

# MANUEL ANTONIO RUFINO

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## Education

August 2014 - June 2018

**University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines**

*Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Cum Laude*

- Competed in various programming contests as a representative of UPLB.
- Taught math and IT subjects to students with academic difficulties as a Peer Tutor under the Office of Student Affairs (now Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs).

## Work Experience

July 2018 - PRESENT

**Samsung R&D Institute Philippines (SRPH), Taguig City, Philippines**

*Engineer*

- Currently involved in a project utilizing natural language processing and deep learning for a customer service chatbot that handles over 9000 sessions daily across five countries. Has resolved critical bugs that affected users across five countries.
- Worked on a project where I had to develop pipelines for automated data analysis requiring skills in statistics, data engineering, and research. In particular, I developed an automated pipeline for root cause analysis on over 18GB of data weekly on the performance of over three hundred mobile games on flagship phones.
- Has worked on various projects as a backend web developer spanning several frameworks and technologies
- Taught and mentored students at UP Rural High School as part of SPARK11 2024 and 2025, a program where Samsung engineers taught algorithms concepts to senior high school students.
- Served as problem setter/judge for Samsung AlgoChallenge 2019 and for various internal contests.
- Designed and taught an algorithms course for software engineers within the company which was well-rated by students.

June 2017 - July 2017

**Freelancer.com Philippines Inc., Taguig City, Philippines**

*Software Engineering Intern*

- Worked on various features, bug fixes, and A/B Tests for the main website of [freelancer.com](https://freelancer.com).

## Publications

March 2025

### **Crowdsource, Crawl, or Generate? Creating SEA-VL, a Multicultural Vision-Language Dataset for Southeast Asia**

Samuel Cahyawijaya, Holy Lovenia, Joel Ruben Antony Moniz, ..., Manuel Antonio Rufino, et al.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2503.07920>

*Accepted for publication at ACL 2025*

November 2024

### **Samsung R&D Institute Philippines @ WMT 2024 Low-resource Languages of Spain Shared Task**

Dan John Velasco\*, Manuel Antonio Rufino\*, Jan Christian Blaise Cruz

*\* equal contribution*

*Proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Machine Translation*

November 2024

### **Samsung R&D Institute Philippines @ WMT 2024 Indic MT Task**

Matthew Theodore Roque, Carlos Rafael Catalan, Dan John Velasco, Manuel Antonio Rufino, Jan Christian Blaise Cruz

*Proceedings of the Ninth Conference on Machine Translation*

## Patents

WO2024128677A1

### **Method and apparatus processing visual media**

Juan Raphael S. Seña, Amielle B. Dulay, Manuel Antonio P. Rufino, Luis Miguel Flores

*Patent Application*

PH1/2022/00050589

### **System and Method for Conversion and Interoperability of Non-fungible Tokens**

Juan Raphael S. Seña, Luis Miguel Flores, Manuel Antonio P. Rufino,

*Patent Application*

## Awards and Honors

June 2018

### **Samsung Research Excellence Award**

*Samsung R&D Institute Philippines*

June 2018

### **Member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi**

*Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 045, University of the Philippines*

February 2018

**1st Runner-up, Hackzilla in Manila III**

*Freelancer.com Philippines Inc.*

*Theme: Pioneering the Future of Work for Filipinos*

My teammates and I created an app that allows event coordinators/planners to assemble event staff from Freelancer.com's pool of freelancers using their API.

February 2018

**3rd Place, Algolympics 2018**

*Association for Computing Machinery - UP Diliman Student Chapter*

February 2018

**3rd Highest General Weighted Average among B.S. Computer Science Seniors**

*Institute of Computer Science, UPLB.*

October 2017

**3rd Place, ACM-ICPC Philippine National Programming Contest 2017**

*ACM-ICPC Philippines*

April 2017

**1st Runner-up, Hackzilla in Manila II**

*Freelancer.com Philippines Inc.*

*Theme: Explore Possibilities with Artificial Intelligence*

My teammates and I created a chatbot using API.ai (now called DialogFlow) that serves as an all-in-one food ordering solution that uses the K-Nearest Neighbors algorithm to recommend food to users based on the choices of other users with similar tastes.

February 2017

**3rd Highest General Weighted Average among B.S. Computer Science Juniors**

*Institute of Computer Science, UPLB.*

October 2016

**Champion, 2016 ACM-ICPC Southern Luzon Invitational Programming Contest**

*ACM-ICPC*

2014-2018

**RA 7687 Scholarship**

*Department of Science and Technology, Philippines*