

# **Activities**

## **A. Membership Promotion**

To further promote the University of Connecticut's student chapter of the EMBS, current members have spoken in front of their classes discussing the society and its activities. Students who were interested were invited to informational meetings on how to apply to the society and what the society is all about. It was discussed how application to a professional society is one of the most advantageous ways to stay involved in life-long learning of the biomedical engineering field.

Currently, approximately 100 of the 300 University of Connecticut undergraduate student body are members of the EMBS student chapter. Along with this, there are 10 graduate members of the society. This has increased dramatically since last year when there were approximately only 60 student members of the EMBS student chapter at the University of Connecticut.

## **B. Education**

Throughout the year, the University of Connecticut student chapter of EMBS has held and encouraged members of the society and the biomedical program as a whole to attend a range of seminars on biomedical engineering topics. These seminars have promoted further education in biomedical engineering through discussions on new technologies and techniques in a wide range of medical fields. Seminars which members were encouraged to attend can be seen in the following links:

<http://www.bme.uconn.edu/bme/seminar/bmeseminar08.htm>

Members of the student chapter of the EMBS have also volunteered at the University of Connecticut's Biomedical Engineering open house to promote the field of biomedical engineering to future students. Through explanation of the Biomedical Engineering field at the University, members have recruited future students to the biomedical engineering field and provided them with all the available possibilities there are in the field.

## **C. Professional Development**

This past year, the University of Connecticut student Chapter of EMBS held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Biomedical Engineering Career fair at the University. BEACON, the Biomedical Engineering Alliance and Consortium, and the Biomedical Engineering Career Alliance were both sponsors of the career fair. Companies from all over New England came to the University looking for biomedical engineering students to fill internship and professional positions. Graduate schools from the area and as ones as far away as the University of Alabama were also were in attendance at the fair to promote their programs to the students. Over 200 biomedical engineering students, some from schools as far away as

the University of Illinois, attended the conference to develop their professional skills and meet with the various companies and graduate schools.

Many members of the student chapter of the EMBS also attended the MEDi 2008 conference and exposition in Hartford, CT which showcased companies and universities within the medical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology fields. This conference, which was held near the university, provided members with a look at professional biomedical engineering and what opportunities are available in the field.

#### **D. Community Service**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Biomedical Engineering Career Fair, which the student chapter of the EMBS held this year, allowed students from schools all over the area access to job and internship opportunities. It also allowed businesses from the community to find qualified persons for which they could hire or keep on file for future availabilities.

Some members of the EMBS student chapter this year were also involved in community aiding projects for their senior design projects. Some members worked with NSF to design various devices that would aid a young boy who has cerebral palsy. Projects such as an all weather wheel chair, a go-cart, a trampoline assist device, and a gardening stabilizer to assist the boy in every day young children activities. These devices will help to better his life and assist his family in providing him with safe and fun activities.

Another community service project that has been started is a mentoring program between upperclassmen biomedical engineering majors and underclassmen. The younger students may at times feel lost as to what their major can provide for them and how can they get the most out of the program. Therefore, some underclassmen EMBs members have created a proposal to start a mentoring program within the society and eventually within the entire biomedical engineering program. This provides the younger students with first hand experiences on good study habits, internships, classes, and what is the best way to approach these topics. It also helps with communication within the organization.

The last community service project also deals within the biomedical engineering community. This year was the first year the society provided tutoring. The school of engineering at the University of Connecticut has tutors, however usually the tutors are not BMEs and there is a large flow of BMEs that go for assistance. Therefore, this year the society has provided weekly tutoring hours to aid the students with their homework and prepare them for upcoming examinations.

#### **E. Social Activities**

This past semester, the Student Chapter of the EMBS held an icecream social at the University of Connecticut to allow members of the society to socialize in a more relaxed atmosphere than that of the classroom setting. Also, there were multiple video game and movie nights to also allow for a more comfortable environment for further socializing.

## **F. Communication**

The University of Connecticut student chapter of the EMBS has remained in communication with the University's Student Chapter of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). The two societies at the university have worked together for the past year in all of their activities. The officers are the same for both societies and both societies were responsible for the seminars, the career fair, and other activities. Both societies effectively act as one promoting the biomedical engineering field.

The University of Connecticut has also remained very close with BEACON. They have sponsored our career fair the best three years. They have also invited us to seminars for the year 2009.

## **G. Future Planning**

Members of the society have been planning for the future of the society over last year. The society hopes to continue the seminar series next year as it was this year. The society also hopes to hold its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Biomedical Engineering Career Fair next year (2010). Various fundraisers have been thought up to increase the financial well being of the society. Ideas such as the creation and sale of University of Connecticut Biomedical Engineering t-shirts have been suggested to raise funds for activities by the members. Another option included various bake sales around the community to further get our name out. The society wants to get more involved in the community of the surrounding towns by tutoring/ mentoring high school students. The EMBs members could tutor the students in math and science. In terms of mentoring, discussion panels could be assembled where the high school students could ask the college students questions. This will allow for some interaction with young students and inform them of the opportunities that biomedical engineering has to offer and the importance of getting involved in college, especially in professional organizations such as EMBs.

## **H. Other**

No Applicable Activities