

# Connections 2014

University of Toronto ECE Graduate Symposium



*Get Involved, Get Connected!*

## Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>About Connections</b> .....  | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>History of Connections</b> .....   | <b>3</b>  |
| Past Participation Statistics .....   | 3         |
| <b>Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Toronto</b> ..... | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Connections 2014 Overview</b> .....  | <b>5</b>  |
| Key Features .....  | 5         |
| Preliminary Schedule.....   | 5         |
| <b>Participate in Connections</b> .....                                       | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Registration &amp; Sponsorship Packages</b> .....                          | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Registration &amp; Sponsorship Package Details</b> .....                   | <b>8</b>  |
| Company Booth .....   | 8         |
| Company Poster Space .....  | 8         |
| Industry Technical Talks .....  | 8         |
| Networking Dinner Tickets.....  | 8         |
| Event Program .....   | 8         |
| Website.....  | 8         |
| Event Adverts .....   | 8         |
| <b>Proposed Budget</b> .....  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Frequently Asked Questions</b> .....                                       | <b>10</b> |
| When is Connections 2014? .....   | 10        |
| How can I register for Connections? .....                                     | 10        |
| Who participates in Connections? .....  | 10        |
| What payment methods are accepted? .....                                      | 10        |
| What are the registration fees? .....   | 10        |
| How can I find more information? .....  | 10        |
| <b>Registration &amp; Sponsorship Form</b> .....                              | <b>11</b> |

## About Connections

The 10th annual ECE Connections Graduate Symposium will be held on Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 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 in both academia and industry. Every year the symposium attracts over 100 attendees. Connections 2014 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 within the University of Toronto community.

If you are interested in participating or would like to obtain additional information, please feel free to inquire at [contact@uoftconnections.ca](mailto:contact@uoftconnections.ca).

*"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. Najam  
Chair, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering*



## History of Connections

Connections began as a student initiative in 2005. A group of graduate students in computer engineering realized that despite the wealth of research occurring in the department, most students were not aware of ongoing activities outside of their research group due to the size of the department. As a result, many opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration were lost. The idea of an annual symposium was thus conceived, where graduate students from all research areas could network 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. The Connections symposium was thus born: a place where the missing "connections" are made.

Since then, nine symposia have been held, each succeeding in its goal of fostering interconnectivity within the department, as well as serving as a point of contact between academia and industry. Students and industry participants alike have expressed satisfaction with this opportunity to build and strengthen relationships. Connections 2014 will continue this tradition. We look forward to having you onboard!

## Past Participation Statistics

| Year                      | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Technical presentations   | 35   | 39   | 33   | 33   | 28   |
| Research groups present   | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    | 8    |
| Industry participants     | 7    | 12   | 13   | 17   | 22   |
| Total attendees (approx.) | 120  | 200  | 150  | 150  | 175  |



## Electrical and Computer Engineering at the 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 subdivided into eight major groups: biomedical, communications, computers, 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 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."*

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



## Connections 2014 Overview

Connections 2014 will take place on **Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014** at the Bahen Centre for Information Technology (40 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario), located within the University of Toronto's beautiful downtown campus.

### Key Features

- **Student Research Presentations:** students from the eight ECE research groups (biomedical, communications, computers, electronics, electromagnetics, energy systems, photonics, and systems control) will present exciting ongoing research.
- **Industry Booths:** Industry representatives and sponsors will have an opportunity to network with symposium attendees at reserved booths located in the center of the symposium floor.
- **Industry Presentations:** Industry representatives will give invited technical presentations to showcase emerging technologies and 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.
- **Networking Dinner:** An excellent opportunity to build connections in a social environment, bringing together graduate students, faculty, industry representatives, and ECE alumni from numerous fields. Hosted at the University of Toronto's Hart House.

### Preliminary Schedule

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



## 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 in 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 for collaboration.

We have designed four registration and 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.

*"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*



## Registration & Sponsorship Packages

|   | Platinum*<br>Sponsor     | Gold<br>Sponsor      | Silver<br>Sponsor    | Basic**<br>Registration |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Commitment</b>                                   | \$1500                   | \$1000               | \$500                | \$125                   |
| <b>Company Booth Allocation</b>                     | 3 slots                  | 3 slots              | 2 slots              | 1 slot                  |
| <b>Company Poster Space</b>                         | 2 slots                  | 2 slots              | 1 slot               | -                       |
| <b>Industry Technical Talk</b>                      | Guaranteed               | Guaranteed           | By Invitation        | By Invitation           |
| <b>Networking Dinner Tickets</b>                    | 4                        | 4                    | 2                    | 2                       |
| <b>Logo on Event Program</b>                        | Large, Front Cover       | Large, Front Cover   | Medium, Front Cover  | Small, Back Cover       |
| <b>Website Front Page</b>                           | Large Logo with Link     | Large Logo with Link | Small Logo with Link | -                       |
| <b>Listed on Sponsors &amp; Registrants Webpage</b> | ✓                        | ✓                    | ✓                    | ✓                       |
| <b>Logo on Event Adverts</b>                        | ✓                        | ✓                    | ✓                    | -                       |
| <b>Networking Dinner Title Sponsor</b>              | Company Name is Attached | -                    | -                    | -                       |
| <b>Invitation to Present Awards at Dinner</b>       | ✓                        | -                    | -                    | -                       |

\*Please inquire at [contact@uoftconnections.ca](mailto:contact@uoftconnections.ca); only one Platinum Sponsor will be accepted but packages are negotiable. Priority is based on time of commitment.

\*\*Limited number of packages available; priority is based on time of commitment.



## Registration & Sponsorship Package Details

### Company Booth

An exhibition booth with seating for company representatives will be provided for the duration of the symposium. 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 received by all attendees. The total space allocated to the booth is determined by the chosen registration/sponsorship package.

### Company Poster Space

Space will be provided for company posters to be prominently displayed in the symposium lobby. Space allocation and the number of poster stands provided is based on the chosen registration/sponsorship package.

### Industry Technical Talks

Depending on interest and availability, representatives from participating companies may be invited to give technical presentations at the symposium. Gold and Platinum sponsors will be guaranteed a dedicated presentation timeslot to highlight their organization's activities to all participating ECE graduate students and faculty – please contact us to discuss further details.

### Networking Dinner Tickets

Participants will be issued tickets to attend the dinner and awards presentation based on their level of commitment. The Platinum-level sponsor will have their name affiliated with the dinner as well as the opportunity to present the event awards – please contact us to discuss further details.

### Event Program

The Connections 2014 program, containing the finalized symposium timetable and supplementary information about invited speakers and presentations, is printed in full-colour and given to all symposium participants. Gold and Platinum sponsors will have their logos prominently featured on the front cover of the program; logos one-third of this size will also be featured on the front page for Silver sponsors. Basic registrants will be permitted to place small logos on the back cover of the program.

### Website

Platinum and Gold sponsors will have their company logos featured on the Connections 2014 homepage at a size of no less than 210 by 350 pixels with an embedded hyperlink to their website. The website will contain a separate page listing all sponsors and industry registrants with hyperlinks.

### Event Adverts

Any visual promotional materials (e.g. posters, banners) for the event will display the logos of all Platinum, Gold and Silver sponsors.

## Proposed Budget

|  | <b>2013 Actual</b> | <b>2014 Projected</b> |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>I. Revenues</b>                           |                    |                       |
| Budget Surplus from previous year            | 2,364.86           | 2,200.00              |
| Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering | 3,000.00           | 3,000.00              |
| Faculty of Engineering                       | 1,000.00           | 1,000.00              |
| Industry Sponsorship                         | 2,999.43           | 4,000.00              |
| Student Group Sponsorship                    | 700.00             | 1,000.00              |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                        | <b>\$10,064.29</b> | <b>\$11,200.00</b>    |

|   | <b>2013 Actual</b> | <b>2014 Projected</b> |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>II. Expenses</b>   |                    |                       |
| <b>Advertising Expenses</b>   |                    |                       |
| Program Booklets  | 0.00               | 900.00                |
| Posters   | 25.00              | 100.00                |
| Banners   | 0.00               | 150.00                |
| Conference Packages   | 2,397.38           | 2,500.00              |
| Student Speaker & Early Bird Awards                                     | 774.30             | 800.00                |
| Audio Visual setup fees   | 797.50             | 800.00                |
| <b>Catering Expenses</b>  |                    |                       |
| Breakfast and Lunch   | 1,408.24           | 1,800.00              |
| Dinner  | 3,180.00           | 3,700.00              |
| <b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>   |                    |                       |
| Domain Registration, Conference Badges,<br>Volunteer Appreciation, etc. | 195.03             | 200.00                |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>   | <b>\$8,777.45</b>  | <b>\$10,950.00</b>    |

*\* Projected expenses are based on our best estimates as well as actual figures from past symposia; we have striven to make these as accurate as possible. Any budget surplus will be used towards the organization of future Connections symposia.*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### When is Connections 2014?

The next Connections ECE Graduate Symposium will take place on *Monday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014* at the Bahen Centre for Information Technology (40 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario).

### 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 and abroad. We also invite our ECE alumni to participate in our social events.

### What are the registration fees?

Please refer to "Registration & Sponsorship Packages" for the fees associated with your package. Registration is free for students, faculty and anyone affiliated with the ECE Department.

### How can I register for Connections?

To register, please send an e-mail to:

[contact@uoftconnections.ca](mailto:contact@uoftconnections.ca)

with the name of your desired registration/sponsorship package in the subject line. We will walk you through the registration process.

### What payment methods are accepted?

The preferred method of payment is by cheque, made payable to "The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering" and sent to the following address:

*Connections 2014 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 Connections team directly at:

[contact@uoftconnections.ca](mailto:contact@uoftconnections.ca)

Alternatively, feel free to browse our website at:

<http://uoftconnections.ca/>



## Registration & Sponsorship Form

After registering with us, please complete this form and return it to the following address with payment. Please make cheques payable to "The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering".

**Address:**

*Connections 2014 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*

Chosen Package:  Platinum  Gold  Silver  Basic

Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

