

Connections 2013

University of Toronto ECE Graduate Symposium



Get Involved, Get Connected!

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About Connections

The 9th annual ECE Connections Graduate Symposium will be held on May 7th, 2013, 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. At the same time, it offers an opportunity for students, faculty, and industry representatives to build connections towards future collaborations.

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

research, from both academia and industry. Every year the symposium attracts over 100 attendees. Connections 2013 will again feature a combination of technical programs, panel discussions, industry presentations, and social events. It is a great opportunity for industry representatives to network with talented students and faculty members, and to establish a presence in the community.

If you are interested in participating or would like to obtain further information, please feel free to inquire at leizhang@comm.utoronto.ca

"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.
University of Toronto*



History of Connections

Connections started as a student initiative in 2005. A group of graduate students in ECE realized that despite the wealth of research occurring in the department, most students were not aware of the ongoing work done outside of their research groups, due to the size of the department. As a result, many opportunities for cross-discipline collaboration were lost. The idea of an annual symposium was thus conceived, where graduate students from all research areas could get together and engage in an exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The 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 born: a place where the missing “connections” can be made.

Since then, eight symposia have been held, each succeeding in its goal of fostering connections within the department, as well as serving as a point of contact between academia and industry. Students and industry participants alike have expressed their satisfaction with this opportunity to build and strengthen relationships. Connections 2013 will look to continue this tradition. We look forward having you onboard!

Past Participation Statistics

Connections Year	2009	2010	2011	2012
Technical presentations	35	39	33	33
Research group presented	8	8	8	8
Industry participants	7	12	13	17
Total attendees (approx.)	120	200	150	150



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 top ten ECE departments in North America. Located in the heart of the vibrant cosmopolitan city of Toronto, it attracts outstanding graduate students from all over the world and offers state-of-the-art research facilities. The department hosts a faculty of over 75 professors, many of whom are international leaders in their respective fields.

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

"Connections provides an excellent opportunity for the exchange of ideas between graduate students, faculty members, and industry representatives. Industry representatives will get a quick update on major research projects throughout the department. Social interaction time and the poster session provide a great opportunity for more in-depth discussions on technical topics."

*Professor Farid N. Najm
Chair, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering*



Connection 2013 Overview

Connections 2013 will take place on **May 7th, 2013** at the Bahen Centre for Information Technology (40 St. George Street).

Key Features

- **Student Research Presentations:** Students from the eight ECE research groups (biomedical, communications, computer, electronics, electromagnetics, energy systems, photonics, and systems control) will present exciting ongoing research.
- **Industry Booths:** Industry representatives will connect with symposium attendees at reserved booths located in the center of the symposium floor.
- **Industry Presentations:** Industry representatives will give short presentations to share insights on interesting research problems.
- **Panel:** Industry representatives and selected faculty will discuss the interaction between academic research and industry, and the future of research and innovation in Canada.
- **Dinner Showcase:** An excellent opportunity for networking, bringing together graduate students, faculty, industry representatives, and ECE alumni from different fields.

Preliminary Schedule

8:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 AM	Welcome Address, Morning Keynote Speech
9:30 AM	Technical Presentations I
10:30 AM	Poster Session I
10:45 AM	Industry Presentations
11:45 AM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Industry Technical Talks
2:00 PM	Technical Presentations II
3:00 PM	Poster Session II
3:15 PM	Afternoon Keynote Speech
3:45 PM	Technical Presentations III
4:45 PM	Poster Session III
5:00 PM	Panel
5:45 PM	Closing Remarks
6:00 PM	Award Presentation and Dinner

Participate in Connections

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

- Foster and strengthen relations with the leading ECE Department in Canada.
- Present ongoing research activities of your company and attract talented students from related fields.
- Receive updates on the most current academic research progress, and provide industry insights to guide academic research.
- Explore possibilities of collaborations.

We have designed four sponsorship packages to suit different levels of industry participation. Should you require any

additional features or would like modifications to your package, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to work together to customize the package to your needs.

We also welcome non-sponsoring industry representatives to attend the symposium. On-site registration will 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
Sponsorship Commitment	\$1000	\$600	\$250
Company Booth	✓	✓	✓
Company Poster Space	2	1	–
Company Presentation	✓	–	–
Industry Technical Talk	By invitation	By invitation	By invitation
Technical Program Logo	Large - Front	Large - Back	–
Website Home Page	Logo with link	Text link	–
Website Sponsor Page	✓	✓	✓
Dinner Banquet Tickets	4	2	–
Welcome Address Mention	✓	✓	–

Sponsorship Package Details

Company Booth

An exhibition booth with seating for company representatives will be provided for the duration of the symposium for all sponsors. In addition, all sponsoring companies are welcome to provide promotional materials (e.g. pens, paper pads, USB drives) to be included in the conference package for all attendees.

Company Poster Space

Space will be provided for company posters to be prominently displayed in the symposium lobby. The number of poster stands and necessary space is allocated based on the chosen sponsorship package.

Company Presentation

Platinum sponsors will have a dedicated presentation time slot to highlight their company's profile and exciting opportunities to all participating ECE graduate students and faculty. Please contact us for details.

Industry Technical Talk

Depending on interest and availability, representatives from sponsoring companies may be invited to give technical presentations at the symposium.

Technical Program Logo

Platinum sponsors will have their company logos featured on the front cover of the Connections 2013 technical program. Gold sponsors will have logos displayed on the back cover. The technical program is printed in full-color and given to all symposium participants.

Website Home Page

Platinum sponsors will have their company logos featured on the Connections 2013 homepage at a size of no less than 210 by 350 pixels with hyperlink to their website. Gold sponsors will have their company name shown on the homepage with a hyperlink to their website.

Conference Package

All sponsoring company representatives will receive a customized conference gift pack as a special thank-you for your generosity.

Dinner Banquet Tickets

The Connections 2013 dinner banquet will be held at the beautiful, historic Hart House featuring a three-course dinner buffet and a cash bar. Platinum sponsors will receive four (4) banquet tickets for their representations. Gold sponsors will also receive two (2) banquet tickets. The banquet offers a final opportunity for industry, faculty and students to socialize and make lasting connections.

Welcome Address Mention

As a special thanks to key sponsors, our platinum and gold sponsors will be acknowledged in the symposium opening address.

Payment Information

The preferred method of payment is a cheque made payable to “The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.” Please send the cheque to the following address:

Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Toronto
Connections 2013 c/o Krisztina Harmath
10 King's College Rd. Toronto
ON M5S 3G4

Proposed Budget

	2012 Actual	2013 Projected
I. Revenues		
Budget Surplus from previous year	2,341.74	2,300.00
Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering	3,000.00	3,000.00
Faculty of Engineering	1,000.00	1,000.00
Industry Sponsorship	4,200.00	4,500.00
Student Group Sponsorship	1,200.00	1,200.00
Total Revenues	\$11,741.74	\$12,000.00
	2012 Actual	2013 Projected
II. Expenses		
Advertising Expenses		
Program Booklets	991.53	900.00
Posters	79.33	100.00
Banners	0.00	150.00
Conference Packages	3,107.10	3,000.00
Student Speaker & Early Bird Awards	593.88	400.00
Catering Expenses		
Breakfast and Lunch	1,517.61	2,000.00
Dinner	2,559.88	3,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses		
Domain Registration, Conference Badges, Volunteer Appreciation, etc.	593.71	550.00
Total Expenses	\$9,872.54	\$10,650.00

* Based on past experiences, our best efforts are made estimate the costs as accurately as possible. Any budget surplus will be used towards the organization of future Connections symposia.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is Connections 2013?

The next Connections ECE Graduate Symposium will take place on May 7th, 2013 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 southern Ontario. We also invite our ECE alumni to participate in our social events.

What are the registration fees?

Registration is free for students, faculty and ECE alumni. All sponsor representatives will receive free registration.

What payment methods are accepted?

The preferred method of payment for sponsorship is a cheque, made payable to “The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering” and sent to the following address:

Connections 2013 c/o Krisztina Harmath
University of Toronto
The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Dept. of
Electrical and Computer Engineering
10 King's College Rd. Toronto
ON M5S 3G4

How can I find more information?

For more information, please contact our sponsorship coordinator at:

leizhang@comm.utoronto.ca

Alternatively, feel free to browse our website at:

www.uoftconnections.ca.



Sponsorship Form

Please complete this form and return to the following address with payment. Please make cheque payable to “The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.” Thank you for supporting Connections 2013.

Address:

Connections 2013 c/o Krisztina Harmath
University of Toronto
The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Dept. of
Electrical and Computer Engineering
10 King's College Rd, Toronto
ON M5S 3G4

Sponsorship Package (Choose one): Platinum Gold Silver

Organization/Company:

Contact Person:

Address:

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____