) BMES chapter (in Manhattan Beach) to introduce bioengineering and pathways into the field. UCLA students shared insights on what bioengineering entails, how to prepare for a bioengineering education, and ways to get involved as a high school student. To build upon this initial meeting into a more structured mentorship program, we concluded this panel by discussing a followup UCLA campus visit.

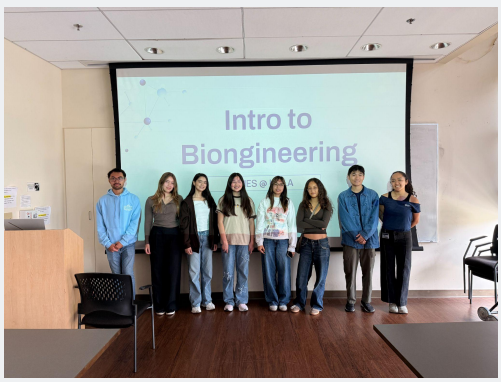


Mira Costa High School Campus Visit

Date: 04.12.2026 **Attendance:** 7 UCLA students and 5 MCHS students **Cost:** $0

Following the virtual panel, UCLA BMES hosted an in-person campus visit for students from Mira Costa High School BMES to deepen engagement and build toward a structured mentorship program. The visit included a bioengineering Q&A panel, UCLA campus tour, live lab demonstrations, and hands-on STEM activities. We also showcased our outreach kits (rover building, strawberry DNA, and yeast balloon), and provided sample materials to help them develop their own middle school STEM outreach initiatives.





[Upcoming] College Ready Program

Date: 05.02.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** $0

Our Community Outreach Chairs will host BMES College Ready, a virtual session for high school students exploring bioengineering and its career paths. Led by UCLA students, the event will share insights on the major and include a live Q&A to help students better understand opportunities and prepare for future academic decisions. Now in its second year, we aim to establish this as a recurring outreach program. For reference, our 2025 pilot featured 5 UCLA speakers and 14 high school attendees, with similar turnout expected this year.

Mentorship Event: How-To Guide

Event Name: ***Industry and Alumni Mentorship Program***

Officers in Charge:

- Industry Chairs
- Academic Chairs

Overview of Planning:

- This year, we combined our previously separate Industry Mentorship Program and Alumni Mentorship Program into a single initiative to expand mentor accessibility across the club. To recruit industry mentors, we first reached out to the UCLA Bioengineering Industry Advisory Board (IAB), a group of experienced alumni and industry professionals who advise the department on curriculum and long-term initiatives.
- While not every university may have an IAB, similar mentors can often be found by reaching out to professors with industry backgrounds or faculty who may have connections to professionals willing to mentor students. After presenting this idea at an IAB meeting, many members expressed interest in participating.
- Alumni mentors were recruited primarily through long-standing club connections and our Senior Exit Form, which graduating members complete before leaving BMES. The form collects long-term contact information and asks whether seniors would be interested in serving as mentors in the future.
- Once mentors were identified, we compiled a list including their current position, field, and educational background. This list was shared with members alongside a form where students could indicate their career interests and preferred mentors.
- Finally, our Academic and Industry Chairs reviewed the responses to create mentorship pairings. Once finalized, students were emailed their mentor assignments and encouraged to reach out to schedule an introductory meeting.

Main Tasks/Goals:

- Establish alumni industry and alumni mentor connections by reaching out to potential mentors and seeing if they are interested in taking mentees.
    - This is facilitated by continued support from longstanding alumni and industry mentors for our organization, so know initial reaching out and establishing of a mentor network can be difficult but will be facilitated if successfully maintained for subsequent years.
- Have each prospective mentor fill out a form to determine their capacity for mentees for that academic year and to determine their career path.
- Connect all student members that want an industry/alumni mentor. Spend time ensuring the pairings align the student's career path with the mentor's background.
- After mentorship pairings, encourage undergraduate students to reach out to their mentors to establish contact.
- Keep contact with mentors for future mentorship programs.
- Regularly check in during the year to ensure the mentorship continues. Receive feedback from mentors and mentees alike for future interations of the program.

Funding Source(s):

- No funding sources were necessary for this event as there was no monetary spending required for the event

Industry and Professional Development Activities

Our professional development activities are split into two categories: academic advancement and industry-centered. To support our members academically, we have various events that enhance students' undergraduate experience and expose them to career options. Our Academic Chairs host a diverse set of info sessions and lab tours to provide these opportunities. BMES at UCLA also creates long lasting industry connections. We are proud to co-host our annual biotech career fair and create high-quality professional development workshops for members to be ready for their careers.

In this section, we will also highlight our introductory technical projects, as we believe professional development for engineers includes the acquisition of technical skills. These skills are applicable to industry, research, and medicine. All of our technical projects emphasize collaboration and communication, as well as project ideation and execution. BMES at UCLA has 4 year long project teams: Build Team, Cell Team, Design Team, and Research Team. We also have a Workshops Track, where attendees can learn various real-world skills in a lower commitment program. Here, we will describe the activities of our introductory programs, specifically Build Team, Cell Team, and Workshops Track. Descriptions of our more advanced Design and Research Teams will be reserved for the Societal Impact Activities Section.

Academic Advancement Events

Our Academic Chairs are responsible for providing resources related to undergraduate research, graduate school, medical school, and general academic success at UCLA.

Lab Coat Lendout Library

Date: Ongoing **Participation:** 21 **Cost:** $0

One crucial resource BMES offers is a Lab Coat Lend Out Library program, where BMES members can borrow lab coats and safety goggles each quarter for their laboratory courses. This program helps to tackle educational barriers for students, as these mandatory lab coats and safety goggles cost over $80. BMES collects donated lab coats and safety goggles from upperclassmen and alumni to supply this program.

Quarterly Class Planning Workshops

After the release of each quarter's enrollment appointments, BMES hosts a quarterly class planning workshop where underclassmen received guidance from upperclassmen on course selection, course load, professors recommendations, and long-term academic planning. Held in a relaxed setting over a shared meal at the dining halls, the event fostered mentorship while helping students better navigate their academic paths at UCLA. The total cost of these events were $0.

Quarter:	Date:	Participation:	Location:
Fall	11.10.2025	6	UCLA Dining Hall, Bruin Plate
Winter	02.04.2026	6	UCLA Dining Hall, Bruin Plate
Spring	TBD	TBD	TBD

MTM UC Berkeley/UCSF Info session

Date: 10.30.2025 **Attendance:** 22 students & 1 director
Cost: $0

The Program Director for the Masters of Translational Medicine program at UC Berkeley/UCSF came to UCLA to share about their Master's Program and encourage students to apply. Afterwards, a short Q&A was hosted with students to get personal insight into the program design and outcomes. Many students were able to speak with the director afterwards and learn more about varied career opportunities in the bioengineering field.

Di Carlo Lab Tour

Date: 11.14.2025 **Attendance:** 7 undergraduates and 1 graduate student **Cost:** $0

Students had the opportunity to tour the Di Carlo microfluidics Lab and learn more about the lab from a graduate student. Students were able to explore a lab they were interested in and learn about the cutting-edge research conducted in the lab. They also got a chance to ask questions about getting involved in research as an undergraduate student.

KGI Info session

Date: 01.22.2026
Attendance: 21 students and 1 representative **Cost:** $0

Students learned about programs at Keck Graduate Institute from a professor and program alum, gaining insight into academic pathways and career opportunities. The event included a Q&A, along with pizza, KGI merchandise, and informational packets, creating an engaging setting for students to connect with representatives.

BMES Undergraduate Research Panel

Date: 02.19.2026 **Attendance:** 14 **Cost:** $4.00

Students heard from six undergraduate panelists about their experiences in research and pathways to getting involved. Through an open discussion and Q&A, attendees received practical advice and gained insight into what undergraduate research in bioengineering looks like, making these opportunities more accessible to those interested.

[Upcoming] Graduate/Medical School Panel

Date: 05.21.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD

Students will from UCLA Bioengineering alumni across graduate school, medical school, and MD/PhD pathways, including current graduate/medical school students, residents, professors, and professionals in academia and industry. Panelists will share insights on the application process and their experiences, followed by a Q&A that will give attendees a clearer understanding of different post-graduate paths. For reference, last year's graduate/medical school panel on Zoom had 41 total attendees, including our nine panelists.

Professor Coffee Chats

One unique highlight this year was the hiring of four new faculty members in the UCLA Bioengineering Department for the 2025–26 academic year. With three already launching their labs, we hosted casual, coffee chat events featuring each of them to expose students to emerging research areas such as synthetic biology, cancer immunology, and AI-driven protein design, while also supporting faculty recruitment efforts. These events drew strong interest from both undergraduate and graduate students and helped BMES build new relationships with incoming faculty.

Coffee Chat with Dr. Franco and Lab Tour

Date: 11.18.2025 **Attendance:** 8 **Cost:** $20.15

Students met with Dr. Elisa Franco for an informal Q&A over refreshments, learning about his career path and research at the intersection of structural biology, biomolecular dynamics, and control using engineered molecular frameworks. The event was followed by a lab tour, giving attendees a firsthand look at the lab's work and equipment. The experience provided valuable insight and inspired interest in pursuing similar research paths.

Coffee Chat with Dr. Tanigawa

Date: 01.15.2026 **Attendance:** 30 **Cost:** $14.00

In this coffee chat, Dr. Yosuke Tanigawa shared about his academic and research journeys, career path, insights into the graduate school admission process, and other topics in academia. Students gained insight into his current biostatistics work, received advice on academia, and had the opportunity to ask questions about research and potential lab opportunities.

Coffee Chat with Dr. Zhang

Date: 02.24.2026 **Attendance:** 22 **Cost:** $8.69

BMES hosted a coffee chat with new faculty Dr. Jason Zhang, where students learned about his background and research in AI-driven protein design. Drawing from his experience in the Nobel-prize winning Baker Lab, Dr. Zhang shared insights on computational protein engineering and engaged in discussions on emerging directions and opportunities for student involvement in his new lab.

Coffee Chat with Dr. Yamada-Hunter and Lab Tour

Date: 04.14.2026 **Attendance:** 12
Cost: $20.00

BMES hosted a coffee chat with our third new faculty, Dr. Yamada-Hunter, where students learned about his research in protein engineering for immunotherapy. The event included a Q&A followed by a lab tour, giving attendees a firsthand look at his lab's work and opportunities for involvement. Coffee was also provided!

[Upcoming] Coffee Chat with Dr. Jennifer Wilson

Date: 04.20.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD

Students will meet with Dr. Jennifer Wilson to learn about her research on modeling drug effects through protein interaction networks and how these networks influence downstream therapeutic outcomes. This scheduled event will also highlight opportunities for undergraduate research and provide insight into systems-level approaches to drug design.

[Upcoming] Coffee Chat with Dr. Bill Tawil

Date: 04.27.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD

This industry-centered coffee chat is with adjunct professor Dr. Bill Tawil, currently the director of project management at Abbott Medical Laboratories (a St Jude Medical Company).

Industry-Centered Events

Our Industry Chairs are responsible for maintaining and engaging with our industry connections. Alongside our External Vice President, they search for corporate sponsorships and new event partnerships. They host our flagship events, such as the annual biotech career fair and science vendor expo, as well as smaller professional development workshops and info sessions.

Industry Career Fair Workshop Part 1

Date: 09.10.2025 **Attendance:** 20 **Cost:** $0

In this virtual workshop co-hosted with AIChE, board member volunteers presented on building resumes, networking tips, elevator pitches, and company research. Participants were able to ask questions and learn more about how they can be successful for the upcoming recruitment cycle and the career fair.

Industry Career Fair Workshop Part 2

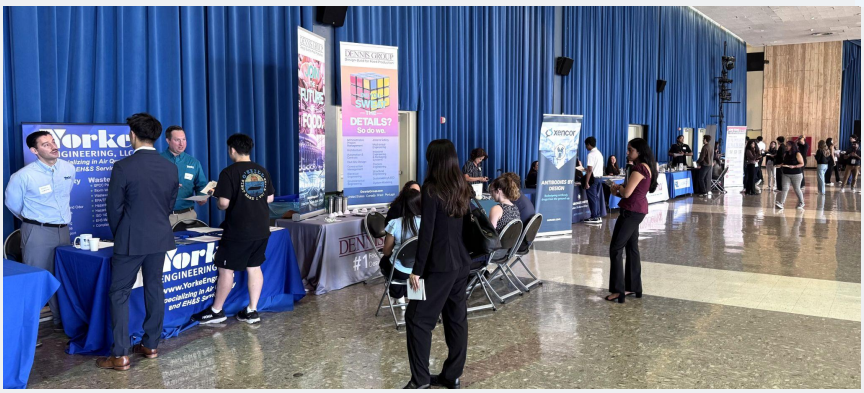
Date: 10.02.2025 **Attendance:** 70 students and 2 alumni **Cost:** $0

In the days leading up to the career fair, BMES and AIChE hosted an in-person workshop featuring alumni who provided one-on-one resume reviews and feedback. Students received personalized guidance on improving their resumes and crafting strong elevator pitches for the upcoming career fair.

BMES x AIChE Career Fair

Date: 10.07.2025 **Attendance:** 242 **Cost:** $2,830.25

In collaboration with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) at UCLA, our Industry Chairs hosted 16 companies across the medical device, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and related industries at our 21st annual biotechnology-focused career fair. Students connected with over 35 company representatives, exploring internship, co-op, and full-time opportunities. For many attendees, this was the first career fair they have attended in college. Many attendees built strong professional connections, with some ultimately receiving internship offers, making the event both a good learning experience for future job seekers and an introduction to leading companies in the bioengineering and chemical engineering space.



Abbott Labs Info Session & Networking Night

Date: 11.16.2025 **Attendance:** 25 students and 2 representatives **Cost:** $0

BMES hosted an info session and networking night with Abbott Laboratories focused on Cardiac Rhythm Management and a clinical sales specialist co-op opportunity. Students learned about Abbott's CRM products, received an in-depth overview of the co-op program, and connected directly with representatives while submitting resumes for consideration. Semifinalist interviews were conducted the following morning, creating a direct pipeline from the event to recruitment, ultimately resulting in one BMES member being selected and hired into the program, with the opportunity to convert to full time upon graduation.

"On my first day on the job I was wearing scrubs in an operating room, which was really eye opening as to how involved bioengineers are in medicine. Since then, I've been learning a lot about pacemakers and the heart every time I go to work and I can apply my knowledge from courses into real-world problems. Abbott already sent me to Texas for training and it sounds like I will have a full time position when I graduate. I really have UCLA BMES and the industry chairs to thank for this job. I am incredibly grateful and lucky to have this opportunity."

- Toby G.

BioHack x Revilico Fireside Chat with CEO Christopher Korban

Date: 03.07.2026 **Attendance:** 25 students and 1 CEO **Cost:** $0

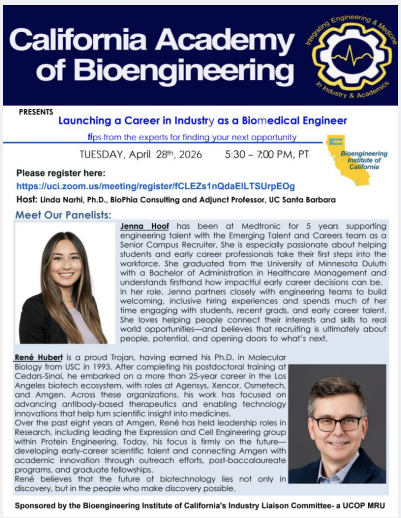
This year marked our first BioHack event sponsored by an industry partner, highlighting a new level of external engagement and support. As part of this collaboration, we hosted a fireside chat with Revilico CEO and UCLA alumnus Christopher Korban, offering attendees direct access to an industry leader. More details can be found in the "Professional Development Through Introductory Technical Projects" section.

As part of this fireside chat, the BioHack event chair led a conversation with questions about Chris's experiences starting a company in biotech. We opened the floor to attendees to ask questions to Chris directly, creating a personal atmosphere for discussion. Attendees learned about the process of launching a start-up, the scientific ideas behind Revilico, and the CEO's advice for aspiring bioengineers. In conjunction with our 2026 BioHack, the discussion helped participants envision how they could develop their BioHack projects into commercial technologies.

[Upcoming] BIC ILC Career Panel with UC Berkeley BioEHS and UC Merced BMES

Date: 04.28.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** $0

As previously mentioned in the **inter-chapter activities section**, BMES at UCLA, UC Berkeley BioE Honors Society, and UC Merced BMES are co-hosting a Bioengineering Institute of California (BIC) Industry Liaison Committee (ILC)-sponsored career panel with two industry leaders. The panel will be hosted virtually to ensure accessibility to bioengineering students across California. It will highlight two scientists from the BIC-ILC with expertise in early career development, resumes, and interviewing.



[Upcoming] Science Vendor Expo

Date: 02.24.2026 → 04.29.2026 **Attendance:** TBD (153 in 2025)
Cost: TBD

Our chapter teamed up with Fisher Scientific to host our annual Science Vendor Expo, another flagship BMES industry event. Leading lab equipment vendors such as Eppendorf, Millipore, and Thermo Fisher Scientific will showcase new products and share about current promotions. BMES strives to serve not only bioengineering undergraduates, but the UCLA research community by leveraging our industry connections to provide researchers in various departments (chemistry, biology, bioengineering, etc.) access to the latest technology on the market. The Science Vendor Expo creates a great platform for companies to show off their materials and facilitates the advancement of biomedical innovation. For reference, attendance to this flagship event was 153 people in 2025, and we expect similar turnout this year. Photos from last year's events are attached for reference as well. Originally planned for February, the expo unfortunately had to be moved to a new date due to a last-minute venue cancellation.

[Upcoming] NeuraSignal Info Session

Date: TBD **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD

BMES is planning an upcoming infosession with Robert Hamilton, the CEO of NeuraSignal. We connected with him through the UCLA Bioengineering Department's Industry Advisory Board, where he expressed interest in doing an info-session with our chapter. We are currently planning this info session with the Bioengineering Graduate Association (BGA), our graduate student counterpart. NeuraSignal is advancing stroke care by using robotics to unlock the life-saving potential of Transcranial Doppler technology. This session will give students insight into emerging medical technologies, startup development, and opportunities at the intersection of engineering and clinical innovation.

Professional Development Through Introductory Technical Projects

Build Team

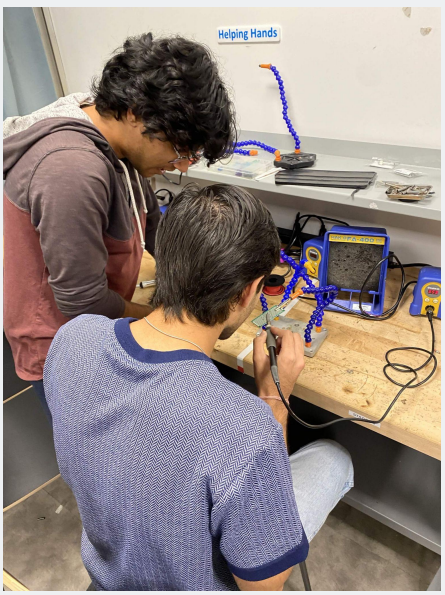
Build Team is one of our year-long project teams aimed at introducing technical skills to underclassmen. The team learns skills throughout the year, such as circuitry, CAD, and embedded software, to work towards designing a pulse oximeter. Main goals of Build Team include: gaining hands-on engineering skills relevant for industry and research, applying knowledge learned in courses, and expanding technical skillset with real-world applications. For the 2025-26 year, we switched to using ESP32 chips instead of Arduinos to enable built-in WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity, allowing teams to implement real-time data transmission and more advanced, industry-relevant device functionality. Additionally, we expanded cohort size from last year by having four project managers instead of two, successfully providing build team as a technical opportunity for double the number of students. Finally, we also pushed up the timeline of the training modules to finish technical training and to allow students to have more time to work on their independent projects.

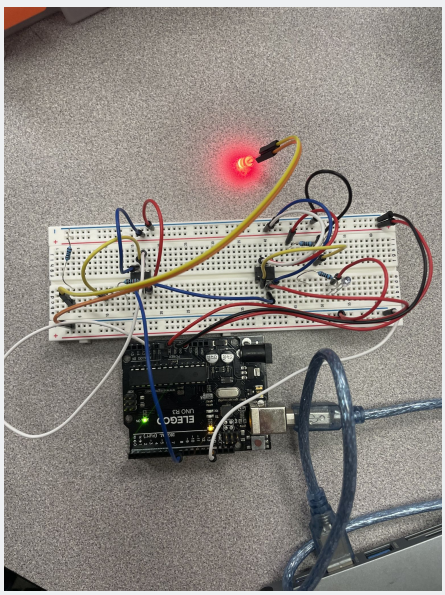
	Date	Attendance	Curriculum
Module 1	10.21.2025	25	Intro to Circuits
Module 2	11.05.2025	22	Intro to ESP32 and Coding
Module 3	11.20.2025	11	ESP32 Analog, Blood, Spectroscopy
Module 4	01.05.2026	17	Advanced Circuitry
Module 5	01.07.2026	27	PCB Design
Module 6	01.21.2026	21	Processing
Module 7	01.28.2026	16	CAD and 3D Printing

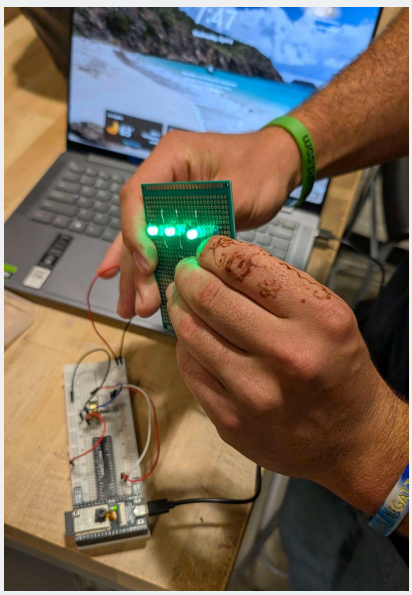
Year-long Retention Rate: 91%

Independent Project: Design of a Pulse Oximeter

Total Cost: $401.63







Professional Development Through Introductory Technical Projects

Cell Team

Cell Team is our other year long introductory team geared towards first and second year students. On this team, students learn the basics of wet lab research techniques, how to present data, and conduct experiments while working on an independent project. The modules come with a corresponding hands-on lab section as well. After the 12 teaching modules, students spend the last quarter working on an independent project using the skills they learned.

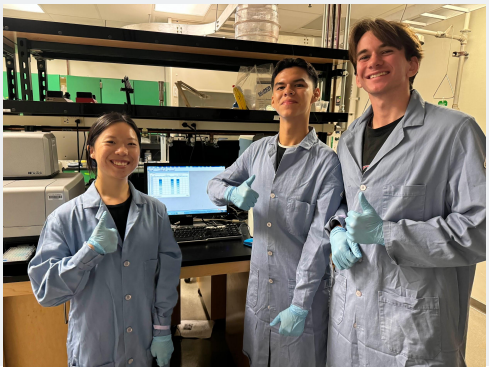
	Date	Module Attendance	Lab Attendance	Curriculum
Module 0	10.20.2025	18	N/A	Lab Safety & Sterile Technique
Module 1	10.27.2025	14	19	Serial Dilution & Spectrophotometry
Module 2	11.03.2025	16	18	Bacterial Culture
Module 3	11.10.2025	17	15	Mini-prep
Module 4	11.17.2025	15	18	PCR & Gel Electrophoresis
Module 5	01.05.2026	17	N/A	Biomedical Research Ethics
Module 6	01.12.2026	17	19	Mammalian Cell Culture
Module 7	01.20.2026	N/A	18	Hydrogel Encapsulation
Module 8	01.26.2026	17	18	Cell Viability & ImageJ
Module 9	02.02.2026	14	N/A	Journal Club/Intro to Final Projects
Module 10	02.09.2026	15	19	Spring Project Proposals
Module 11	02.23.2026	15	N/A	Bioengineering Career Panel
Module 12	03.02.2026	18	N/A	Protocol Writing & Materials List

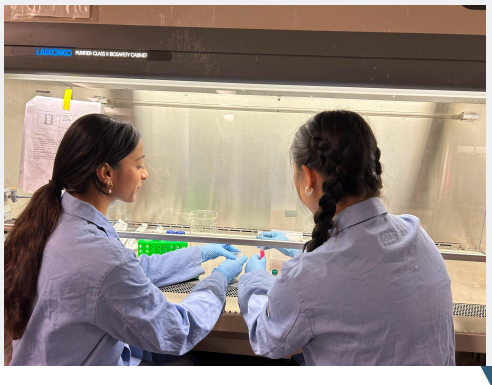
Independent Research Projects

During Winter Quarter, Cell Team members formed groups of 3-4 to work on a final independent research project proposal, including materials lists and experimental protocols. Project Managers budgeted for materials, provided written feedback on proposals, and held office hours for members to work on proposals. Experimentation begins during Spring Quarter and culminates in a poster and slideshow to be presented at BMES Technical Projects Symposium.

This year's independent projects:

1. Assessment of Growth Hormone Delivery Efficiency to Mammalian Fibroblasts Using Different Hydrogel Systems
2. Effects of protein Corona On Internalization of Nipam Based Microgels In Mouse Fibroblast Cells
3. Effect of the Crosslink Density of GelMA on Fibroblast Cell Cluster Size
4. Comparing Microplastic Effect on Cells in 2D and 3D Culture Environments
5. Effects of sunscreen compositions, vitamin C, and UV light on mammalian cell viability





Total Cost: $2,364.14

Professional Development Through Introductory Technical Projects

Cell Team Professional Development

Journal Club:
Cell Team members learned how to find, evaluate, and dissect scientific research papers to present to others in a journal club format. Members formed groups of 3-4 to select and present one paper to their lab cohort. Groups received written and verbal feedback from Project Managers on how to improve slideshows and presentation skills. Groups can utilize their papers as part of their literature review for their independent projects.

Career Panel:
Masters, PhD, MD, and MD/PhD students from UCLA spoke to Cell Team members and answered questions about pathways that bioengineering students can take after undergraduate studies. Project managers also shared opportunities and tips on getting into research at UCLA.

Panelists:

- Asma Karim (UCLA Bioengineering Master's student)
- Andrew Margolis (UCLA/CalTech MD/PhD student)
- Gokul Srinivasa (UCLA/CalTech MD/PhD student)
- Ria Dawar (UCLA Medical student)
- Sarah Singleton (UCLA Biochemistry doctoral candidate)

Lab Shadowing:
Cell Team members were able to split up and tour 4 different labs in the Bioengineering Department: the Kamariza Lab, the Lin Lab, the Kamei Lab, and the Di Carlo Lab. Cell Team members were able to watch over a graduate student conduct an experiment, shadow them in a new environment, or receive advice for their future academic and career goals.

Specific feedback from Cell Team members this year:

- "My experience shadowing was very positive. We were able to see a lot and see an application of what we've learned so far (like cell passaging) in the lab setting."
- "I had a good time shadowing! I really liked the opportunities we had to talk one-on-one with the grad students about their journeys and learn about their research projects."
- "This shadowing experience was AMAZING! It was so cool to see what it's like to work on a daily basis in a research lab."
- "One thing I learned was that a lot of Grad students are open to taking on and teaching Undergraduates-that was something I found really hopeful as an Undergraduate looking to get into research."

Graduate Student Mentor for Final Project
Graduate Student mentors came from various labs with proficiency in hydrogel formation, mammalian and bacterial cell work, as well as general proposal writing skills that benefitted Cell Team members as they initiated their final projects. These mentors read over the members' proposal drafts and made suggestions for aspects such as feasibility, professional writing, and further research to look into.

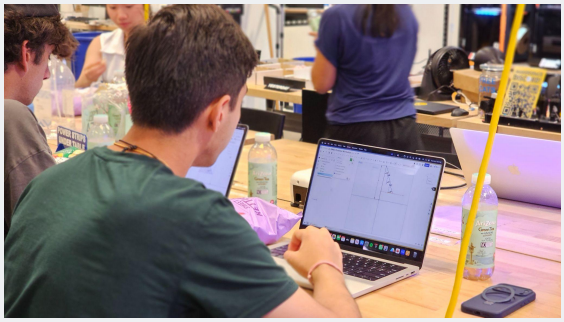
Workshops

Our Workshops Track provides one-time, low-commitment opportunities for students to expand their technical skills without joining a year-long project team. These workshops are designed to teach translational skills that students can add to their resumes and make them more qualified candidates.

Introduction to CAD

Date: 10.09.2025 **Attendance:** 13

BMES hosted an Introduction to 3D Modeling and 3D Printing workshop to equip new engineers with foundational design and fabrication skills early in the quarter. Participants learned core design principles and gained hands-on 3D printing experience, helping them build technical portfolios and develop industry-relevant skills.



Introduction to 3D Printing/Laser Printing

Date: 10.30.2025 **Attendance:** 9

BMES hosted a hands-on laser cutting workshop where students created personalized projects such as engraved photos and custom acrylic keychains. With one-on-one guidance, participants learned to use design software and operate the machine, lowering barriers to entry and exposing more students to fabrication tools. Students were taught the proprietary software and how to operate the machines.

Circuitry Workshop

Date: 11.13.2025 **Attendance:** 4

BMES hosted a circuitry workshop introducing fundamental concepts and how to apply them in real-world engineering contexts. This lesson included a hands-on guided portion such that students are able to learn how to prototype and troubleshoot their own circuits before assembling a fully soldered product.

Advanced CAD Workshop

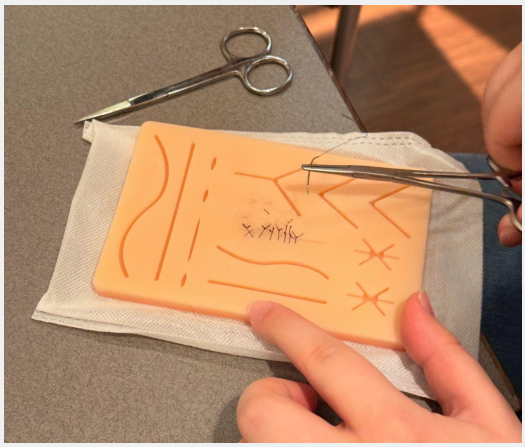
Date: 01.22.2026 **Attendance:** 5

BMES hosted an Advanced CAD workshop to introduce higher-level design techniques and strengthen students' fabrication skills early in the quarter. The session emphasized mechanical design thinking, critical problem-solving, and independent project development, while using free, MacOS-compatible software to maximize accessibility. The workshop attracted a diverse group of students, including bioengineers, electrical engineers, and non-engineering students across all four years.

Suturing Workshop

Date: 02.12.2026 **Attendance:** 11

BMES hosted a hands-on suturing workshop where students learned how to suture using semi-professional grade materials. Students used forceps, sharps, and various suturing materials to perform various suturing types on silicone pads. The lesson began with the basic ergonomics and the quick simple, interrupted suture. Then, the lesson explored the applications of different suturing materials and stitches based on the wound anatomy.



Overall Cost for All Workshops: $954.97

[Upcoming] EDI x Laser Cutting Workshop

Date: 04.30.2026 **Attendance:** TBD

In collaboration with the EDI committee, BMES is hosting a workshop where members will create custom acrylic flowers using laser cutting (pictured to the right), adding motivational quotes to combine creativity with hands-on fabrication skills. This will serve as a great technical activity to both create a Spring-themed decoration and to decompress.

[Upcoming] Suturing Workshop Part 2

Date: TBD **Attendance:** TBD

A returning hands-on workshop where students learn and practice suturing techniques using proper tools and materials.

[Upcoming] Wet Lab Workshop

Date: TBD **Attendance:** TBD

Students will be introduced to basic wet lab skills, including lab safety, pipetting, and bacterial cell culture in a makerspace environment.

Other Technical Events

In this section, we discuss events related to all of the Technical Projects and/or for all BMES members. Beyond each individual project team, BMES aims to foster community between all the technical project teams and with the broader BMES community. To do so, we host informational sessions to democratize the application process, fun cross-team socials to encourage bonding, as well as our flagship BioHackathon and Technical Projects Symposium.

Technical Projects Info sessions

Date: 09.30.2025 **Attendance:** 50 **Cost:** $0

The Technical Vice President and project members presented on this year's technical projects to students interested in applying for the technical projects program: Cell Team, Build Team, Research Team, Design Team, and Workshops. Students learned about the application process, project timelines, and technical projects goals. After the initial presentation, students had the opportunity to ask project managers questions about the tech projects during an informal Q&A. This event helped reach undergraduate students of various engineering and science majors, leading to hundreds of students applying to join.

Tech Projects Social

Date: 10.25.2025 **Attendance:** 25 **Cost:** $579.88

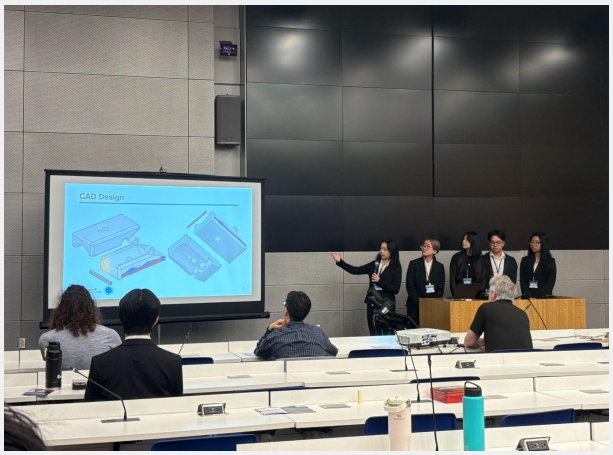
Held shortly after tech project teams were formed, this social gave members a chance to get to know their teammates at the start of the year through games and casual interaction. The event helped build connections within and across teams, fostering collaboration for year-long engineering projects.

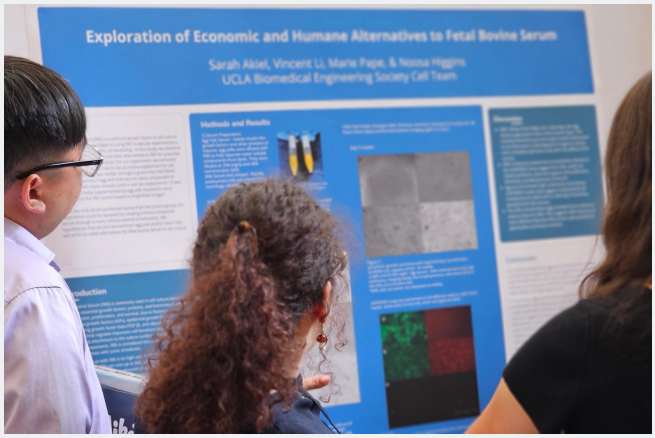
Other Technical Events

[Upcoming] BMES Technical Projects Symposium

Date: 06.04.2026 **Attendance:** TBD (118 people in 2025) **Cost:** TBD

The annual BMES Technical Projects Symposium is our flagship technical event for showcasing the work of our year-long technical projects led by current undergraduate students. The symposium features oral presentations, posters, and demonstrations of projects. This is how we celebrate the hard work of our BMES students as well as share our engineering efforts with the broader UCLA community. Each year, this includes UCLA professors, industry professionals, graduate students, the general public, and even prospective UCLA students. For reference, the 2025 Technical Projects Symposium had 118 attendees, including 3 faculty and the Dean of the Samueli School of Engineering (Dr. Alissa Park), who gave opening remarks. Attached below are photos from last year's symposium for reference of what the upcoming event may look like. We expect the event to have similar turnout and programming.





BioHack

Dates: 03.06.2026-03.08.2026
Attendance: 48 students and 3 faculty/industry judges
Cost: $2,882.00

BMES BioHack is BMES's annual 48-hour biomedical design competition for UCLA students. This year, the event began with a kickoff on Friday evening, and ended with formal presentations judged by faculty and industry representatives on Sunday afternoon. Throughout the weekend, students had full access to a Boelter Engineering makerspace with materials and tools including a laser cutter. UCLA BMES volunteers staffed the makerspace and offered technical guidance to participants. We provided meals on both days and facilitated social activities among participants.

One major change this year was that we secured **company sponsorships from Revilico and Cognition AI.** Revilico CEO Christopher Korban, a UCLA bioengineering alum, led a drug discovery workshop on Saturday, and we hosted a fireside chat to discuss his entrepreneurial experience on Saturday evening. Cognition AI provided free Windsurf Pro software liscences available to all BioHack participants. Thanks to this new industry involvement, we were able to provide **$1,000+ in prizes for the winners** as well as full, structured programming (workshops and networking).

BioHack resulted in 10 novel ideas for biomedical innovations, ranging from a force sensor for preventing tissue damage in infant surgeries to micro-needle patches for aspirin delivery after heart attacks. The competition welcomed participants from all experience levels, giving students a chance to apply their engineering skills or learn new skills. Students met and collaborated with other participants, forming lasting connections. Through the Revilico workshop and fireside chat, students connected with Revilico leadership and learned about the process of translating biomedical designs into marketable products.

Another innovation for BioHack this year was that we expanded the competition by adding a research proposal track (for a total of 3 tracks: hardware, software, and research). This track helped us welcome BMES students specializing in cellular and molecular engineering by giving them the option to craft and present a detailed proposal for a wet-lab research project. These diverse tracks also **increased participation this year by 182%**, up from 15 students in 2024 and 17 students in 2025.

Overall, BioHack brought together a large group of BMES students with diverse interests for a 48-hour immersive design experience, resulting in novel designs, social connections, and professional development. BMES looks forward to continue expanding this event with the support and insight of the industry to better serve our students and the UCLA community.

BioHack Special Programming

Kick-off

Dates: 03.06.2026 (Friday)

BioHack 2026 kicked off with an opening session introducing the 48-hour biomedical design challenge, bringing together 48 students to form teams and begin brainstorming innovative solutions. The kickoff set the tone for a collaborative weekend, highlighting available resources, industry involvement, and the opportunity to develop impactful biomedical projects.

Revilico Workshop

Dates: 03.07.2026 (Saturday)

Revilico led a workshop showcasing their computational biology pipelines and software tools used in drug discovery. The session exposed participants to real-world approaches and inspired ideas for how similar computational methods could be incorporated into their BioHack projects.

Revilico Fireside Chat with CEO Christopher Korban

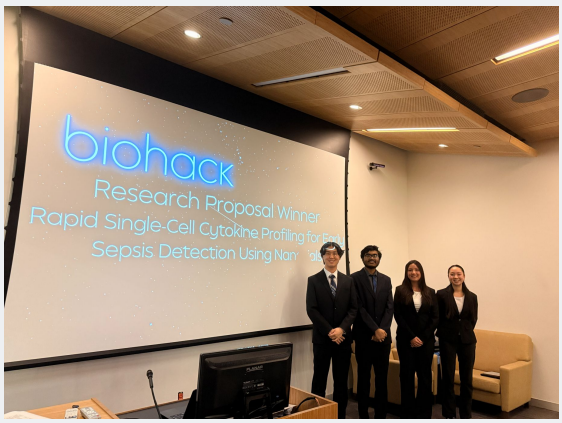
Dates: 03.07.2026 (Saturday)

As part of BioHack 2026, BMES hosted a fireside chat with Christopher Korban, featuring a moderated discussion on his journey founding a bioengineering startup, Revilico, the sponsor of this event. Attendees engaged in an open Q&A, gaining insight into entrepreneurship, the science behind Revilico, and how to translate their BioHack projects into real-world technologies.

Final Presentations + Awards

Dates: 03.08.2026 (Sunday)

At the end of the weekend, all 12 teams presented their final projects or proposals, with the top teams winning monetary awards sponsored by Revilico. Faculty and a local startup CTO judged the projects and provided constructive feedback.



Industry + Professional Event: How-To Guide

Event Name: ***BMES x AIChE Career Fair***

Officers in Charge:

- External Vice President
- Industry Chairs

Overview of Planning:

- Career fairs are large-scale events and require long-term planning well before the event date. For example, this event took place in October 2025, but planning began nearly six months earlier during Spring Quarter 2025 (late April / early May), so it is important to plan far in advance.
- Planning began by establishing a partnership with the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) at UCLA in April. Collaborating with another organization can reduce the workload per person, increase the number of companies present, and help split costs for a large-scale event.
- Initial planning in April and May focused on selecting a date and determining the scope of the event, including the number of companies, venue size, catering, and overall structure. Establishing these details early is especially important for collaborative events.
- Throughout the summer, bi-weekly meetings were held to track progress, with major tasks including reserving a venue, applying for funding, placing catering orders, and reviewing university guidelines for large events.
- One of the most important summer tasks is reaching out to companies. This involved mass cold-emailing hundreds of companies, sending multiple follow-ups, and contacting previous attendees, faculty connections, and representatives found online. Since this process takes several months, it is important to communicate with interested companies clearly and consistently.
- Once the school year began, planning shifted toward confirming participating companies, advertising the event, organizing career fair preparation workshops, finalizing sponsorships and catering, and coordinating venue logistics.
- The final planning step is creating a detailed event-day schedule and recruiting volunteers to ensure everything runs smoothly. This includes organizing check-ins, directing attendees, supporting company representatives, and making sure students and employers have a positive experience.

Main Tasks/Goals:

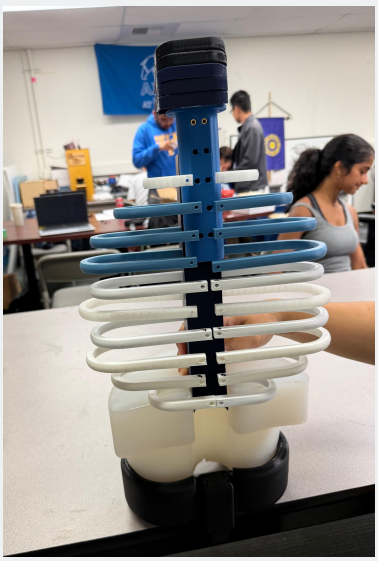
- Reserve venue large enough for the event and confirm date.
- Confirm attending companies.
- Get catering for company representatives.
- Gather volunteers for event, making sure to be able to run check-in for students and companies.
- Plan advertising and supporting events (resume workshops, elevator pitch workshops, etc.).

Funding Source(s):

- UCLA Student Union Event Fund / UCLA Support for Student Programming Fund
    - Oftentimes there are university funds that can help pay for expenses at a university venue or for academic/professional-based events.
- Industry Sponsorships
    - Companies attending the career fair are typically sponsors and help fund some of the event costs.

Societal Impact Activities

Our members consistently develop incredibly creative solutions to pressing challenges in the biomedical field today. Our Design Teams pursue student-led, interdisciplinary projects focused on prototyping viable medical devices, refining their designs throughout the year to maximize impact and improve patient outcomes. This year, one of our projects became a direct collaboration with UCLA Health clinicians to address a real problem observed in hospital settings, with the long-term goal of clinical translation and eventual FDA approval. Meanwhile, our Research Teams draw on established fundamental wet lab skills to conduct research addressing an unmet medical need. Some of our technical project teams have presented at conferences and others have plans to attend conferences later this year, once the projects are closer to completion. We were fortunate enough to raise over $10,000 to fund our advanced technical projects for this academic year.



Design Team 1: Low-Cost Female Crash Test Dummy

Women are 47% more likely to be severely injured in a car accident compared to their male counterparts. This can be attributed to one key factor, that current dummies are shrunken down versions of male dummies or are modeled after 5th percentile women. The goal of our project was to build a low cost, 50th percentile female crash test dummy to help address the sex bias in vehicle safety testing. The crash test dummy was designed using the proportions of the 50th percentile American woman, with materials that are biosimilar to how tissue and bone behave under stress. Additionally, the forces on the dummy are measured using accelerometers, force sensors, and gyroscopes, which are spread throughout the torso, head, and neck. The data collected is converted to the standardized injury criteria, which uses biomechanical responses to assess injury risk.

	Date	**Attendance**
Weekly Meetings	Twice per Week	11-13

Description: A weekly meeting for subteams to share updates, align goals, and collaborate on project development, with dedicated time for hands-on prototyping and troubleshooting.

Total Cost: $1,059.68

Team Socials & Professional Development

Lab tour at Aperture
Date: 01.21.2026 **Attendance:** 6 **Cost:** $100.00
We toured a bioforensics lab in Long Beach that specializes in accident reconstruction to see crash test dummies and how the standards for crash test dummies work. We were able to take their suggestions for our dummy into account when designing.

Charcuterie Social
Date: 01.21.2026 **Attendance:** 8 **Cost:** $100.00
The team got together to have a charcuterie social after our meeting with Aperture. Everyone was able to get to know each other better and play card games.

[Upcoming] Crash test at Aperture
Date: 05.26.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD
The Aperture team graciously allowed us to crash our final dummy prototyle using their sled, so we can collect the data. We will also be using their high speed cameras to view the crash.

Design Team 2: Smart Knee Brace for Recovery and Care in Rural Areas

Regardless of the many advancements in orthopedic rehabilitation, the re-incidence rate of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and medical collateral ligament (MCL) injuries is still significant once returning to activity. Current rehabilitative care involves intermittent clinic visits and patient-reported descriptions, often leading to delayed or missed symptoms. Our project proposes continuous, multimodal rehabilitation through a sensor-integrated knee brace, combining passive stabilization, physiological sensing, and remote patient-clinician monitoring to better post-surgical rehabilitation.

This sensor-integrated knee brace monitors several recovery-related metrics through inertial measurement units (IMUs), electromyography (EMG), a temperature sensor, and a biosensor for monitoring local tissue inflammation. The biosensor uses a lactate oxidase-coated electrochemical sensor paired with a paper-based microfluidic channel to detect sweat lactate as a proxy for localized tissue stress and inflammation. All data is collected via a low-cost ESP32-based platform and transmitted to the cloud, where predictive analysis is performed for patient and clinician oversight.

By integrating these signals, the platform can provide insights such as possible excessive joint loading, inflammation, and asymmetrical muscle activation. This continuous feedback enables clinicians to tailor recovery plans by recommending adjustments to the brace locking angle, modifying or avoiding specific exercises, and reducing activity, in either a clinical or telehealth setting.

	Date	**Attendance**
Weekly Meetings	Twice per Week	14-16

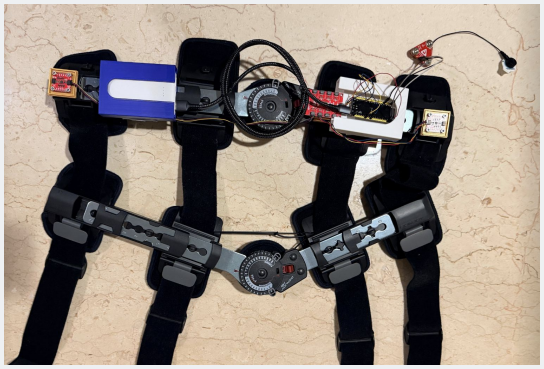
Description: A weekly meeting for subteams to share updates, align goals, and collaborate on project development, with dedicated time for hands-on prototyping and troubleshooting.

Total Cost: $1,843.89

Team Socials & Professional Development

[Upcoming] Team Social Night
Date: 04.22.2026 **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD
This team social will be at Sunset Recreation where the team will play volleyball, have dinner in Westwood, and dessert.

[Upcoming] Sports Bonding
Date: Ongoing **Attendance:** TBD **Cost:** TBD
In Spring quarter, the entire team is joining intramural (IM) cricket and tennis at UCLA to help the team get closer outside of technical work.



Design Team 3: Patient-Safe Gastric Feeding Tubes

Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tubes provide long-term enteral nutrition for patients who cannot safely swallow, but dislodgement and clogging are common complications that interrupt feeding and may require urgent intervention. In home or low-resource settings, delayed replacement increases the risk of stoma closure, infection, and nutritional disruption. Our design addresses these issues through an integrated safety system consisting of a breakaway connector to absorb the force of tugging, retractable spring sheath to redirect abnormal forces, and anti-fouling internal coating to resolve biofilm buildup. The goal is to reduce accidental dislodgement, maintain adequate nutritional flow, and ensure compatibility with existing PEG systems while using biocompatible, sterilizable materials. The system works by dissipating external tensile forces through an external compliant spring mechanism, while the breakaway connector disconnects under excessive load to protect the internal retention bumper from displacement. Additionally, a SILQ proprietary zwitterionic anti-fouling coating minimizes microbial adhesion and biofilm buildup, reducing clogging risk. Initial CAD modeling supports the feasibility of reducing force transmission. Finally, this system utilizes a low-cost removable clamp with Hall-effect sensors on a flexible PCB to detect PEG tube dislodgement by monitoring changes in a magnetic field from an embedded magnet. When detachment occurs, the resulting voltage change triggers real-time alerts via a mobile app, enabling timely intervention and reducing complications and unnecessary clinic visits. Current limitations include possible spring fatigue, the need to optimize sheath materials for both flexibility and durability, and sensor noise interference. Future work includes bench-top mechanical and flow testing to evaluate long-term reliability as well as validating sensor hardware and software integration in a clinical setting.

This project represents a new and impactful direction for BMES, rooted in **direct collaboration with clinical and community leaders at UCLA Health**. Through our connection with Seth F., who is a Community Advocate for Patient Safety and Quality of Care and serves on the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health Board of Advisors and the UCLA School of Nursing board, we were introduced to a critical yet underrecognized challenge faced by physicians in hospital settings: one identified through his conversations with clinicians at UCLA Health. With Seth facilitating connections to doctors at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center and beyond, our team has been able to incorporate real clinical feedback into the design process, ensuring that our solution addresses a genuine need with meaningful potential for translation. Throughout the project, we have worked closely with both Seth and physicians to guide development toward long-term goals such as FDA approval and commercialization. Emphasizing real-world impact and interdisciplinary collaboration, this initiative marks BMES's first technical project that we intend to pursue for multiple years, setting a precedent for sustained, clinically driven innovation within our organization.

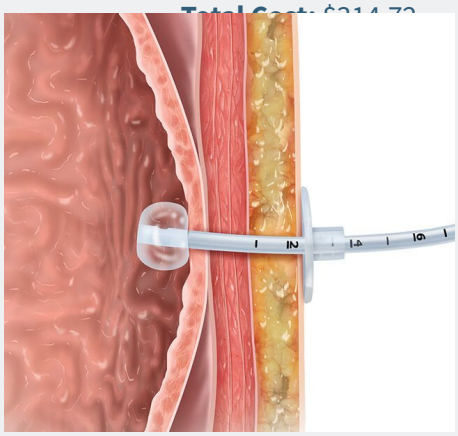
	Date	**Attendance**
Weekly Meetings	Twice per Week	12-14

Description: A weekly meeting for subteams to share updates, align goals, and collaborate on project development, with dedicated time for hands-on prototyping and troubleshooting.

Team Socials & Professional Development

Ansys Workshop
Date: 03.05.2026 **Attendance:** 10 **Cost:** $0
An Ansys representative gave us a demonstration of Ansys and a quick "tour" of the engineering software. They provided us with pizza and drinks and gave out a lot of free merch!

Ice Cream Social
Date: 01.14.2026 **Attendance:** 12 **Cost:** $0
The entire team went to Van Leeuwen Ice Cream after their meeting!



Design Team 3: Patient-Safe Gastric Feeding Tubes

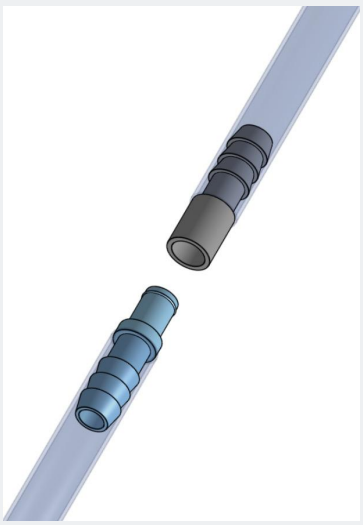
Through our collaboration with Seth, we have been connected with a wide network of clinicians and experts who have played a key role in guiding our technical development. Notably, our team had the opportunity to tour the UCLA Simulation Lab, where medical students train using realistic clinical scenarios, gaining valuable insight into how our device would function in practice. We plan to test our prototype in the SimLab environment to evaluate performance under real-world conditions and further refine our design.

Networking and Platform Research

Weekly Meetings with Dr. Arash Naeim
Date: Weekly **Attendance:** 2 **Cost:** $0
The project managers meet on Zoom weekly with Dr. Naeim and Seth to discuss progress and future steps for the development of the feeding tube.

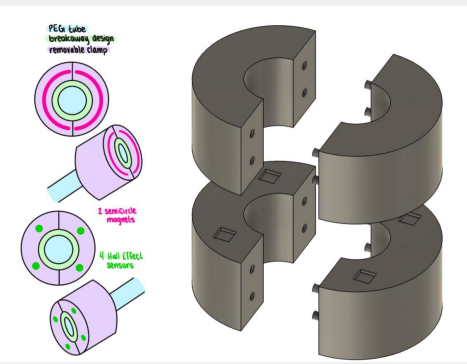
Meeting with Matt Petrime
Date: 11.21.2025 **Attendance:** 2 **Cost:** $0
Matt is an engineer who previously worked with developing feeding tubes, so we discussed his previous experience and any tips he had and directions he saw the feeding tube project progressing in.

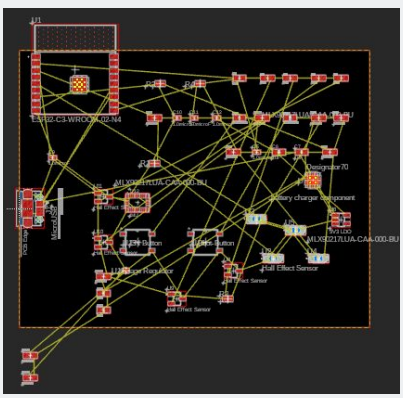
Meeting with Dr. Ahmed
Date: 12.04.2025 **Attendance:** 3 **Cost:** $0
We met on Zoom to better understand how PEG tubes are inserted, the difference between the types of PEG tubes, and suggestions on our preliminary design.



Meeting with Dr. Sheela
Date: 01.20.2026 **Attendance:** 2 **Cost:** $0
We met on Zoom, and Dr. Sheela helped us learn more about why feeding tubes are dislodged and what the purpose of the material properties are. We also discussed current methods of clog prevention.

Meeting with Brian McVerry
Date: 01.27.2026 **Attendance:** 3 **Cost:** $0
The team met him multiple times to discuss collaboration with SILQ technologies. Brian helped BMES test our feeding tube for UV transmission, and they will help us add the coating to our tube to help with anti-fouling, which is the biggest problem with feeding tubes.





Research Team 1: Investigating Mechanical Confinement of Prostate Cancer Cells

Prostate cancer (PCa) is the second most prevalent cancer in men worldwide, which commonly metastasizes to bone. Metastasized PCa cells move into the pores of trabecular bone, becoming physically confined. This activates integrins and downstream mechanotransduction pathways such as YAP and the Unfolded Protein Response (UPR), established drivers of PCa progression. To model this signaling, we fabricated PDMS microwells of varying diameters (200µm-500µm), matching the various sizes of bone pores. PC3 cells were successfully inserted into the wells and cultured for 10 days. We investigated XBP1s and c-Myc, key transcription factors that participate in the UPR. Furthermore, we probed the activity of YAP and Ki67, markers of PCa proliferation and progression. Immunofluorescence imaging was used to visualize the levels of each transcription factor. Confinement altered growth dynamics and proliferation. XBP1s, Ki67, c-Myc, and YAP levels increased in confined cells relative to unconfined controls. Ultimately, this microwell model simulates the mechanically complex bone marrow niche, enabling us to study metastasized PCa under physiologically meaningful conditions.

	Date	**Attendance**
Weekly Meetings	Twice per Week	8-10

Description: A weekly meeting for subteams to share updates, align goals, and collaborate on project development, with dedicated time for hands-on prototyping and troubleshooting.

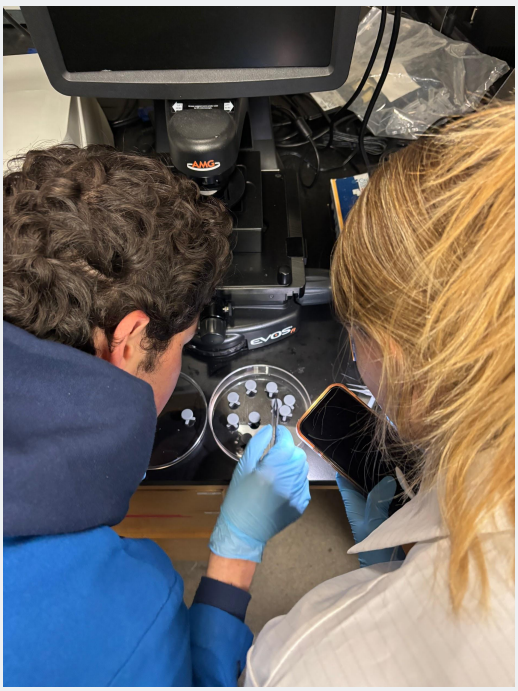
Total Cost: $1,757.88

Team Socials & Professional Development

Pizza Making Social

Date: 04.06.2026 **Attendance:** 10 **Cost:** $0

The whole team members got together to make pizzas and play board games together, creating a great bonding memory!



Research Team 2: Engineering Therapeutic Cells Adapted to Tumor Microenvironments

Chimeric antigen receptor T (CAR-T) cell therapies are effective in blood cancers but struggle in solid tumors due to hypoxic, metabolically hostile microenvironments that impair T cell mitochondrial function, persistence, and infiltration.

We developed a computational and synthetic biology framework to engineer hypoxia-resistant T cells using Jurkat cell models. From a published genome-wide CRISPR/Cas9 screen, we calculated gene fitness under hypoxia and used Gene Ontology enrichment for pathway-level analysis. Elastic Net, ridge regression, and random forest models with bootstrap resampling consistently identified three pathways as predictors of hypoxia resilience: Receptor Tyrosine Kinase signaling, RNA Metabolism, and Cytokine Signaling. Permutation analysis further confirmed metabolic programs as key survival contributors.

These findings guided two engineering strategies: overexpressing PPARGC1A (PGC-1α) to boost mitochondrial biogenesis, and upregulating heparanase via TP53 loss-of-function to improve tumor infiltration. This machine learning–guided approach establishes a platform for rationally enhancing CAR-T cell performance in solid tumors by linking bioinformatic target discovery with direct cellular reprogramming.

	Date	**Attendance**
Weekly Meetings	Twice per Week	11-13

Description: A weekly meeting for subteams to share updates, align goals, and collaborate on project development, with dedicated time for hands-on prototyping and troubleshooting.

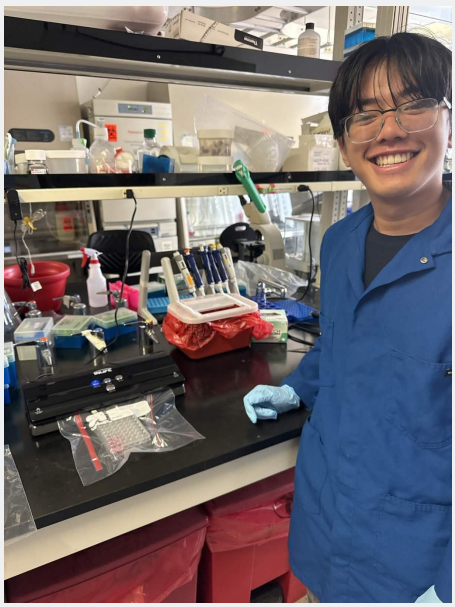
Total Cost: $2,237.42

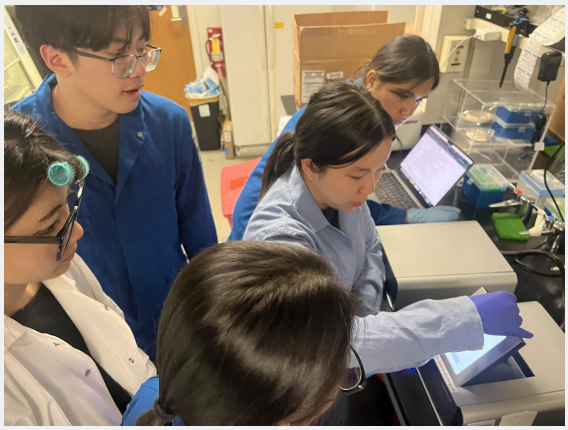
Team Socials & Professional Development

Pizza Making Social

Date: 03.06.2026 **Attendance:** 12 **Cost:** $75.00

The whole team members got together to make pizzas and play board games together, creating a great bonding memory!





Scientific Communication and Dissemination of Research

Recognizing that impactful research extends beyond the project itself, our teams have made a conscious effort not only to perform strong technical work, but also to share it with the broader scientific community. By presenting at conferences across the United States, students have the opportunity to disseminate their findings, engage with fellow researchers, and contribute to the collaborative and iterative nature of science, while also developing their skills as scientific communicators. To further support this mission, BMES hosts an annual **Technical Projects Symposium** (detailed in the "Other Technical Events" section), where teams present their completed work to an audience of faculty, graduate students, undergraduate peers, and industry engineers, fostering dialogue, feedback, and continued innovation within our community.

Design Team

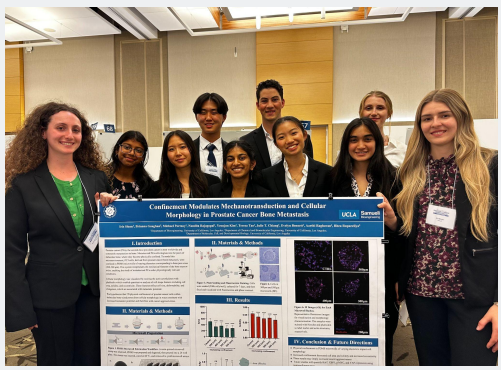
Conferences Accepted To:
MD&M West 2026 (2/3/26-2/5/26; Anaheim, CA)
West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference (4/11/26; Sonoma, CA)
Northeast Bioengineering Conference (4/16/26-4/17/26; Philadelphia, CA)
2nd Annual Arizona Digital Health Symposium (5/5/26; Tempe, AZ)

Conferences Attended:
MD&M West 2026 (2/3/26-2/5/26; Anaheim, CA)
West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference (4/11/26; Sonoma, CA)

Research Team

Conferences Accepted To:
Universities Allied for Essential Medicine (UAEM) Conference (4/4/26; Los Angeles, CA)
West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference (4/11/26; Sonoma, CA)
Northeastern Bioengineering Conference (NEBEC) (4/17/26; Philadelphia, PA)

Conferences Attended:
West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference (4/11/26; Sonoma, CA)



Societal Impact: How-To Guide

Event Name: ***Design Team***

Officers in Charge:

- Design Team Project Manager (PM)

Overview of Planning:

- Design Team projects require planning that begins well before the school year starts. During the summer, Project Managers brainstorm project ideas, identify the medical need or pathology they want to address, and determine the target user population. Teams also begin thinking about the overall direction of the device, possible subteams needed, and the types of technical skills required, such as hardware, software, circuitry, CAD, or app development. PMs also prepare materials for recruitment, introductory info sessions, and funding applications such as the UCLA Engineering Alumni Association Student Projects Fund.
- Early planning also includes determining how the team will communicate and organize files throughout the year. Many teams create shared Google Drives, Notion pages, Slack workspaces, or task management systems so that members can stay organized and collaborate efficiently. PMs also discuss leadership structure, meeting style, expectations, and how responsibilities will be divided between co-managers.
- Once Fall Quarter begins, the main focus shifts to recruitment and onboarding. PMs review applications, conduct interviews, and select team members with a mix of technical backgrounds, creativity, teamwork, and commitment. Teams are then onboarded through lab safety training, introductory meetings, and discussions about expectations and project goals.
- Throughout Fall Quarter, teams conduct research, brainstorm solutions, and rapidly prototype ideas. PMs guide members through human-centered design processes, encouraging them to think broadly, gather user feedback, and explore multiple concepts before narrowing down the most promising design. Mentor input is especially important at this stage, so PMs spend time reaching out to physicians, professors, and industry professionals for design feedback and advice.
- Winter and Spring Quarters are more focused on building, testing, and refining prototypes. Teams continue ordering materials, tracking spending, troubleshooting technical issues, and collecting data to show that their devices work effectively. PMs also encourage teams to apply to competitions and conferences, while preparing for the Technical Projects Symposium and end-of-year reports.

Main Tasks/Goals:

- Obtain funding and manage the team budget throughout the year
- Define the project direction, target user, and unmet need being addressed
- Recruit team members with a balance of technical and interpersonal skills
- Organize subteams around areas such as hardware, software, circuitry, or app development
- Facilitate weekly meetings, team communication, and file organization
- Conduct user research and gather feedback from mentors, physicians, and potential users
- Brainstorm, prototype, and iterate on multiple concepts using human-centered design methods
- Purchase and organize materials needed for prototyping and testing
- Apply to competitions and conferences
- Prepare for end-of-year presentations, reports, and the Technical Projects Symposium

Funding Source(s):

- UCLA Engineering Alumni Association (EAA) Student Projects Fund
- UCLA Spark Crowdfunding Campaign

National BMES Meeting

Being able to represent our chapter at the National BMES Meeting is an honor our Executive Board members do not take lightly. We find that the meeting is extremely beneficial on the individual level and for our entire organization. In 2025, we had 6 of our members attend the meeting in San Diego. All six of our attending members participated in poster presentations or oral presentations, and spent time connecting with scientists and other BMES chapters as well. Our attendees thoroughly enjoyed listening to the panels, engaging with presenters at the poster sessions, and speaking to graduate school representatives. Executive Board members met with leadership from other chapters to discuss future collaborations which have come to fruition this past year, both within California and across the US.

We are also very grateful for the awards we have earned as a chapter. In this section, we summarize the national BMES awards we have received from 2018 up until the Outstanding Societal Impact Award in 2025. We hope we have continued to display our chapter's excellence in this year's CDR and are proud of our achievements.

National BMES Meeting Awards & Presenters

Award Name	Year Awarded	Presenter(s)
Outstanding Outreach	2018	Eva Chen, Meagan Yuen
Commendable Achievement	2019	Mandy Hung, Izabella Samuel
Commendable Achievement	2020	Linnet Chang
Outstanding Outreach Program	2021	N/A
Commendable Achievement	2022	Juhi Mehta, Mary Epperson
Outstanding Mentoring Program	2023	Juhi Mehta, Katie Wu
Outstanding Achievement	2024	Audrey Sogata
Outstanding Societal Impact	2025	Wesley Luk

Goals for Attending Future Meetings

For the upcoming 2026 BMES Annual Meeting, we have the following goals:

- Encourage more submissions for the poster sessions and the Medtronic Design Competition from our technical project teams and members. We will do this by advertising when abstract submissions are live to our technical project teams and through our BioHack prompts.
- Build stronger connections with additional BMES student chapters at the conference. While we networked with several chapters in 2025, we recognize that the Annual Meeting is one of the best opportunities to connect with student organizations across the country and expand our network beyond California.
- Explore additional UCLA funding opportunities and collaborate more closely with the Bioengineering Department to support student attendance at the conference. Increasing travel support for leadership and general members would make this valuable opportunity more accessible to a broader range of students.
- Track which sessions each representative attends. This helps ensure our resources are allocated to engaged individuals while also maximizing the number of sessions covered so that we can bring back more knowledge as an organization.
- Encourage members to attend more sessions focused on unmet clinical and technological needs in bioengineering to inspire future Technical Project team ideas.
- More systematically collect information on graduate programs, summer research opportunities, and industry connections to share with the broader UCLA BMES community.

Future Directions

As the 2025–26 BMES at UCLA Executive Board prepares to graduate, a new Executive Board has been selected based on both their dedication to the organization and the fresh ideas they will bring to support its continued growth.

Reflecting back on this year, we are proud of meeting the major goals and milestones we had set at the end of the previous academic year. Looking forward, the outgoing and incoming Executive Boards have collaborated on future directions for our student organization. The goals and expectations are outlined in this section.

Goals Achieved During the 2025-26 School Year

In last year's CDR, our chapter identified 4 major goals. These were:

Increase Internal and External Collaboration

This year, we expanded collaboration across all areas of our organization. We hosted several social and professional events with other BMES student chapters, including our first cross-country collaborations with OSU and VCU. We also continued partnering with student organizations across UCLA, ranging from the Society of Women Engineers to the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Within BMES itself, we saw a significant increase in collaborations between committees/branches, strengthening connections across the organization and fostering a stronger sense of community.

Improve Member Retention Throughout the Year

This year, BMES introduced several initiatives to improve member retention and keep students engaged throughout the year. The mentorship point system added a layer of friendly competition that led to an especially active mentorship program, with many members regularly returning to events. Additionally, we launched BMES Studies as a recurring event, giving members a consistent, low-pressure space to study, socialize, and stay connected to the organization.

Expand Technical Project Funding and Conference Participation

This year, BMES significantly expanded support for technical project teams pursuing conferences and competitions. Our SPARK campaign raised a record-breaking $6,700+, contributing to a troughly $15,000 raised for technical projects this year. We also built stronger infrastructure to help teams apply to conferences, while providing guidance from physicians, faculty, alumni, and industry mentors. As conference season begins, several teams have already been accepted to or attended conferences, giving members valuable opportunities to develop as scientific communicators and share their work.

Increase Industry Connections and Mentorship

This year, we expanded our industry connections by growing our network of alumni and industry mentors and making those mentors available to the entire general member population through our unified mentorship program. We also hosted another successful Career Fair with more companies than the previous year, increasing networking opportunities for students. In addition, our Abbott info session directly led to one BMES member being hired into a co-op program, demonstrating the strength and real impact of our industry relationships.

Outline of Chapter Expectations for the 2026-27 Year

Each year, we intentionally center our efforts around a small number of overarching priorities so that our branches can work toward shared objectives in a focused and meaningful way. In preparation for the upcoming year, the new Executive Board members have identified four major goals to bring BMES at UCLA to the next level of excellence:

1. **Strengthen connections within the organization while also expanding them outward to increase both member engagement and impact.** To achieve this, we plan to facilitate greater collaboration between committees and build partnerships with external organizations to broaden the audiences our events serve. One initiative we hope to introduce is a structured STEM volunteering program in partnership with nonprofit organizations that would create the opportunity for BMES members to design workshops and apply their technical skills in leadership role. We also aim to expand the professional and academic networks we collaborate with in order to increase access to mentorship and opportunities for our members. Finally, we plan to strengthen the relationship between general members and BMES General Board to foster a tight-knit and cohesive community throughout the whole organization.
2. **Enhance club infrastructure and physical space to foster a stronger sense of community, facilitate collaboration, and support long-term member engagement.** In particular, BMES hopes to transform the Student Creativity Center from a space primarily used for storage and occasional events into a centralized hub for the organization, where members can gather, collaborate, and build a stronger sense of community.

3. **Improve accessibility to resources and streamline internal processes for both board members and general members.** We aim to create a more convenient and supportive environment by strengthening communication systems, centralizing resources, and refining organizational workflows so that members can more easily access opportunities, stay informed, and focus on achieving their goals. Given the breadth of resources BMES at UCLA offers, it is important that they remain easy for all members to access and navigate.
4. **Increase industry engagement and visibility within advanced technical projects.** We plan on encouraging advanced project teams to connect with industry mentors early in their development process to gain mentorship and industry insight. Additionally, we will invite companies to attend the end-of-the-year technical projects symposium to showcase team outcomes and create networking opportunities between students and industry professionals.

As the new Executive Board of BMES at UCLA, we are excited for what is to come for our chapter!

Sincerely,
Eve Sprute | President
Evelyn Bennett | External Vice President
Justine Lin | Internal Vice President
Isaac Rodney | Technical Projects Vice President

BMES UCLA
Biomedical Engineering Society