UC Davis
Biomedical Engineering:
The Student Perspective

Biomedical Engineering Student Association (BESA)
Purpose:
- Provide a community for graduate students in Biomedical Engineering at UC Davis
- Act as a channel between students and faculty
- Help new students transition to grad school
  - Mentoring First Years

Plan events:
- Student/faculty lunches
- Camping & Cabin trips
- IM Sports
- Outreach & Community
- Student Run Conferences
BME Academics: Courses

- 4 Core Courses
  - Cell Biology (BIM 202)
  - Physiology (BIM 204)
  - Signals (BIM 281)
  - Statistics – or – Design of Experiment (BIM 284/289c)

- Electives
  - Tissue engineering; Imaging; Immunoengineering; Biopolymers

- Units: PhD (40), MS (28) (graded)
  - Research PhD
  - Coursework Masters – or – Thesis Masters

- Quarter system
TWO required examinations for PhD

1. Qualifying Examination
   - Oral exam on research proposal
   - 5 committee members (4 BMEGG, 1 Outside)
   - Required for Advancement to Candidacy

2. Dissertation Defense
   - Oral exam following written PhD dissertation
   - Minimum 3 committee members
   - Required to put that “Dr.” in front of your name 😊
How do I find the right professor?

- Check websites
  - BMEGG & BME

- Talk with current students
  - Ask the right questions
    - “What’s your professor’s managing style?”
  - Attend lab meetings
  - Great way to see PI/student interaction

- Ask about rotations
  - Get experience without the stress
  - BMEGG pays for two quarters of rotations

- Be open minded!

- Expectations to graduate
- Hands on or hands off?
- Where are the alumni now?
- Funding?
- Conferences?
What about funding?

- Numerous fellowship/scholarship/grant opportunities:
  - NSF, NDSEG Fellowships, NIH F31
  - NIH Training Grants (Imaging, Cardiology, Biotech, etc…)
  - Clinical/Translational Fellowships
    - HHMI Program
  - Various Internal Fellowships
    - Schwall Fellowship, ARCS, etc…

- Teaching Assistant
Graduate Student Life

- Academics are great, facilities are great, get to work with smart people, but...

Will I have a life outside of school?
Living in Davis

- We love bikes!
- 2.1 bikes per person
- “Bicycle Capital of the Nation”
  - Hosted Stage 1 of the Tour de California in 2010
- Cycling (road and mountain)
Living in Davis

- Farmers’ Market
  - Wednesday and Saturday
  - Fresh, local food
  - Live music

- Mondavi Center
  - Free ticket first year
  - Ballet, orchestra, jazz
  - Performing arts/theater
Living in Davis

- Arboretum
  - Great for walking/jogging/studying

- ARC (gym)
  - Weights, indoor track, rock climbing, basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, racquetball, fitness classes

- Downtown
  - Restaurants, bars, shops
  - Local music, Movie in the park,
    Free yoga in the park
Living in Davis

- Apartments, houses, duplexes
- From “2017 Vacancy Report” on UCD website
- Proportional to building age, proximity to campus
- Area:
  - North Davis (undergrad central, lots of grocery stores and restaurants)
  - South Davis (also undergrad central, farthest away from GBSF)
  - Central Davis and downtown (close to downtown so easy to get to the bars!)
  - East Davis (farther away from GBSF)
  - West Davis (more grad students, faculty members, and families, closest to GBSF)

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<tr>
<th>Unit Size</th>
<th>Average Price</th>
<th>Amount of Units</th>
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Living in Davis: Where We Live

**CITIES**
- Davis: 83%
- Woodland: 7%
- Sacramento: 7%
- Other: 3%

**AREAS IN DAVIS**
- West Davis: 68%
- Central/Downtown: 6%
- South Davis: 10%
- North Davis: 16%

**What do we pay in rent (includes utilities)?**

- Less than $500: 1
- $500 - $600: 4
- $600 - $700: 6
- $700 - $800: 5
- $800 - $900: 7
- $900 - $1000: 1
- $1000 - $1100: 2
- $1100+: 1
Living in Davis: Where We Live

**Housing Type**
- House: 14%
- Townhouse: 29%
- Apartment: 57%

**Do You Pay Extra for Parking?**
- Yes: 7%
- No: 93%

**Number of Roommates**
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4+

- Data from a survey conducted in Davis, CA.
Graduate Student Association (GSA)

- Overall organization and support of graduate students
- GSA Representatives (3) attend monthly meetings
  - Learn about budget/event planning
  - Act as a “voice” for grad students
- Funding for lots of different events, for example:
  - Coffee, Bagel, Donut Day every Friday
  - Outdoor events (skiing, rafting—they provide transportation and snacks)
  - Monthly yoga
  - Community Service events
- Also provides Travel Awards!
Student Life: Within BMEGG

- Grad students play an active role in the success of the BMEGG

- Biomedical Student Association (BESA)
  - Monthly Student Faculty Lunches
  - Invited Faculty Coffee Hours
  - eMentoring Local Area High School Students
  - First Year Mentoring
  - Bay Area Biotech Industry Tours
  - Cabin/Camping Trips
  - Student Run Seminars & Conferences

- Committee Members (Faculty Meetings)
  - Space Committee, Communications, Executive Committee, etc…

- Involvement in planning welcome events & recruitment weekend
BESA Fun: Proof

Apple Hill

Corn Maze

Spring BBQ

Ice Cream Social

Student/Faculty Lunches

BME Retreat
BESA: Annual Parties
BESA: Camping & Snow Trips
BESA: IM Sports

- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Tennis
Community Service & Outreach
Mentorship Initiative

- Mentor/Mentee program with BMES
  - Graduate & Undergraduate students pairs
  - Activities to facilitate advice & guidance

- First Year Graduate Mentorship
  - Pairs incoming graduate students with current BMEGG graduate students
  - Pairs in late May
  - Helps with:
    - “Where should I live? What grocery stores are there?...etc”
Take a break nearby...

Napa Valley

San Francisco

Sacramento

Golden1 Center

Lake Tahoe

Lake Berryessa
Take a trip to get away...

Highway 1
Santa Cruz Boardwalk
Monterey Bay
Yosemite National Park
More fun places “not so nearby”

Seattle

San Diego

Los Angeles

Redwood National Park

Portland
Summary

- Great academics with world-class research!
- Broad research opportunities
- Engaged group of students
- Unbeatable location
  - Mountains, beach, snow, city, etc!
Questions?

- Thanks for listening!
- For more info check out:
  - BMEGG website: [www.bmeegg.ucdavis.edu](http://www.bmeegg.ucdavis.edu)
  - BME website: [www.bme.ucdavis.edu](http://www.bme.ucdavis.edu)
Questions?

- How many hours do you usually work a week?
- Do you get health/dental insurance?
- Is your stipend enough to pay bills and enjoy life?
- What’s your work-life balance like?
- What’s the hardest part about transition to graduate life?
- Do any of you have pets?
- Are there seasons here?
- What hobbies do you have?
  - Video games, hiking, Settlers of Catan, Magic, yoga, tubing, hiking, underwater basket weaving...etc