The 2002 AU Academic Award Presentations

Narong Chomchalow
Office of the President, Assumption University
Bangkok, Thailand

Abstract

The philosophy of the AU Academic Awards is based on the idea of the President Emeritus, Rev. Bro. Martin P. Komolmas to recognize, promote, and reward those who sacrificed their lives and time by their loyalty and positive contributions to the institution. The six awards offered since 1977 are: (i) St. Montfort’s - ‘Illustrious Service Award’, (ii) St. Michael’s - ‘Public Service Award (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class), (iii) St. Hilaire’s - ‘Distinction in Writing Award’ (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class), (iv) St. Martin de Tours’s - ‘Excellence in Performance Award’ (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class), (v) St. Bernard’s - ‘Special Merit Award’ (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class), and (vi) St. Thomas Aquinas’s - ‘Research Award’ (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class). The presentation ceremony for the year 2002 was held on 24 December 2002 when three members of the faculties in the field of science and technology of Assumption University received their awards. They are: Asst. Prof. Dr. Kittiphan Techankittiroj of the Faculty of Engineering and Dr. Jirapun Daengdej of the Faculty of Science and Technology who received St. Helaire’s Distinction in Writing Award, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Dobri Atanassov Batovski of the Faculty of Science and Technology who received St. Bernard’s Special Merit Award.

Keywords: St. Helaire’s Distinction in Writing Award, St. Bernard’s Special Merit Award.

The Philosophy and Objectives

“Those who have sacrificed their lives and time by their creative loyalty; and positive contributions to the institution must be recognized, promoted and rewarded.” So wrote Rev. Martin P. Komolmas, the Emeritus President in the Faculty and Staff Development Policies, given on 22 July 1993.

The philosophical underpinnings of the AU Academic Awards were simply, that good deeds and achievements must be recognized and rewarded. The President had often expressed his wish to establish academic awards as incentives for the academic community. Evaluation of job performance for this purpose was undertaken. After a considerable length of time, the administrators decided to introduce the awards. These awards are aimed at both rewarding those for past performances and to encourage future efforts.

As a reward, it demonstrates that those selected have met and surpassed the standards of excellence for the award given. The awards are also meant to encourage future efforts of not only those present recipients, but also others that take notice that they too, will be recognized for their superior performance. The AU Academic Awards are granted periodically to the selected few that meet the criteria for selection.

The Six AU Academic Awards

There are altogether six AU Academic Awards. Each award was named after an illustrious person found in Catholic Church history and also in memory of our predecessors who had worked long and hard to carry out their teaching mission. The AU Academic Awards Committee laid down the general policies governing each award in 1997. These
policies are subject to review; re-interpretation and modification as the times may call for. Except for the St. Montfort Award, the awards are given in three classes. The second and third class awards are meant to recognize mid-level and junior AU faculty and staff, who have performed well above the norm as compared to their peer group. The six awards are as follows:

1. St. Montfort’s ‘Illustrious Service Award’
2. St. Michael’s ‘Public Service Award (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class)
3. St. Hilaire’s ‘Distinction in Writing Award (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class)
4. St. Martin de Tours’s ‘Excellence in Performance Award’ (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class)
5. St. Bernard’s ‘Special Merit Award’ (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class)
6. St. Thomas Aquinas’s ‘Research Award’ (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class).

Among the four awardees this year, three are affiliated with the faculties in the areas of science and technology covered by the AU Journal of Technology. The awards and the awardees are as follows:

**St. Hilaire Award**

*‘Distinction in Writing Award’*

This award was named after St. Hilaire, who was born at the beginning of the fourth century in Poitiers, France. He was a bishop and doctor of the Universal Church.

Brother Hilaire was one of the first pioneering Brothers to arrive in Thailand in 1901. He was a well-known educator at Assumption College, Bangkok. He mastered the Thai language so well, that he became an unparalleled Siamese Linguist. He wrote Thai language manuals, the first of which, *Darun Suksa*, was considered by all as the very best source for learning of the Thai language.

The award comes in three classes and is designated for those who achieved distinction through academic writings in the form of articles and books.

**Citations for the two St. Hilaire’s Awards:**

1. **Asst. Prof. Dr. Kittiphan Techakittiroj**

Asst. Prof. Dr. Kittiphan Techakittiroj received a scholarship from Assumption University in 1995 to study for Ph.D. degree at Case Western Reserve University, USA, and formed the Department of Computer Engineering as a full-time instructor in June 1998. He has been involved in many research projects, both academic and industrial. His research areas are automation and control, power electronics, embedded system in digital control and network applications. His recent academic work is “Automatic Network Address Adjustment for Web Applications”, presented at the International Conference on Telecommunications 2002. On the industrial research side, he has researched and developed many commercial products and processes for Thai industries. Part of his work includes concrete mixing plant automation, a 25-kilowatt motor drive for air-conditioning, and a proximity card reader.

**Editor’s Note:**

Dr. Kittiphan Techakittiroj’s contribution to the AU J.T. is as follows:

Dr. Kittiphan Techakittiroj

In addition, he has also presented several papers at a number of international conferences whose abstracts appear in the following “AU ABSTRACTS”.

AU ABSTRACTS 1999:


AU ABSTRACTS 2001:


2. Dr. Jirapun Daengdej

Dr. Jiranpun Daengdej is an active researcher at Assumption University. While doing his Ph.D. at the University of New England, Australia, one of his publications received the ‘best research paper award’ from an international conference in knowledge-based systems held in India. Upon completion of his Ph.D., he also received a scholarship from the University of New England to continue Post-Doctoral Research. During his Post-Doctoral work, he received another ‘best research paper award’ from an international conference held at Oxford University, UK. After presentation, both papers were invited to be published in a journal in the UK.

In total, he has published more than 30 papers in both proceedings and journals. This year, he has also been invited to submit a paper to a conference in Italy, where only invited authors are allowed to submit their papers. In the past, examples of invited authors include the President of Stanford University, and professors from UCLA, Berkeley, CAL, USA.

During the past three years at AU, he has also been invited to be on reviewing committees for journals in the US, and various international conferences such as the International Conference on Intelligence Agent Technology 2001, and the 7th Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence ’02 held in Japan. His latest two research papers have been accepted for presentation at the IEEE Aerospace Conference held in March 2003 at NASA.

Dr. Jiranpun’s research has brought great recognition to the Faculty of Science and Technology, and to Assumption University, and so he duly was awarded the St. Hilaire Awards for Academic Writing (3rd Class).

Editor’s Note:

Dr. Jiranpun Daengdej has presented several papers at a number of international conferences whose abstracts appear in the following “AU ABSTRACTS”
AU ABSTRACTS 1999:

AU ABSTRACTS 2000:

St. Bernard’s Award

‘Special Merit Award’

The award was named after St. Bernard (1090-1153), an abbot and doctor. A Cistercian monk, who wrote many movingly, and concerned works about Lord Jesus’s spirituality, the Scriptures, and the Blessed Mother.

The award also recognizes Bro. Bernard Mary, whose idea of adding a degree program to the existing Assumption Commercial College (ACC) eventually led to the establishment of ABAC.

This award is intended for faculty members who have exhibited special managerial skills, and who have performed their tasks and assignments beyond the normal calls of duty. These include initiating, re-structuring, or re-engineering programs for an office or department, or providing voluntary services for improving, upgrading systems, and procedures, and participating in other artistic or scientific activities for the welfare of society.

Citation of the St. Bernard’s Award

I. Asst. Prof. Dr. Dobri Atanassov Batovski

After joining AU in 1997, Asst. Prof. Dr. Dobri Atanassov Batovski has distinguished himself in numerous areas as an administrator, instructor, researcher, and volunteer.

As an instructor, he has been serving as the Director of the Telecommunications Laboratory. In 1998, according to his proposal and with the approval of the Rector, the laboratory has been renamed the ‘St. Gabriel’s Telecommunications Laboratory’. St. Gabriel is the Patron Saint of the telecommunications workers, and his name is a symbol of the efforts of telecommunication researchers to connect all individuals on our planet and establish a worldwide peaceful community.

Dr. Batovski has been working on the creation of the Physics Laboratory, which became operational in 1999, with a very modest budget. Since that time, the Physics Laboratory has constantly improved and accommodates approximately 200 students per week. He is also the initiator of the installation of the first Wireless Local Area Network in the University, which is currently located in the St. Gabriel’s Telecommunications Laboratory.

As an instructor, his efforts have been focused on the constant improvement of the teaching process. For the last five years, Dr. Batovski has been teaching 12 subjects, and simultaneously has been an advisor for a large
number of Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral Degree students.

As a researcher, Dr. Batovski has been working on the development of a new technique for conflict-free packet routing entitled, “Quasi-Dimension-Order Routing”. Recently, this method has been extended to 65,356 processors connected in parallel. Also, he is the inventor of a new method for solving differential equations entitled, “Accelerated Differential Transform”.

As a volunteer, Dr. Batovski has been actively participating in the organization of four international conferences with the affiliation of AU: NCSEC’99, InTech’2000, InTech’2001, and InTech’2002. He is the Publication Chair of the forthcoming 2003 International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT 2003). Dr. Batovski is also the founder of the Computer Library, which contains electronic teaching materials for more than 30 undergraduate subjects. Since 1998, he has served as the Librarian of the Computer Library.

*Editor’s Note:*

Dr. Dobri Batovski’s contribution to the AU J.T. is as follows:


In addition, he has also presented a paper at an international conference in 1999, whose abstract appears in the following “AU ABSTRACTS”.

*AU ABSTRACTS 1999:*