

Blazer Male Excellence Network Newsletter



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Welcome to the BMEN Newsletter!

Thank you for reading the Blazer Male Excellence Network (BMEN) Newsletter! This a space meant to celebrate the organization and its brothers as well as provide a variety of insight to the readers. We hope you enjoy the experience and take something away from this piece.

Shout-Outs!



Breakfast with the Boss!

Thank you to everyone who showed up to Einstein Bros. Bagels to eat and connect with Ms. Sharifa and your fellow BMEN brothers. It was a great time and we hope to do similar gatherings in the future! Make sure to stay contact with other brothers both at events and outside set meeting times.



Page Pal Volunteers!

We want to again thank everyone who volunteered this semester with Page Pals. We had glowing reviews from the schools and made an undeniable impact on the lives of the students. More opportunities to volunteer will be available next semester so stay alert for more information and mark your calendars!



Congratulations to Jaelin Martin and Jordan Holloway!

These two mentees have made amazing strides in sports recently with Jaelin joining the UAB Swim Club and Jordan joining the Volleyball Club. In addition to this, Jaelin was recently selected to be an Orientation Leader for the upcoming school year. Congratulations to both of you! We are extremely proud!

Shoutouts!



Happy Fifteenth Anniversary to the Blazer Male Excellence Network!

Congratulations to us! The Blazer Excellence Network achieved its fifteenth year as a brotherhood. Every member should be proud of what we've accomplished as part of this network. Our undergraduate brothers and alumni continue to make positive impacts across the country and the world. With this kind of foundation, the next fifteen years are sure to be even better. Be sure to mark your calendars for the BMEN 15th Anniversary Awards Dinner other events celebrating our prestigious milestone.



BMEN Recognized at City Hall!

On October 4th, 2022, BMEN was recognized by the Birmingham City Council for our achievements within the city. An official proclamation was handed down by the council to honor our organization. Both current brothers and alumni were in attendance.

Mayor Randall Woodfin was made an honorary BMEN brother at the meeting.

The role this brotherhood has and continues to play in the lives of Black men is immense. Congratulations to alumni, current members, Ms. Sharifa, and everyone else associated with BMEN for making this achievement possible.

Important Dates, Events, and Opportunities



Resident Assistant Applications: Due January 15, 2023

The resident assistant position is a role within the department of Student Housing and Residence Life focused on fostering community within the residence halls. The position requires active and regular engagement with students, adaptability, and an enthusiasm for service to the community. It is a part-time job position and compensation is included in the form of a meal plan and room and board. To apply for this position, you must attend at least one interest session. Sessions for the 2023 Spring Semester will be announced closer to next year. See the link below for more details.

<https://www.uab.edu/students/housing/employment/ra-home/resident-assistant>

Student Leader Selection Applications: Due February 13, 2023

The Student Leader Selection application is an opportunity to serve as a student leader for various university funded programs at UAB. This includes the UAB Ambassadors, SMDP Organizations, Good Games UAB, and more. This application presents a great way to get involved on campus and make a change in the community. Use the link below to get started.

<https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/sls>

Expanding Diversity in Economics: Due Date Pending

Expanding Diversity in Economics is an internship program for underrepresented groups interested in economics. The program immerses students in the subject in a multitude of ways including didactic teaching, networking opportunities, guest speakers, and more. The program also provides students with a stipend, travel costs, and payment for living expenses including housing and meals. If interested, see the link below.

<https://bfi.uchicago.edu/ede/>

Page Pals

BMEN has committed to volunteering with local schools for the Page Pals program. This program seeks to improve the literacy skills of students within Birmingham City Schools. We encourage everyone to sign up for a thirty minute slot using the QR code to the left and give back to the community.

Biomedical Engineering Society at UAB

The goal of the BMES student chapter is to introduce students to the profession of Biomedical Engineering. They provide an environment for social interaction and the exchange of ideas between students and faculty. Activities include bi-weekly meetings, social events, participation in the annual and regional conferences, local lab tours, guest speakers, and volunteer opportunities around the greater Birmingham area. See the link below for more information.

<https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/biomedical-engineering-society-at-uab>

Financial Management Association

The UAB Student Chapter of the Financial Management Association (FMA) is for students interested in finance. FMA facilitates connections between students and financial industry professionals so that students can learn firsthand about career areas in finance, discuss real-world applications of finance concepts, and network with peers and leading experts. Those interested can email Jackie Dang at jnqd1020@uab.edu for more information.



Important Dates, Events, and Opportunities



National Association of Black Accountants

The National Association of Black Accountants, or NABA, addresses the professional needs of accountants, finance, and business related professionals and students who have similar interests and ideals, are committed to professional and academic excellence, possess a sense of professional and civic responsibility, and are concerned with enhancing opportunities for those in the accounting, finance and business related professions. The UAB chapter of NABA hosts weekly meetings, offers professional mentorship, and more. Their engage link can be found below.

<https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/national-association-of-black-accountants-inc>

Black Undergraduate Medical Association (BUMA)

BUMA strives to promote better Black healthcare and create a safe space for Black pre-health students at UAB. In order to achieve these goals, the members of BUMA must be committed not only to their own career, but to the general well-being of the entire community. This is accomplished through programming, volunteerism, and networking with various resources available on campus. BUMA also promotes scholastic achievement by supporting students in their academic endeavors and personal development. See their engage link and contact information below if interested.

<https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/buma>

Criminal Justice Student Organization

The purpose of the Criminal Justice Student Organization (CJSO) is to orient undergraduate and graduate students with the Criminal Justice System in an environment that both enhances their knowledge of the inner workings of Criminal Justice agencies and fields, and the employment possibilities available after their graduation. See the link below for more information about engagement.

<https://uab.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/criminal-justice-student-organization>

AAMC Summer Research Opportunities

Every year, medical and graduate schools across the country hold research programs targeted at undergraduate students interested in pursuing medicine or academic research. These programs can vary in scope, but they typically transport participants to their campus for some period of time in the summer in order for them to conduct research under faculty supervision. They also typically provide some form of professional development and great networking opportunities. See the below website for information on these many programs. Applications open at different times, but now is a good time to start one for a program you're interested in.

<https://www.aamc.org/professional-development/affinity-groups/great/summer-undergrad-research-programs>



Important Dates, Events, and Opportunities



BMEN Awards Dinner February 2023!

Mark your calendars for the annual BMEN Awards Dinner! This is both a fundraising event for our scholarship and a recognition for the academic achievement of BMEN members. Tickets for current members are at no cost, but guests must purchase their own ticket. This is also a formal event so make sure you and your guests are dressed to impress! The location and other details for the event will be finalized soon and relayed to BMEN members.

An Interview with Wesley Wright from Regenerate Society

Wesley Wright is the founder executive director for the Regenerate Society, a Birmingham-based nonprofit focused on connecting, rebuilding, and bettering society through the collaboration of creative individuals. He is also a UAB alum as well as an artist. He sat down with us to talk about his development through college and finding his way through life. This is a shortened version of the conversation, but you can listen to the full discussion using the link below.



How has music impacted your goals in life and what is something people may not know about working in and/or pursuing the arts?

I originally came in as a pre-dental student... [music] allowed me to see what I really wanted to do, what my talents are, and informed my decisions on where I wanted to go in my life.... [In art] you have to work 100 hours, have determination, and understand that a lot of people around you won't get it all the time. If you're looking to do art, you're gonna have to build some thick skin and have a passion.

The transition from high school or time off from school into college can be a hard one. What is something you wish you would have known before coming into college?

I would have come here for music instead and believed in myself enough to do what I really wanted... Be careful which questions you ask to what people. I wanted advice about a future [people like] my mom were never allowed to see for themselves... Be around open-minded people who provide you a safe space to plant your ideas.

How did you find your network of support or find "your people"?

I'm naturally [outgoing]. I'm always outside, going to events, etc... You should always remember [when talking to people] that if they say no to being in your life in any way you have exactly what you did when you started, so don't be scared to reach out. Find a space your comfortable in to connect with people.... Find someone who's mutually comfortable with you.

What advice do you have to members of BMEN?

Find your purpose and lock in... Finding opportunities to do your work will attract people who will help you on your journey. Find your focus on what you want to do and double down on it... You will meet people regardless of where you go, but [your purpose and focus will determine if] you're going to be distracted and just find people who connect to you without helping or are you going to continue furthering what you're supposed to be doing here.

Link to the full interview: [BMEN Newsletter Interviews](#)

Credits and Contacts



This newsletter was assembled through collaborative work of BMEN brothers from left to right) Jailon James, Yancey Williams II, and Daniel Elston. We would like to thank everyone who helped with this project and everyone for taking the time to read the newsletter. We hope you have been able to take advantage of the opportunities, appreciate the conversation, and learn something from this piece. If you have questions or submissions, please use the below link tree or email one of us.

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