



## SMS for the Blind

An excerpt from the Eden Estopace's newspaper article:

For four electronics and engineering graduates of De La Salle University (DLSU), the Pinoy's unique, accidental infatuation with the SMS, which has become a permanent devotion (until perhaps the next handy and cheap technology comes along) inspired them to devote almost half of their college years developing a program allowing the visually impaired to read text messages.

Their college thesis, originally entitled "Microcontroller-based Aid for the Blind in Reading Mobile Phone Messages using the Braille System," has led them to design a gadget, roughly the size of a regular notebook, that won the second place in the 2004 National Inventors' Contest of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Now simply called "SMS for the Blind Using Braille," the invention was cited for its "outstanding creative research" and "creative skill which exemplify our young talented future researchers and engineers for the benefit of society through research and development."

For the feat, Miguel Carlos "Mikko" Pascual, John Lloyd Lagura, Rehum Jay "Rem" Rabadan and Alexander "Alex" Tabac, earned not only accolades for DLSU but also debunked the impression that today's Filipino youths are only focused on their clothes, gadgets and gimmicks (on one side of the social equation) and are trampled by poverty and other deprivations on the other side of the social fence.

Look more here: [www.Blind.PhilippineEducation.ph](http://www.Blind.PhilippineEducation.ph)

