



# UoA News 13

※Students' grade years are those at the time of the award.

## Professor CHEN Wenxi and Adjunct Professor OKA Ryuichi awards at 3rd Fukushima Tech Plan Grand Prix



The University of Aizu's Professor CHEN Wenxi won the ACSL Award and JR East Prize for "Yumenari" and Adjunct Professor OKA Ryuichi won the Fukushima Robot Test Field Award for "Aizu-Breakthrough" presented at the 3rd Fukushima Tech Plan Grand Prix held in Koriyama City on Saturday, July 11, 2020.  
Yumenari: Promotion of healthy lifestyle by digitizing daily activities with non-contact sensing.  
Aizu-Breakthrough: 3D conversion of videos.

## The Opening Ceremony for Women's IT Career Enhancement Program held



The opening ceremony for the Women's IT Career Enhancement Program was held on campus on Thursday, July 30, 2020.

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, only a representative of the students attended the ceremony on campus while the rest of the students attended through the online meeting system, Zoom.

## UoA Student Joins E-sport Professional Team



4th-year undergraduate SUZUKI Takayuki (nickname: Discentra) joined the professional e-sport team Nora-Rengo(野良連合) on July 14, 2020.

Mr. SUZUKI has been a trial member of Nora-Rengo since winning the domestic round of an e-sport competition last year. He has been one of the top players of the action-building game Fortnite in Asia.

## Joint Research on Smart City Operating Systems with Accenture Japan Ltd

The University of Aizu and Accenture Japan Ltd will conduct joint research on the Smart City operating systems, the digital platform for smart cities.

The API marketplace will be developed through this joint research based on the smart city reference architecture provided by the government. This will be the first of its kind in the Japan.

## Enhancing Partnership with NTT East Japan in the Fields of e-Sports, Cybersecurity, Etc.



The University of Aizu and NTT East Japan jointly held a press conference on Friday, July 31, 2020 announcing the acceleration of the following efforts by enhancing their partnership in the fields of e-sports, cybersecurity, etc. with an eye on a future where various reforms will be required due to the effects of COVID-19.

1. Collaborations between the two entities and partnerships with local municipalities and companies to solve regional issues and to revitalize the region through Aizu Open Innovation meetings.

E.g.:

- Consideration on regional revitalization measures that utilize e-sports, etc.

2. Talent development programs that leverage the advantage of being Japan's first university solely dedicated to computer science and engineering

E.g.:

- Talent development through collaborative operation of a cybersecurity training course

- Cooperation with career design through internships, etc.

## UoA Students Appointed as Fukushima Prefectural Cybersecurity Volunteers



Four students of Senior Associate Professor NAKAMURA's Information Security Laboratory, AKASAKA Kohei (M2), YOSHIDA Keita (M2), NAMIKI Yusuke (M1), IGARASHI Ryo (U4) were appointed as Fukushima Prefecture Cybersecurity Volunteers and received letters of appointment on campus on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. Cybersecurity volunteers monitor the web, report illegal websites, and engage in efforts such as public awareness activities for cybercrime prevention.

## The UoA Short-term Study Abroad Fair was held via Zoom!

The AY2020 Short-Term Study Abroad Fair was held on Wednesday, July 22. This year's fair was held online to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and about 250 students participated in the fair.

The overall study abroad program at the University of Aizu and an alternative program "SCCP: Immersive English Experience for Study-Abroad Program" was introduced. Then, six students who participated in the short-term study abroad program in the University of Waikato (NZ) and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (USA) in AY2018 talked about their experience.

## Computer-aided detection system for colonoscopy jointly developed by the University of Aizu and Fukushima Medical University

Senior Associate Professor ZHU Xin of the University of Aizu and the Department of Coloproctology of Fukushima Medical University Aizu Medical Center jointly developed an AI-based computer-aided detection (CADe) system for colonoscopy (patent pending). They conducted tests to validate the diagnostic performance of the system and it accurately detected small polyps less than five millimeters in size. The result of the tests was made viewable online on March 16, 2020 and will be shortly published in "Digestive Endoscopy", the journal of the Japan Gastroenterological Endoscopy Society. The computer-aided detection (CADe) algorithm was developed by having AI perform deep learning on large numbers of colonoscopy images. The ability of CADe to detect small polyps was almost equivalent to that of veteran colonoscopists.

## The University of Aizu Listed in the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020



The UoA was listed in the ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2020 published by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, ranking 301st to 400th in the world in the fields of Computer Science and Engineering and Electrical and Electronic Engineering, respectively.

This ranking puts us in a three-way tie with Osaka University and Tohoku University behind the University of Tokyo domestically in the field of computer science and engineering and in a four-way tie following Osaka University, the University of Tokyo, the Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Tohoku University domestically in the field of electrical and electronic engineering, a high acclaim.

## Research Paper Principally Authored by University of Aizu Senior Associate Professor LU Guo-wei Published in Nature Communications

A research paper principally authored by Senior Associate Professor LU Guo-wei, the Data Network Laboratory, the University of Aizu was published in Spring Nature's Nature Communications on Monday, August 24, 2020. It was also selected by Nature Electronics as Research Highlights.

<Paper title>High-temperature-resistant silicon-polymer hybrid modulator operating at up to 200 Gbit/s for energy-efficient datacentres and harsh-environment applications

## Fukushima Prefectural Government Public Relations TV Program Introduced Robot Test Field Research Center



The robotics research and development conducted at the University of Aizu Robot Test Field Research Center was featured on the Fukushima Prefecture PR TV Program "Kibitan GO! Make a Challenge from Fukushima" broadcasted on Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

●What is the University of Aizu Robot Test Field Research Center?

The University of Aizu Robot Test Field Research Center is the first UoA facility located outside Aizuwakamatsu-City. The center conducts empirical testing using the Robot Test Field and conducts research on control technology.

## The UoA ranked in "THE World University Rankings 2021"



On Wednesday, September 2, 2020, The UoA was ranked in between 601st and 800th of "THE World University Rankings 2021" published by the British educational journal "Times Higher Education" 4 years in a row. The UoA was ranked 14th amongst the 116 Japanese universities that were ranked.

## Award Ceremony for the Aizu IT Aki Forum 2020 Poster Design Contest held



The award ceremony for the Aizu IT Aki Forum 2020 Poster Design Contest was held at the University of Aizu Junior College Division on Tuesday, October 6. Junior College Division Department of Industrial Information Science first-year student TANJI Honoka was awarded First Prize.

The competition, which was open to students from the Junior College Division, solicited designs for posters that evoke the image of "NEW LIFE STYLE×ICT," the theme of Aizu IT Aki Forum 2020.

## The University of Aizu Jointly Acquires Patent with SIMPLEX QUANTUM Inc.

On Friday, September 18, 2020, the University of Aizu and SIMPLEX QUANTUM Inc. have jointly acquired the following patent. SIMPLEX QUANTUM Inc. developed a smart phone app based on the patented technology. Refer to the company's press release for more details.

■ Name of the Invention: Authentication Device, Method, and Computer Program

■ Inventors: CHEN Wenxi (The Public University Corporation, the University of Aizu), HAMADA Yuji and CHEN Ei (SIMPLEX QUANTUM Inc.)

■ Details of the Invention: The invention is related to an authentication device and method for authenticating individuals based on their electrocardiographic waveform as well as a program for implementing said method.

## UoA Students Attend “Bus Tour to Visit Innovative Companies in Fukushima Robot Test Field Innovative Company Bus Tour in Fukushima Robot Test Field” Event



13 UoA students (including five international students) attended the “Bus Tour to Visit Innovative Companies in Fukushima Robot Test Field” event organized by the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework Promotion Organization on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

The event was held at the Fukushima Robot Test Field in Minamisoma City. It featured an explanation of the Fukushima Innovation Coast Framework and a tour of the facility in the morning as well as presentations and demonstrations by MELTIN MMI, Mitsufuji Corporation, and East Japan Accounting Center Co., Ltd. in the afternoon.

## Two Companies Started by University of Aizu Faculty Members Certified as U-AIZU Ventures. 「AizuBT」「Compute KK」



On Tuesday, September 29, 2020, two companies started by UoA faculty members utilizing UoA research results and/or resources received the title of “U-AIZU Ventures” from the University of Aizu President MIYAZAKI Toshiaki. With these two additions, the number of certified U-AIZU Ventures now totals 25.

## UoA students made a movie about the UoA’s attractiveness and global environments



In order to let many people know about the University of Aizu (UoA)’s attractiveness and global environments, Ms. Taeko Yoshii (undergrad 3rd year) and Ms. Kimika Kashimoto (undergrad 2nd year) made a video of interview with UoA students and faculty and staff members. You can get a sense of the unique characteristics of the University of Aizu that the school brochure cannot convey.

## Aizu IT Aki Forum 2020 was held online.

On Friday, October 23, 2020, the University of Aizu and the Aizu Consortium of Industry and Academia collaborated to hold the Aizu IT Aki Forum 2020.

This year, it was held online to combat the new coronavirus infection. In addition to the special lecture by Mr. Akira Sakakibara, Executive Officer of Microsoft Japan Co. The seminars on “Advanced ICT,” “Community and ICT,” and “Human Resource Development” were delivered by the faculty of the University of Aizu, companies, and various organizations.

## The University of Aizu Research Cluster Forum was held.



On Saturday, October 24, 2020, the University of Aizu Research Cluster Forum was held. “Research Clusters” gave an overview of the research that each cluster is working on and its direction. This year, it was held online to combat the new coronavirus infection.

## President Miyazaki visited Kyoto University of Foreign Studies.



On October 26, Toshiaki Miyazaki, Chairperson of the Board of Executives and President, visited Kyoto University of Foreign Studies to make an inauguration greeting to Yoshikazu Morita, Chancellor and Chair of the Board of Governors, express thanks to him for lending their facilities for our entrance exams, and promote further academic exchanges.

## The University of Aizu Robotics Seminar was streamed live on YouTube.



The University of Aizu Team (8 university students) and the Minamisoma Robotics Industry Council Team (23 students from Odaka Industrial Technology High School and Techno Academy Hama), which was scheduled to participate in the cancelled “World Robot Summit 2020”, held a technical training session at the Fukushima Robot Test Field and competed in the format and operating techniques.

## [Condolence] The First President and Professor Emeritus of the University of Aizu KUNII.

This is to inform you that Professor Emeritus KUNII Toshiyasu, the first president of the University of Aizu, passed away on November 3, 2020 at the age of 82 years old. The University of Aizu expresses our respectful condolences for the death of Dr. Kunii.

<Message from University President MIYAZAKI>

I would like to express my heartfelt condolences on the death of Professor Emeritus KUNII Toshiyasu, who was the first President of the University of Aizu.

Dr. Kunii was deeply involved with the preparations towards the foundation of the University of Aizu in 1993, including developing its basic concept, and laid the foundations of the university as its first president.

We will continue to dedicate ourselves to the further development of the university with the same hope that Dr. Kunii wished to convey with the university’s founding philosophy of “to Advance Knowledge for Humanity.”

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Kunii and his great achievements. May his soul rest in peace.

## The University of Aizu granted the title of "University of Aizu Venture" to "mooi", which was founded by a graduate of the University of Aizu.



On Thursday, November 12, 2020, President Miyazaki awarded the title of "University of Aizu Venture" to "mooi" which was founded by a graduate of the University of Aizu.  
A total of 26 companies will be certified as University of Aizu Venture.

## The first ONLINE PC Koshien 2020 was held.



On November 14 (Sat.) and 15 (Sun.), 2020, the final competition of "PC Koshien 2020" was held online. 112 students from 56 teams, including 38 teams that won the preliminary competition and 18 teams, selected as online-specially-invited, participated in the Programming Competition. And 24 students from 9 teams participated in the Mobile APP. Competition.  
In the Programming Competition, students competed on the same system as the preliminary competition. And in the Mobile APP. Competition, students used Zoom, the web conferencing system, to show their presentations.

## Senior Associate Professor Hiroshi Saito and his colleagues demonstrate the effectiveness of the Wildlife Detection System



On Friday, November 24, 2020, Prof. SAITO Hiroshi, Senior Associate Professor in Computer Organization Laboratory at the University of Aizu and his team has successfully taken a black bear photo to use, "Wildlife Detection System" which can recognize the image and automatically chases away with a siren and strong light.  
This project is commissioned work from Fukushima Prefecture and under in field trial with FaBo, Inc. which provide equipment and manufacturing.

## First-year students of Aizu Gakuhou Junior High School learned about the "Hayabusa2 Project"

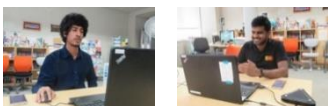


On Friday, November 27, 2020, 90 first-year students from Aizu Gakuhou Junior High School in Fukushima Prefecture visited the school and learned about the Asteroid Explorer "Hayabusa2" project from Professor Demura, Director of the Aizu Research Center for Space Informatics (ARC-Space).

## International talk was held!

As part of the Global Lounge's activities, the International Strategy Office holds monthly "international talks". Through Zoom, international students will introduce the history, culture, food, and famous places of each country and region in English. (Participation was limited to students, faculty and staff of the University.)

### Sri Lanka



On Wednesday, July 8, 2020, two international students from Sri Lanka, Mr. Udaka Ayas (Master first year) and Mr. Ravindu Sankha (Third Year Undergraduate), introduced Sri Lanka.



Wednesday, August 19, 2020, international students from Spain, Mr. Javier Asensio (Master's first year), introduced Spain.

### Spain



### Belarus

On Wednesday, October 21st, 2020, two international students from Belarus, Mr. Victor Khaustov (Doctoral third year) and Ms. Veranika Mikhailava (Master's second year), introduced Belarus.

### Bangladesh

On Wednesday, November 18, 2020, two international students from Bangladesh, Mr. Chowdhury Md Intisar (Doctoral second year) and Mr. Amin Md Faizul Ibne (Master's first year), introduced Bangladesh.



**The University of Aizu** Tsuruga, Ikki-machi, Aizu-Wakamatsu City, Fukushima, 965-8580, Japan

Planning and  
Collaboration  
Division

Tel: +81-242-37-2510  
Fax: +81-242-37-2546  
E-mail: [cl-planpr@u-aizu.ac.jp](mailto:cl-planpr@u-aizu.ac.jp)

Student Affairs  
Division

Tel: +81-242-37-2723  
Fax: +81-242-37-2526  
E-mail: [admission@u-aizu.ac.jp](mailto:admission@u-aizu.ac.jp)

