

## General Meeting

02/27/08

Began at 6:30pm, ended at 7:35pm

50 people in attendance

1. Pre-meeting
  - Free soda and Gumby's pizza served
  - Sign up sheets for events available
  
2. President Announcements – Nina
  - The bioinstrumentation lab instructor is looking for people to help clean up the lab
  - BMES won the E-week competition between all engineering student orgs for the first time in 4 years!
  - A research opportunity is available through a former BMES member; information will be sent out in the next e-mail
  
4. Treasurer Announcements – Eric P.
  - The rental company JSM is giving BMES \$100 for every member that rents from them; the renters will get 50% off their security deposit and a 3% reduction in rent
  - Pizza sale being held Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:45 – 2:00pm
  
5. Outreach Announcements – Cali
  - Science Olympiad is now being held every Wednesday from 2:30 – 4:00
  - Science Olympiad tournament will be held on UW campus on April 12<sup>th</sup>
  - We're making dinner at the Ronald McDonald House Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 6:30
  - Everyone who signed up for Relay for Life needs to give Cali their t-shirt size and money
  - Girl Scout Badge Day on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 – 3:30 (divided into 2 shifts). Help girl scouts complete science projects to earn their badge.
  
6. Social Chair Announcements – Ben
  - Milwaukee Bucks vs. Nuggets basketball game on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm. \$10 tickets.
  - Ice skating at the Shell on Thursday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:15pm
  - Ski Trip to Tyrol Basin on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 11pm
  
7. President Announcements – Nina
  - We're taking a trip to see the Body Worlds exhibit in Milwaukee on Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4-9pm; spending 2 hours in the museum
  - Attendance Point winners announced and given candy
  - The next general meeting will be held after spring break on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Speaker will be from TomoTherapy
  
8. Speaker: Professor Gregg Vanderheiden from the Trace Center on "Interfaces of the Future"
  - Prof. Vanderheiden graduated from UW-Madison

- He runs the Trace Center – which started as an undergraduate student project and now has 2 national engineering centers
- Trace Center focuses on designing mainstream products in a way that makes them usable by everyone, including people with disabilities
- Computing power and speed is increasing exponentially. Around 2044, \$1000 will buy the computing power of every human brain on the planet.
- The size of devices is shrinking. E.g. Motors can be made 100 times smaller than a human hair
- Wearable technologies can benefit people in many ways. E.g. GPS tracking of children or heart rate sensing woven into a t-shirt
- Self-adapting interfaces are becoming more common. E.g. camera that follows your face; phase array microphone can listen to just one person amongst other noise; speech can be added to a cell phone for the blind for just \$30.00.
- Direct brain interfaces can be used to control things with the mind – especially promising for people who have cognitive abilities but are unable to move
- Engineers have a high “T.Q.” or technology quotient. We must think about designing products for people that don’t have this natural ability as well as older people who are unfamiliar with new technologies.