

Connections 2010

University of Toronto ECE Graduate Symposium



Get Involved, Get Connected!

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About Connections

The 6th annual ECE Connections Graduate Symposium is being held on May 6, 2010 at the University of Toronto. Connections is a one-day symposium organized by graduate students in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Its purpose is to provide a platform for graduate students to present ongoing research within the department and at the same time offer an opportunity for students, faculty, and industry representatives to network and build connections that enable future collaboration.

Since its inception in 2005, Connections has featured speakers from various research

fields from both academia and industry and attracted over a hundred attendees every year. This year's symposium will again offer a combination of technical programs, panel discussions, industry presentations, and social events. As an industry participant, this is a great opportunity to connect with top students and professors, and establish a presence in the community.

If you are interested in participating or would like to obtain more information, please contact us by sending an email to contact@uoftconnections.ca. A committee member will get back to you within 24 hours.

“

ECE Connections has been a great opportunity for me to learn about my colleagues' work and also to present my research to a group of intelligent researchers and professionals. I have used the feedback gained during Connections to improve my work resulting in good publications.

”

*Navid Toosizadeh, Ph.D. Student
University of Toronto*



History of Connections

Connections started as a student initiative in 2005. A group of graduate students in the computer engineering research group realized that despite the wealth of research occurring in the department, most students were not aware of the ongoing work done outside of their group because of the size of the department. As a result, many opportunities for cross-discipline collaboration were lost. They came up with the idea of a symposium, where graduate students from all research areas could get together once a year and exchange knowledge and ideas. This proposal received the support of Professor Jonathan Rose, then Chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer

Engineering, who believed that such an event would help build a more vibrant research community. Connections was hence born; a place where the missing "connections" could be built.

Since then, five symposia have been held and every time Connections succeeded in its goal of creating connections within the department as well as between academia and industry. Students and industry participants have expressed satisfaction with the opportunity that Connections provides to build relations. Connections 2010 is again bridging researchers and industry. We look forward to your participation.

Past Participation Statistics

Past Connections	2009	2008	2007
Technical presentations	35	34	52
Research groups represented	8	8	8
Posters	30	19	26
Industry participants	7 companies	6 companies	5 companies
Total attendees (approx.)	120	140	130



Electrical and Computer Engineering at University of Toronto

The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Toronto consistently ranks among the top ten ECE departments in North America. It attracts outstanding graduate students from all over the world, offers remarkable research facilities, and is located in the middle of the vibrant cosmopolitan city of Toronto. The department hosts a faculty of over 75 professors working in a variety of disciplines; many are international leaders in their field.

Research within the department is carried out in eight key areas: biomedical, communications, computer, electronics, electromagnetics, energy systems, photonics, and systems control. Ongoing research projects encompass a broad range of theoretical and applied endeavours, and are often conducted in close collaboration with industry partners.

“

ECE Connections is a great opportunity to be exposed to broad swaths of leading-edge research, but in small, digestible bits (the 7 minute presentations are great!). If you're interested in more depth for any topic, the social interaction time and poster sessions provide that too. For graduate students, the opportunity to present in such a short time frame is a chance to hone the key skills of brevity and clarity, essential to any great researcher.

”

*Professor Jonathan Rose
Former Chair, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering*



Connections 2010 Overview

This year's Connections will take place on **May 6, 2010** at the Bahen Centre for Information Technology (40 St. George Street).

Key Features

- **Research Group Exhibition:** The eight ECE research groups (bio-medical, communications, computer, electromagnetics, electronics, energy systems, photonics, and systems control) will present posters with their ongoing research.
- **Dinner Showcase:** An excellent opportunity for networking, the dinner showcase will bring together graduate students, faculty, industry representatives, and ECE alumni from different fields.
- **Panel:** Industry representatives and selected faculty will discuss the interaction between academic research and industry, and the future of research and innovation in Canada.
- **Industry Presentations:** Industry representatives will give short presentations to provide their insights on interesting research problems.

Preliminary Schedule

- 8:00 AM Registration and Breakfast
- 9:00 AM Welcome Address and Keynote Speech
- 9:30 AM Parallel Technical Sessions I
- 11:00 AM Research and Industry Poster Session I
- 11:30 AM Industry Presentations
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Parallel Technical Sessions II
- 3:00 PM Research and Industry Poster Session II
- 3:30 PM Panel
- 4:30 PM Speakers Award Presentation
- 5:00 PM Dinner
- 7:15 PM Closing Remarks

Participate in Connections

Connections owes its success to its participants, both academic researchers and industry representatives. As an industry participant in Connections you will have the following benefits:

- Create and improve relations with the leading ECE Department in Canada.
- Present ongoing research activities in your company and discuss interesting engineering problems.
- Find common areas of interest between industry and academia.
- Provide industry insights to help guide academic research.
- Explore the potential for collaboration with a research group in your area.
- Meet bright new engineers and discuss future job opportunities.

We have designed four sponsorship packages to target a wide range of companies. Should you require any additional features or would

like to make modifications to your package, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to work with you to customize the package to your needs.

We also welcome non-sponsoring industry representatives to attend the symposium. A standalone early registration conference pass is **\$30 for IEEE members and \$50 for non-IEEE members**. On-site registration will also be available.

“

Connections provides a great opportunity for making new industry contacts and strengthening old ones, but it is also a time-effective way to discover the key research problems in areas of ECE outside your own study. It's a great way to touch base with the ECE department and your peers.

”

*Peter Yiannacouras, Ph.D. Alumnus
Nokia Research*



Sponsorship Packages

Benefits	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Sponsorship Commitment	\$1000	\$500	\$300	\$100
Conference Passes	10	5	3	1
Exhibition Table	√	√		
Poster Space	√	√	√	√
Technical Program Cover	Large Logo (Front)	Medium Logo (Front)	Medium Logo (Back)	Small Logo (Back)
Logo on Electronic Proceedings	Large Logo	Medium Logo		
Industry Presentation	√	√	√	√
Website Front Page	Large Logo with Link	Medium Logo with Link	Text Link	Text Link
Website Sponsor Page	√	√	√	√
Welcome Address Mention	√	√		

Payment Method

The preferred method of payment for sponsorship is a cheque, payable to:

Connections 2010 c/o Austra Ozolins
 University of Toronto
 The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering
 10 King's College Rd.
 Toronto, Ontario M5S 3G4

Conference Passes

Each conference pass includes a conference package and a dinner ticket. The number of passes varies by sponsorship level.

Exhibition Table

An exhibition table that sits 3 people will be provided for the duration of the symposium for the platinum and gold sponsors.

Poster Space

A **1m x 1m** poster space with room for one presenter to stand beside it is provided for each sponsoring company.

Logos

Depending on the sponsorship level, your company logo can be featured on the Connections website, the cover of the technical program and the electronic proceedings.

Industry Presentations

An opportunity for a representative from your company to do a short presentation at Connections is provided. Topics include, but are not limited to, a company overview, research activities at your company and development of new tools. For further details, please contact us.

Welcome Address Mention

The support of our platinum and gold sponsors will be acknowledged in the opening speech of Connections.

“

My participation in Connections 2009 gave me the opportunity to receive comments from researchers and students of various research areas. I was impressed by the organization of the event, it was a great experience!

”

*Etienne Veilleux, MAsc. Alumnus
Ph.D. Student, McGill University*

Tentative Budget

I. Revenue

Budget surplus from 2009	\$ 1,372.97
Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering	\$ 3,000.00
Faculty of Engineering	\$ 2,000.00
Estimated Sponsorship	\$ 4,000.00
Estimated Registration Fees	\$ 500.00
	\$ 10,872.97

II. Expenses

Conference Packages	\$ 1,800.00
Brochures, booklets, posters, CDs	\$ 2,000.00
Student Speaker Awards	\$ 550.00
Equipment Rental	\$ 600.00
Catering	
Breakfast and Lunch	\$ 2,700.00
Dinner	\$ 3,200.00
	\$ 10,850.00

* Any budget surplus will be used towards the organization of Connections symposia in the future.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is Connections 2010?

This year's Connections ECE Graduate Symposium will take place on **May 6, 2010** at the Bahen Centre for Information Technology (40 St. George Street, Toronto).

Who participates in Connections?

Connections is attended by graduate students and professors from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Toronto, as well as industry representatives from technology companies in the GTA area. This year, we are also inviting back ECE alumni to participate in our social events.

How to register for Connections?

Potential sponsors can register directly by contacting us at contact@uoftconnections.ca. Other participants should register via our website at www.uoftconnections.ca.

Registration opens in February 2010. On-site registration will also be available.

What are the registration fees?

Details of the sponsorship packages can be found on page 7. A standalone registration costs **\$30 for IEEE members and \$50 for non-IEEE members**. Registration is free for students, faculty and anyone affiliated with the ECE Department.

What payment methods are accepted?

The preferred method of payment for sponsorship is a cheque, payable to:

Connections 2010 c/o Austra Ozolins
University of Toronto

The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Dept. Of
Electrical and Computer Engineering

10 King's College Rd. Toronto, ON M5S 3G4

We accept cash for on-site registration.

Can my company participate without sponsoring?

Yes! We welcome all industry participants. A standalone registration is required. If you are interested in doing a presentation, please contact us directly.

How can I find more information?

For more information, you can contact your Connections representative directly. Alternatively, visit our website at www.uoftconnections.ca or email us at contact@uoftconnections.ca.

Connections 2010
University of Toronto ECE Graduate Symposium
May 6, 2010

Bahen Centre for Information Technology
40 St. George Street. Toronto, ON

For more information, contact Connections 2010
www.uoftconnections.ca
contact@uoftconnections.ca