



Dear Skule Alumni,

Thank you for choosing to support *Connections* ECE Graduate Symposium! This annual event, organized by graduate students of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and now in its eleventh year, brings together both industry and academia in an exhibition of ongoing research activities across all areas of ECE. The symposium's aim is to strengthen ties within the U of T community and with industry by promoting cross-collaboration, showcasing cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, and providing a social environment for students, faculty and industry representatives to interact.



ECE PhD candidate Mario Badr poses a question to the panel during a discussion on "Academic vs. Industrial Research", *Connections 2014*.

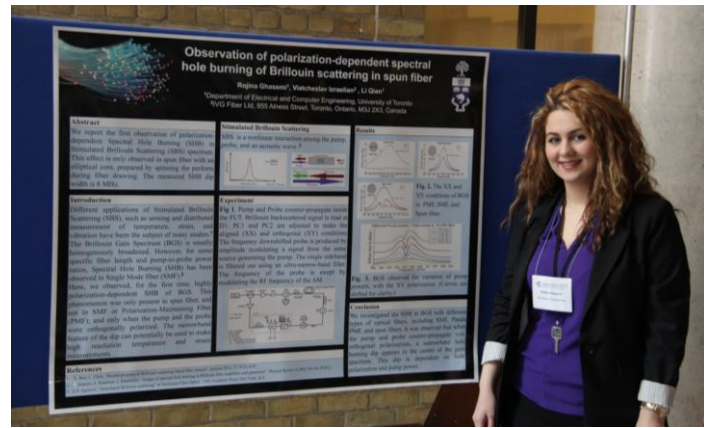
learn about industry partnerships and resources available at U of T to aid network development and entrepreneurship. Breakfast, lunch and refreshments are provided for all participants (usually totalling between 150 and 200 individuals), and the event concludes with a networking dinner banquet (75-100 individuals) hosted at the Hart House.



Industry booth and student poster session at the Bahen Centre for Information Technology, *Connections 2014*.

In addition to oral and poster presentations by students, each year we invite several keynote speakers and panellists from academia, industry and external organizations to discuss topics ranging from frontier technologies to successful commercialization strategies. These talks and discussions have been well-received by students (see ECE news article [here](#)), and Alumni participation continues to be an important tradition – speakers at last year's symposium (May 2014) included Dr. Inmar Govani of Kobo, Dr. Karl Martin of Bionym, and Dr. Aleksey Tyshchenko of Intel, all of whom are proud ECE Alumni. Through the involvement of *The Hatchery*, *Mitacs*, *The Creative Destruction Lab*, and others, we have also provided opportunities for students to

Our annual budget is on the order of \$8-10k with the bulk of expenses going towards food, space and equipment rentals, and promotional materials. Of our total budget, about one third derives directly from the ECE Department, one third is obtained through external sponsorship, and the final third is obtained through local U of T grants such as the *Skule Alumni Student Club Funding*. Your generous \$500 donation will help us continue to provide free student registration for this event. More specifically, your support will fund printing services for our student poster presenters as well as our “Best Presenter” awards which include a framed certificate and monetary prize. This provides students with an invaluable forum to sharpen their professional skills and thus strengthen their impact when representing U of T abroad.



ECE MSc candidate Rojina Ghasemi presents her research at *Connections 2014*.

We thank you again for your generous support and always welcome your involvement.

Sincerely,

Ryan Marchildon
Co-Chair, Connections 2014
www.uoftconnections.ca
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