



# UoA News 9

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

## The University of Aizu recognized as a "Joint Usage and Research Center" by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

On April 1, 2019, the University of Aizu was recognized as a "Joint Usage and Research Center" by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

- Name of certified center  
"Lunar and Planetary Exploration Archive Science Center"
- Certification period  
April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2025

The "Lunar and Planetary Exploration Archive Science Center" at the University of Aizu will consolidate data obtained from lunar and planetary exploration missions from all over the world to explore the origin and evolution of the solar system, the Earth and the lunar planets, and provide related researchers with necessary information and support.

In the future, we plan to set up a base within the university and conduct budding research and joint research with universities throughout Japan.

## The University of Aizu received the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award of the 23rd (AY 2018) Engineering Education Award

The University of Aizu has been selected to receive the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award for the 23rd (2018) Engineering Education Award from the Japan Society for Engineering Education

The award was given in recognition of its efforts to nurture future leaders in the ICT field through the "National High School PC Competition (PC Koshien)."



## University of Aizu Faculty Member Appointed as Advisor to the Prefectural Police on Cyber Crime

On Tuesday, April 9, 2019, Akihito Nakamura, Senior Associate Professor of Information Security at the University of Aizu, was appointed as the "Fukushima Prefectural Police Cyber Crime Countermeasure Advisor", continuing from the previous year.

Senior Associate Professor Akihito Nakamura said, "We want to improve the knowledge and judgment of companies and students in order to prevent cybercrime. I would also like to have the students improve the software development they were involved in as cyber crime prevention volunteers. I would also like to encourage students to further improve the software development they were involved in as cyber crime prevention volunteers".



## AY 2018 Excellent Student Award

On Thursday, March 28, 2019, the top performing students for Academic Year 2018 were awarded certificates.

At the award ceremony, President Oka handed award certificates and book cards (gift certificate for books) to the top performing students. The awardees are listed below. The top performers amongst 4th-year students were awarded with the President's Award and Awards of Excellence at the degree conferment ceremony.

Undergraduate School First-year students	Undergraduate School Second-year students	Undergraduate School Third-year students
Kanno, Daiki	Kumagai, Yuhi	Niita, Yoshitaka
Kimura, Kaisei	Muraki, Masaya	Hoshi, Momoko
Ito, Ryoya	Awamori, Tatsuro	Ogasawara, Takumi

## AY 2019 Entrance Ceremony was held

The university of Aizu AY 2019 entrance ceremony took place on Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

The ceremony was held in a warm yet dignified manner. Esteemed guests at the ceremony including Fukushima Governor Masao Uchibori delivered congratulatory messages to the new students. A total of 318 new students, 255 to the undergraduate school, 53 to master's program, and 10 to the doctoral program were admitted by President Oka after their names were called at the ceremony.



## Entrance Ceremony for the Third period Students of the University of Aizu Female Programmer Training School

On Friday, April 19, 2019, we held an entrance ceremony for the Third period of the Female Programmer Training School at the University of Aizu.

The opening ceremony was attended by about 9 of the 104 students in the Third period students. The Fukushima Information Industry Association, and people from Fukushima Prefecture, were welcomed as guests of honor, and they congratulated and gave words of encouragement to the students.



**Three papers on the observation results of the asteroid probe "Hayabusa2", in which researchers and students of the University of Aizu were the lead authors and co-authors, were published in Science.**

On Wednesday, March 20, 2019, three papers on the observation results of the asteroid probe "Hayabusa2," in which researchers and students of ARC-Space, the Advanced Research Center for Information Science at the University of Aizu were the lead authors and co-authors, were published in Science.

Of the three papers published in Science, Associate Professor Kohei Kitasato is the lead author on one of them,

and the other two papers are co-authored by University of Aizu faculty members and students. These papers summarize the initial results of the analysis based on remote sensing observations and gravity measurements, and include research results on the shape, internal structure, surface composition, topography, and parent body of the asteroid Ryugu.



**Aizu University ranked 26th in "The World University Ranking Japan Edition 2019"**

The University of Aizu was ranked 26th in the "THE World University Rankings Japan 2019" by Times Higher Education (THE), a British education magazine, which was released on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, a significant improvement from last year's 34th place.

This ranking evaluates universities based on 16 indicators in four areas: educational resources, educational enrichment, educational achievements, and internationality,

and the University of Aizu ranked second among public universities.

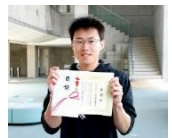
The Japanese version of THE World University Rankings focuses more on "educational capabilities" in light of the mission of Japanese universities, while the global version focuses more on "research capabilities".



**A third-year undergraduate student at the University of Aizu won first place in Problem B of the Hokkaido University and Hitachi New-Concept Computing Contest 2018.**

Mr. Tomoki Shirai, a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Aizu, won the first prize in Problem B in the Hokkaido University and Hitachi New-Concept Computing Contest 2018 (held from February 14 to February 27, 2019) at the luncheon seminar of the 81st National Convention of the Information Processing Society of Japan held at Fukuoka University Nanakuma Campus on March 15, 2019.

This contest is a marathon programming contest jointly held by Hokkaido University and Hitachi, which started in fiscal 2017 with the aim of improving the efficiency of pre-processing algorithms, which are considered to be key technologies for new computing concepts such as annealing machines.



**A graduate student at the University of Aizu received a letter of appreciation from the Fukushima Prefectural Police Headquarters for his cooperation in shutting down a malicious website.**

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at the University of Aizu, Fuma Dobashi, a graduate student at the University of Aizu (Completed Master's program in 2018), was presented with a letter of appreciation from the Prefectural Police Headquarters for helping to close down malicious websites and prevent damage from Internet-based crimes.

Mr. Tsuchihashi developed a program to search for malicious fake sites called "phishing sites," found five phishing sites that resembled major search sites, and provided information to the Council of Anti-Phishing Japan, which is made up of network-related companies and other organizations, which led to the closure of two of the sites.



**Team Mizuki, a company started by students of the University of Aizu, was awarded the title of "University of Aizu Venture".**

On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at the University of Aizu, the title of "University of Aizu Venture" was bestowed on Team Mizuki Corporation (Representative Director, Mr. Taisei Igarashi, who completed the Master's Course in 2018), which started a business utilizing the research results and resources of the University of Aizu, by Chancellor and President of the University of Aizu, Mr. Ryuichi Oka. This is the 21st company to be certified as a University of Aizu venture.



**Degree Conferment Ceremony for AY 2018 held**

On March 20, 2019 (Wed), the degree conferment ceremony for AY2018 was held at the University of Aizu auditorium. 252 individuals, including 188 students graduating from the Undergraduate School of Computer Science and Engineering, 59 students completing the Master's Program, Five students completing the Doctoral program, were conferred with degrees that will help them contribute to society in their own way. After the conferment ceremony, commemorative photos were taken, diplomas were presented to each student, and a UoA Supporters Association-sponsored Graduation Party was held at the UoA cafeteria. At this party, which symbolizes the end of student life for most of these students, participants enjoyed pleasant conversation and taking commemorative photos.



### An Undergraduate Student of the University of Aizu received the Outstanding Paper Award at ICACT-2019

This year, Mr. Yuta Nemoto, 3rd year student of School of Computer Science and Engineering, received the Outstanding Paper Award at ICACT-2019, Korea, February 17-20 for scientific research entitled "Technologies for Super Micro Websites: ltty.bitty vs. Docs365 ltty Bitty". This study discusses the cutting-edge Web technology called "ltyty.bitty" which gives a new way of sharing information on the Internet, and clarifies the effectiveness of this instrument by comparing with the other tool called "Docs365 ltyty Bitty".



### A Doctoral program at the University of Aizu 3rd graders won the quasi best paper Award runner-up at "IEEE International Conference on Big Data and Smart Computing"

At the "IEEE International Conference on Big Data and Smart Computing" (\* 1) held in Kyoto from Thursday, February 28, 2019 to Saturday, March 2, 2019, The H. Vu, a 3rd grade doctoral student belonging to the Ben-Abderazek laboratory (\* 2) of our university, received the sub-Best Paper Award. The awarded paper is entitled "low-latency K-means based multicast routing algorithm and architecture for three-dimensional spiking neuromorphic chips."



### Associate Professor Peter Ilic won the Outstanding Paper Award at the 6th International Conference on Educational Technologies 2019

6th International Conference on Educational Technologies 2019 was held at Lingnan University in Hong Kong from February 8 (Friday) to 10 (Sun) in 2019. 『Capturing mobile collaboration in active learning: lessons from a longitudinal mixed methodologies study』 of Associate Professor Peter Ilic (of Center for Language Research) received the Excellent Paper Award.

This presentation reflects on an attempt to introduce smartphones into a blended learning context and highlights several methodological considerations relevant to the collection of mobile data.



### Undergraduate students of the Robotics and Information Engineering Cluster received the Best Presentation Award at the 19th Society of Instrument and Control Engineers Conference on System Integration (SI2018)

Mr. Kota Matsui (first author, graduated in 2018), Mr. Hiryu Idenawa (second author, graduated in 2018), and three faculty members of the Robotics Laboratory received the Best Presentation Award for their presentation "Self-Positioning Estimation Using Odometry and Environmental Information for Mobile Robots" at SI2018 held at Osaka Institute of Technology Umeda Campus from December 13 (Thu.) to 15 (Sat.), 2018.

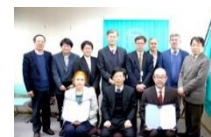
author: Kota Matsui / Hiryu Idenawa / Daishi Yoshino / Keita Nakamura / Keitaro Naruse



### UoA Employees Receive FY2019 Long Service Awards

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, the University of Aizu held an award ceremony for the University of Aizu Staff Awards (Long Service) in the University of Aizu Reception Room.

The staff members who received awards this time are as follows.  
 Professor : Noriyuki KIKUCHI (Center for Cultural Research and Studies)  
 Senior Associate Professor : Irina Khmyrova (Department of Computer Science)  
 Both of them retired at the end of the fiscal year 2018.



### A paper by our researcher was published in IEEJ Transactions on Electronics C.

A paper by Satoshi Takara, a master's student at the University of Aizu (completed the master's course in 2018 at Tsukahara Laboratory, LSI Design Laboratory) and Professor Tsuneo Tsukahara was published in the January 2019 issue of IEEJ Transactions on Electronics C.

Title of paper:

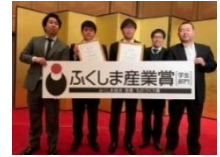
Design of a Dual-LO Switching Quadrature Modulator Using a Flip-Flop Phase-Shifter



## University of Aizu Students Receive the Fourth Fukushima Economy, Industry, and Manufacturing Award (Fukushima Industry Award)

On Friday, February 8, 2019, the award ceremony for the 4th Fukushima Economy, Industry, and Manufacturing Award (Fukushima Industry Award) was held by Fukushima Minpo. From our university, the team "Openapplab Agriculture IoT" led by Fumito Haga (3rd year undergraduate) and Masanori Akiyama (4th year undergraduate) won the Student Encouragement Award respectively in the student category established this time.

Mr. Akiyama established a venture company, Anost VR, which develops and sells its own original VR content in addition to receiving orders from companies. The team "Openapplab Agriculture IoT" collaborated with local IT companies and farmers to develop a system that transmits environmental data inside a plastic greenhouse to computers and smartphones.



## University of Aizu Master's Student Wins Two Awards at IEICE Technical Committees on VLSI Design Technologies

The award ceremony for the IEICE (The Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers) Technical Committee on VLSI (very large scale integration) Design Technologies (VLD Technical Committee) was held at the Satellite Campus Hiroshima on Thursday, December 6th, 2018. At the ceremony, Rina Azuma, a first-year master's student of the LSI Design Laboratory at the University of Aizu, received the Excellent English Thesis Student Author Award.

She also received the Best Student Poster Award at the same ceremony on December 6th mentioned above for her poster presentation "Process Variation-aware Model-based OPC using 0-1 Quadratic Programming" at the Design Gaia held at the Satellite Campus Hiroshima on December 5th, 2018.

Both presentations are based on joint research with Toshiba Memory Corporation, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and Senior Associate Professor Yukihide Kohira from the University of Aizu.



## Third-year undergraduate students at the University of Aizu awarded 2018 "Made-in-Aizu IT Certification" Honorable Mention

On January 16, 2019, the award ceremony for the Aizu Wakamatsu City-sponsored "Made-in-Aizu IT Certification" award for fiscal year 2018 was held at UBIC.

The University of Aizu student Fumito Haga's (3rd year undergraduate) "SmartAgri Connecting Agriculture and IT" was selected for the Encouragement Award.

The award certifies the fruits of such excellence in the field of IT as being "home-grown Aizu technology." This year's award was its 14th edition.



## The University of Aizu Competitive Programming Club at competitions around Asia!

The Competitive Programming Club of the University of Aizu participated in the ACM-ICPC 2018 Asia Regional Contest, which was held in various locations in Asia from November to December 2018.

Unfortunately, they did not advance to the world championships for the first time in two years, but they are still among the best in the world. The results of each tournament are as follows.

- 2018 ACM-ICPC Seoul Regional Saturday, November 3, 2018, Republic of Korea  
Team 「UKUNICHIA」 16th place
- The 2018 ICPC Asia Taipei Regional Contest Saturday, November 10, 2018 Taiwan  
Team 「tubuannpan」 28th place • Team 「koshianman」 38th place
- ICPC Asia Yokohama Regional Contest 2018 Sunday December 9, 2018 Yokohama  
Team 「UKUNICHIA」 11th place • Team 「Return\_ZUKKY」 19th place
- 2018 ICPC Asia Singapore Regional Contest Thursday December 13, 2018 Singapore  
Team 「Return\_ZUKKY」 26th place



## AY2018 Lecturer with Best Student Evaluations

We have selected "AY2018 Lecturer with Best Student Evaluations" based on class evaluations in AY2017 and the award ceremony was held in the Faculty Assembly Meeting. This award is given to the faculty members who taught the undergraduate course offered in the previous year and its student evaluation was the highest.

The awardees of this year are as follows;

[Name of the Awardee and Course Name]

Name of the Awardee: Professor Keitaro Naruse

Course Name: P04 C++ Programming (AY2017)

Name of the Awardee: Professor Ian Wilson

Course Name: E05 English for Computer Science: Intermediate English A (AY2017)



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