

# The Bahen Centre for Information Technology opens at the University of Toronto



The Bahen Centre for Information Technology at 40 St. George Street embodies UofT's international leadership in information technology (IT) education and research. Renowned Toronto-based architects Diamond and Schmitt Architects Inc. designed this highly visible, 400,000 sq.ft. facility which speaks clearly to the information age.

Home to 3,000 IT undergraduate and graduate students, with 11 lecture halls, 14 tutorial/seminar rooms and over 50 laboratories, the Bahen Centre presents opportunities for collaboration and creativity to the members of the faculties of Applied Science and Engineering and Arts and Science. This state of the art facility will enable the University of Toronto to meet Canada's increasing demand for highly trained IT professionals by doubling the university's enrolment in electrical and computer engineering, computer science and IT research. Its specialist research institutes will focus on technology, innovation and research in partnership with industry, to facilitate technology transfer.

As befits its purpose, the building's own systems have been designed innovatively. The interior features a raised floor design for the distribution of power and data cabling, which allows for complete flexibility and accessibility. The building's symbolic and functional focal point is a dramatic, eight storey lantern-like circular staircase. At each level are meeting and seminar rooms that are shared between the different programs and institutes that work together in the centre.

The Bahen Centre will house:

- The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Mechatronics and Information Engineering Options
- Division of Engineering Science
- Department of Computer Science
- Centre for Advanced Coating Technologies
- Jeffrey Skoll BAsc/MBA Program
- Nortel Institute for Telecommunications
- Bell University Research Laboratories
- Computer Systems Research Group
- Professional Experience Year Program
- Knowledge Media Design Institute

## Funding

- John Bahen, former President and CEO of Peter Kiewit Sons Co. Ltd.
- Nortel Networks
- Bell Canada
- Motorola Canada Ltd.
- Rogers AT&T Wireless
- Shell Canada
- Province of Ontario: SuperBuild Fund and Access to Opportunities Program
- Lee and Margaret Lau
- Robert C. Simmonds
- Jeffrey S. Skoll
- Carl Mitchell
- Glynn Williams
- William and Monique Blundell
- Gregory Wolfond, and
- The Engineering Class of 1945.

The photo on the right shows the three-storey Lee and Margaret Lau Atrium.

Photo on the far right: The Lady Godiva Memorial Band, a U of T engineering tradition, entertains at the opening.

Wired with nearly 6.5 kilometres of fibre optic cable, the University of Toronto's Bahen Centre for Information Technology held its official opening on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 5 p.m.

The \$105-million complex will expand U of T's IT program and pave the way for innovation and research in partnership with industry. It will house faculty, staff and students from the Department of Computer Science, The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Division of Engineering Science and the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering's new mechatronics and information engineering options.

At the opening, U of T president Robert Birgeneau offered opening remarks and welcomed speakers including Chancellor Henry N.R. Jackman, deans Tas Venetsanopoulos (applied science and engineering) and Carl Amrhein (arts and science), lead donors John and Margaret Bahen, Thomas Simpson, chair of Governing Council, Michael Charles, Dean Emeritus and Janet Ecker, minister of finance for Ontario.

Public funding was provided by the government of Ontario's Access to Opportunities Program, the University Infrastructure Investment Fund, SuperBuild, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Ontario Innovation Trust and the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund.



Photo above shows (l-r) Dean Emeritus Michael Charles, Dr. John Bahen O.C. and assistant David Reichart.



Photo on left shows honored guests cutting the ribbon to open the Bahen Centre at U of T.

