

## EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni of the University of Bremen,



Summer is around the corner and brings along many exciting events and celebrations. Before vacation time begins, we will be celebrating our Alumni Summer Fête and – one day later – hopefully experience wonderful summer weather at the Open Campus providing excellent opportunities for integrating into the alumni network. In this newsletter you will also find an

interesting interview with Research Ambassador Don Bruce, attractive opportunities of training, event tips, and concrete networking partnerships in Germany and around the world.

Be curious and keep at it. KNOWING WHERE YOU COME FROM is our new slogan, which has come to connect a great many people thus far.

Warmest regards from the alumni office,

*D. Schönfeld*

Derk Schönfeld

## Summer Fête 2017

Summer – Sun – Sunshine... that is our hope for our Alumni Summer Fête this year – with time for conversations, the light-heartedness of enjoyment, good music, powerful topics, and new ideas, and to simply get to know each other. By now, numerous engaged alumni have already been able to meet one another – also thanks to our many events – yet all of them are open to new faces: students, university staff, and alumni. Each life path has its own story and deserves enthusiastic listeners. On June 16, we will meet in the outdoor area at Café Unique at 6 p.m. Music will be provided throughout the event by Paul Kahre, frontman of the band Mojo Working. The reasonable participation fee of 15.00 Euro includes the grilled goods (with vegetarian options!) and drinks. The event will end at about 10 p.m. We would like to thank our sponsors [team neusta](#) and [BAB – Förderbank für Bremen und Bremerhaven](#) for their support.

Not signed in yet? Click [here](#) to register! /MB



Impressions of our last summer fête

## Change in the alumni office

Our student assistant in the alumni office will leave us for an internship in Hamburg. We wish **Linh Truong** all the best and much success on her way. Her infectious cheerfulness, her commitment and her enthusiasm always remain in our best memories. She has enriched our team.

The new force in her place is **Mira Wischnowsky** - also a student of the communication and media sciences at the University of Bremen. We are very pleased to have her on board and look forward to a fresh cooperation at this point.

Both can be spoken personally at the Alumni Summer Festival or during the Open Campus. /MB

## OPEN CAMPUS 2017



Exciting program for all ages @ Kai Uwe Bohn

As always, OPEN CAMPUS is THE event at the university. Its 2017 slogan is again **Opening Worlds – Sharing Knowledge**. And all departments as well as university and uni-

versity-affiliated institutes will do their best in making it true. On **June 17, 2017, between 2 p.m. and midnight**, the University of Bremen welcomes everyone who is interested: an open house – with talks, tours, and an exciting stage show.

Experiencing the university hands-on is a success story. There will be a vast program on campus: a mix of science shows, a poetry slam, dance performances by international teams, interesting talks, and institute tours. **The huge open-air party begins at 7 p.m. – this year with rap megastar Samy Deluxe**, one of the most successful German rappers since the 90s.

If you want to plan your visit in detail, you can find more information [here](#).

All events and shows are free of charge. /MB



Linh Truong

@private



Mira Wischnowsky

@private

# SIX QUESTIONS FOR ...

In each newsletter, we ask one of our members six questions about their time at Bremen University. For this issue, we interviewed **Donald Bruce**, Dean at the College of Arts at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Would you like to appear in this section? Then please feel free to contact us at [alumni@uni-bremen.de](mailto:alumni@uni-bremen.de).



Donald Bruce

@private

## 1. When was your first contact with the University of Bremen?

That was in January/February of 2012. Already in mid-2011 had I been in contact with the International Office and Carmelita Görg (editor's note: former Professor in Department 01, Physics/Electrical Engineering, who conducted research on communication networks and was the internationalization representative for the USA and Canada). We discussed a possible cooperation between the universities of Guelph and Bremen. I visited Bremen for a month in winter 2012, where I worked for 'Fiction Meets Science' with Susan Gaines, met

many professors at the university, and gained great insights. Subsequently, there were return visits, at times with different research groups, in order to expand the partnership and for the institutions to get to know each other better. It was an interesting beginning. At this point, I have traveled to northern Germany probably fifteen times, and the colleagues from Bremen have been to Guelph many times as well. A great relationship that is continuously strengthened.

## 2. What is your most important memory of the University of Bremen?

That everyone is super friendly in Bremen! There is a general palpable openness for friendship – and for collaboration. Additionally, in my opinion the University of Bremen is very future-oriented. The willingness to develop partnerships with other universities is extraordinary. I have seen many things in my encounters that fascinated me: sophisticated research, relationships to other universities, and exchange. Bremen does not only seem to be open-minded thanks to its trading tradition – it's the entire structure of the university. It is one of the younger universities – and is therefore able to be innovative, see opportunities, and overcome obstacles in a structured manner. Bremen University is similar in size to the University of Guelph as well as in its focus. In the time leading up to being a University of Excellence, I saw its portrayal as very flexible. That's modern! And many of my colleagues share this opinion.

## 3. Who or what in Bremen has influenced you the most?

First and foremost my good friend and colleague Carmelita Görg, who unfortunately passed away far too early in February 2016. We had the same vision. But there were various other supporters for our project, for example Prof. Yasemin Karakaşoğlu (Vice Rector for Internationality and Diversity), Dr. Annette Lang from the International Office, and Prof. Dr. Norbert Schaffeld (Department 10: Linguistics and Literary Studies). I could name so many people. Susan Mary Gaines for instance

(Department 10 as well). Just three weeks ago, very dear colleagues from Guelph were in Bremen, among them my boss (Provost Charlotte Yates) and other deans. Everyone found our friendship truly palpable and profited from the very personal and intensive exchange.

## 4. What advice would you like to give the students of the University of Bremen?

The following is generally applicable for students: be flexible and open for new things, for going abroad! That's important not only for students but for society as well. Openness for an international future is essential – even when the United States and Great Britain do not necessarily reflect that at the moment. Go deep when studying – but also look left and right across the spectrum of interdisciplinary research. Bring knowledge together again and continue on the path across all boundaries. However, my most important piece of advice is: Have fun at what you do. Otherwise it's just a job.

## 5. In my opinion, the University of Bremen is...

...a very modern, flexible, and forward-oriented university which is open for other cultures and people as well. International Diversity, therefore, is only one example for the willingness to accept the new world! Personally, I have always felt at home in Bremen.

## 6. Being a Research Ambassador means to me...

For more than eleven years, I have been a dean in the humanities – although I only have five weeks left in this role. Regardless of that, I will continue to promote the cooperation in order for our relationship to deepen over the coming years. I am looking forward to continuing to be the driving force and the contact person for this valuable partnership between our universities in the future. As soon as Open Campus, I – along with all Research Ambassadors – will be in Bremen and be open for dialogue. I'm looking forward to that.

### Show Us Your Face!

We have them all together! With our campaign **The University in Search for Its Alumni**, our association promotes the encouraging and multifaceted work of the alumni. Over the past few months, we invited our members to participate by sending us their photo in order to lend their face to our special network. We would like to thank the numerous participants very much for their commitment and support! The three winners of a surprise package, which we drew from among all participants as promised, will receive something in the mail from us in the upcoming days.



**DIE UNI BREMEN SUCHT IHRE ALUMNI**

Sie haben an der Universität Bremen studiert oder gearbeitet? Dann gehören Sie zu unseren Alumni. Werden Sie Teil des großen Netzwerkes von ehemaligen und bleiben Sie in Kontakt mit uns. Informationen und Registrierung unter [www.uni-bremen.de/alumni](http://www.uni-bremen.de/alumni)

## The Campus Award's Debut Presentation Ceremony

Dr. Martin C. Lukas for his research on a sustainable future



From the left: Dr. Rita Kellner-Stoll, Dr. Martin C. Lukas and Reiner Stoll @ Harald Rehling / University of Bremen

His work stretched over several years and showcased an incredibly extensive range of methodology and a more than impressive interdisciplinary nature. That is what you imagine research should be: intense, fascinating, and it should accompany and newly motivate the scientist for a long period of time.

Dr. Lukas won the award ahead of an impressive field of competitors, whose works are also all worthy of an award. This proves, once more, the high quality of research at the University of Bremen and its well-deserved status as a University of

Excellence. Sustainability research is to be given special attention in the future. Martin Lukas has not just learned the native language as well as some dialects of the indigenous people on Java, he was also able to enthuse with techniques in the social and natural sciences equally. In his work, he examined the complex causes of soil erosion and sedimentation in rivers as

well as their effects on the coastal ecosystem on Java.

His research helped disprove environmental myths and change existing coastal protection policies. Similarly, he examined approaches from political regulation to the consequences of wars and civil wars on land use.

A complex work, which resulted in a unanimous decision by the jury and a tremendously proud awardee, who accepted his award in front of over 100 guests. Congratulations, Martin Lukas, for the extraordinary work – what a great role model! The geographer is the first winner of the

campus prize awarded by the KELLNER & STOLL - FOUNDATION FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT of the University of Bremen and the Leibniz Center for Marine Tropical Research with the support of the alumni of the University of Bremen. Over the next ten years, many other research approaches on sustainability are to be honored as well: an incentive for all researchers – an alumni activity pointing the way. /MB



The Campus Award-Jury with winner Dr. Martin C. Lukas. @ Harald Rehling / University of Bremen / ZMT

## Networking of, for, and with Alumni

... this time: as guests at the chamber of commerce with Dr. Joachim Schuster, Member of the European Parliament, and Volkmar Herr, International Managing Director at the Bremen Chamber of Commerce

Where does Europe begin? Where does it end? And: What will happen to us and our neighboring states in the election year 2017? In the debate, which was led by Prof. Klaus Schlichte (International Relations: Politics in the World Society), these and other questions were

addressed and discussed in detail by our alumni guest Joachim Schuster and Volkmar Herr, our host at the chamber of commerce. Peacekeeping by interdependence was the guiding principle in the debate – and has been since time immemorial in Europe. In it, the European logic stands juxtaposed to that

of the United States. How to reconcile them in times of Brexit and a multitude of migration flows was one of the main topics of the evening. Mr. Herr enthusiastically and passionately pointed out the elite project that is Europe. With trade policy as a major competency factor. Everybody agreed, **"The EU is and**



Alumni in the „Ständige Vertretung“

**continues to be a project of passion."** Numerous anecdotes about everyday life in politics were shared at the subsequent get-together at the close-

by 'Ständige Vertretung' restaurant at Böttcherstraße as well. For many alumni, networking that night included establishing connections to Brussels. Joachim Schuster as a most interesting guest, a fantastic location, and a charming presentation led to many inspiring conversations even after the event ended. /MB



From the left: Prof. Dr. Klaus Schlichte, Volkmar Herr and Dr. Joachim Schuster

## Where Do I Stand, and Where Do I Want to Go?

### Career Planning with Alumni

On Saturday, June 3, 2017, our third event from the series 'Career Prospects with Alumni' took place at the Teerhof Guest House of the University of Bremen.

The workshop was held by Dipl.-Ing. Michael Blochberger, who has been a personality trainer and coach since 1997. After a few welcoming words an introduction followed, in which all participants were able to specify their expectations for the workshop and how it fit into their current occupational situation. Previously, as in all 'Career Prospects with Alumni' workshops, all participants agreed to profess confidentiality, openness, and respectful interactions with and among each other, which allowed for the discussion of private and personal issues.

This is where a first important advantage of the workshop and the alumni group came into play: In accordance with the additional information given in the introduction, the workshop could be adapted to meeting the needs of the participants.

In order to become aware of one's goals and expectations in this context, exercises regarding career influencing factors played a major role. Central aspects were income and professional and private goals, but also emotional security and values. On the basis of these aspects as well as practical examples from work and private life, participants were able to work out the factors that are of importance to them in their job and their career. They were given the opportunity to speak to other alumni



Value Game

and exchange tips and suggestions in small groups. That way, some participants were able to define their future plans more clearly already after this task.

Subsequently, the results could be applied within the model of 'logical levels'. The participants thought about hierarchically structured levels one by one, by which they received a distant view onto their own situation, their behavior, and their capabilities. **'Where do I stand?'** and **'Where do I want to go?'** were fundamental questions in this exercise. With the help of the other alumni, all participants were able to work towards further opportunities and new objectives, in the process of which a few members also realized what was still needed in order to achieve these goals.

At the end of the workshop, everyone had the feeling to have advanced a few steps in the planning of their career. The feedback both addressed to Mr. Blochberger and the group dynamics was extremely positive. Everyone

felt very comfortable throughout the workshop and received honest and valuable suggestions from the other team members for their future path. ***"It was a very interesting workshop that allowed for reflection of oneself and one's own situation, and it encouraged me to also take the necessary steps,"*** one participant stated at the end. /MW



Seminarleader Michael Blochberger

## Off to the botanika!

We have been invited to the facilities of the botanika Bremen amidst the rhododendron park on **August 17, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.** by our alumni Harald Mikulla, director of the association for horticulture, landscaping, and sports ground construction of Lower Saxony and Bremen, and Armin Schlüter, exhibition manager of the botanika GmbH.

The botanika can be experienced in many different ways. Impressive greenhouse worlds invite you to stroll through Asian landscapes with their fascinating flora and fauna and their cultural diversity. At the Discovery Center, everything revolves around plants and their ingenious tricks, which can be explored in detail. Almost in passing, you learn about the latest research and the fields of work available in the 'green industry'. The botanika is also a popular event space and regularly hosts talks, concerts, seminars, and much more.

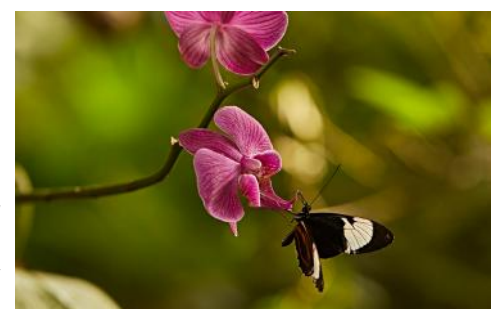
Managing director Petra Schäffer will present to us the development of the botanika as well as the unique plant collection in both the botanika and the rhododendron park. She will also provide us with some insight into the educational work of the botanika's 'Green School' and the multifaceted partnership with the university, with associations, and businesses in the botanika's 'Green Forum'. The ensuing tour will give us an exclusive look behind the scenes.

Finally, the traditional get-together with drinks and finger food will be held in the special atmosphere of the park on a hopefully wonderful summer evening. As always, there will be ample opportunity for in-depth conversations.

The event is expected to end at around 8:30 p.m.

**NOTICE:** The number of participants is limited to fifty people. Participation is free of charge.

Please register [here](#).



Fascinating plant and animal scenes © botanika GmbH

## Bremen Sings for Freedom – in Eleven Songs on the Market Square!



Singing citizens on the Market Square @Patric Leo

For the project 'Bremen – so free' the Jehn family, a family of musicians, has captured Bremen's history and culture in eleven songs. Since January of this year, teachers all over Bremen have been learning these songs – and have then taught them to their students. This is how an enormous choir of over 1000 members formed that will perform on the Bremen market square on June 1. A charming idea – but what is it for?

These songs are meant to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Free State of Bremen as well as the fight for the city charter 370 years ago. It is a powerful event that sees great participation of various choirs which have joined the project in support.

The former Director of City Development, Eberhard Kulenkampff, had originally put forward the idea of an annual oratorio on the market square in Bremen. The idea was then eventually transformed and put into action by former mayor Henning Scherf, who inspired participation by people such as the Jehn family as well as Dr. Susanne Gläß, conductor and Director of Musical Activities at the University of Bremen. We are looking forward to hearing the many voices singing praise to our city! /MB

## You Drive Me Omnidirectionally Crazy...



Group: LaMA – Last Mile Assistant Robot @ Kai Uwe Bohn

That is what you may soon hear at the Bremen Institute for Production and Logistics (BIBA). The project "Omniketten" (developing an omnidirectional track drive system) will present the 'Big Demonstrator' and its new features and possibilities of moving in different spaces in October – it will be a demonstration of the ingenuity and new way of thinking in Bremen. Construction 4.0 for a future-oriented task. Omnidirectional drive technology sounds like a futuristic magic phrase – and it is. By collaborating with the IVA Johann GmbH, a manufacturer of construction machines, the researchers from Bremen were able to work in a framework funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Their development for tomorrow's construction machines provides an entirely new scope of possible applications. For more information click [here](#). /MB



Omniketten-Demonstrator @ Rafael Mortensen Ernits

## The 8th Title in the Standard Platform League!



NAO of the Teams B-Human @ B-Human / Universität Bremen / DFKI GmbH / Judith Müller

The soccer robots from Bremen are virtually invincible – and have been unstoppable in Europe since 2009! The team B-Human of the University of Bremen and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) has again won the German championship. As sponsors, the alumni were also part of the game! We are already looking forward to the world cup in Japan in July.

The B-Human team won the exciting game in natural light against the Nao-Team HTWK from Leipzig at the tournament held in Magdeburg. The team from Leipzig

came in third at the last world cup – and is thus a worthy and challenging opponent. In the game with the robust final score of 4:1, the team from Bremen made all goals – the goal against Bremen was scored by a falling B-Human in an accidental bicycle kick. The competition was this time separated into the Champions Cup and the Challenge Shield – a completely new tournament format. The next stop for B-Human will be the world cup in Japan in July. The alumni bid the team good luck, strong nerves, accurate programming, and zeal and vigor for all those involved.

By the way, the B-Human team currently consists of eleven NAO robots, nineteen current and former students of the University of Bremen, as well as the scientists Dr. Tim Laue from the University of Bremen and Dr. Thomas Röfer from the DFKI research department Cyber-Physical Systems, which is run by Prof. Rolf Drechsler.

/MB



B-Human winning team @ B-Human / Universität Bremen / DFKI GmbH

## International Astronautical Congress in Bremen 'High-flyers' from Bremen Participate in DLR Space Competition

The project FORALEX is one of eight that made it to the final round; the three experiments winning the competition will then be taken to the International Space Station (ISS) with Alexander Gerst in 2018.

Eight students of the University of Bremen work at high pressure on an experiment for space. They are participants of the national competition 'Überflieger' (high-flyers) of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and, with their project FORALEX, have made it to the final round. In early May, they went to Bonn in order to present their experiment to the DLR Space Administration. Eight out of 24 teams had been invited to present their ideas there.

FORALEX stands for FORaminifera Low earth orbit EXperiment. In it, the students from Bremen seek to analyze the shell growth formation of foraminifera (marine organisms) under microgravity. They hope for findings of interest for a future appli-

cation in bionics and medicine. A special aspect of the competition is that well-known and highly respected ESA astronaut Alexander Gerst will take the experiment to orbit the earth at a height of 400 km and a speed of 28,000 kph for thirty days. The entire experiment has to fit into a box called NanoLab, the sides of which are only ten centimeters long. That means that cameras, sensors, and a computer of the size of a smartphone have to fit into it along with the marine organisms.

According to the call for experiment proposals, the team from Bremen works in an interdisciplinary context: They are students of biology, marine biology, biology/chemistry education, computer science, and systems engineering. The students' commitment is supported by different



Team FORALEX

@FORALEX

scientists, institutes, and businesses. A distinguished jury will select the three most convincing experiments in Bonn, which Alexander Gerst will then take along on his mission in 2018. The winning teams will be able to watch the start live. Hopes are high at the University of Bremen that its team of eight will be one of them.

The Alumni of the University of Bremen will keep their fingers crossed! /MB

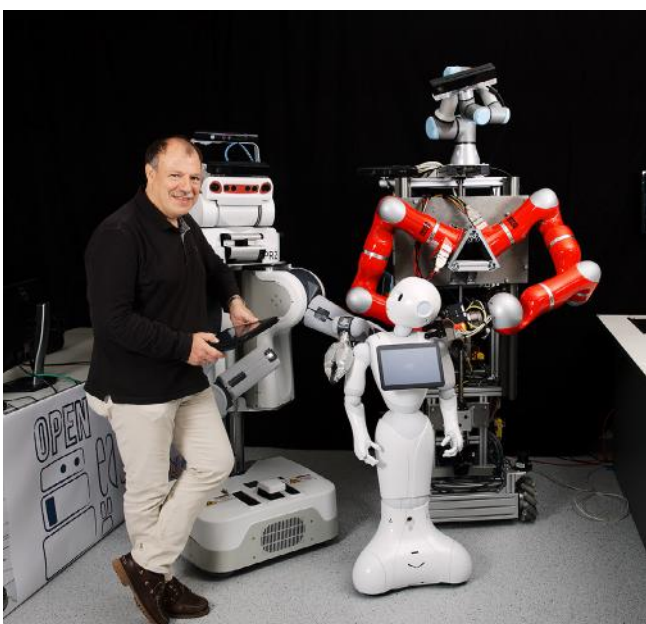
## The German Research Foundation Grants Collaborative Research Center in the Field of Robotics with the Goal of a Housekeeping Marathon!

The German Research Foundation (DFG) has granted another Collaborative Research Center (CRC) at the University of Bremen. The CRC 'EASE' (Everyday Activity Science and Engineering) is

part of the field of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence and will strengthen the research, teaching, and internationalization within the research focus 'Minds, Media, Machines' – so that robots can learn how to independently complete abstract tasks and follow abstract instructions. On July 1 of this year, the initial funding phase will begin with a subsidy amount of ten million Euro over four years.

Rector Bernd Scholz-Reiter is very happy about strong synergy effects in combining the research areas of artificial intelligence, cognitive systems, and robotics. And rightfully so: Robots are to improve the quality of life in the future and, therefore, have to learn how to behave like humans – flexibly, reliably, and efficiently. It is a long way in basic scientific research. The aim is

to train and program the robots for different fields of application in order to support the elderly, people with disabilities, but also for general everyday support. Numerous experiments will be necessary. International researchers will make available their results to many interested people thanks to 'Open Research', and thus democratizing Robotics, so that the development of this research field is not only shaped by commercial interests. This is also a major area in which the CRC counts on interdisciplinary work; teams are put together from the fields of computer sciences, mathematics, and linguistics as well as human and health sciences. External cooperation partners are also called in, resulting in collaboration with the University of Bielefeld (Cluster of Excellence Center in Cognitive Interactive Technology), the Robotics and Mechatronics Center at the German Aerospace Center (DLR), and the Institute for Cognitive Systems at Technical University of Munich. The focus will be on three research areas. The goal for the end of the initial funding phase is for robots to complete a 'housekeeping marathon' with activities from setting the table to the preparation of simple meals. /MB



The SFB spokesperson Professor Michael Beetz of the University of Bremen works with an interdisciplinary research team to ensure that robots implement abstract instructions independently.

© Alexis Maldonado / Universität Bremen

## Accolades for BISIP-Student Farin Kulapichitr



Farin Kulapichitr

©private

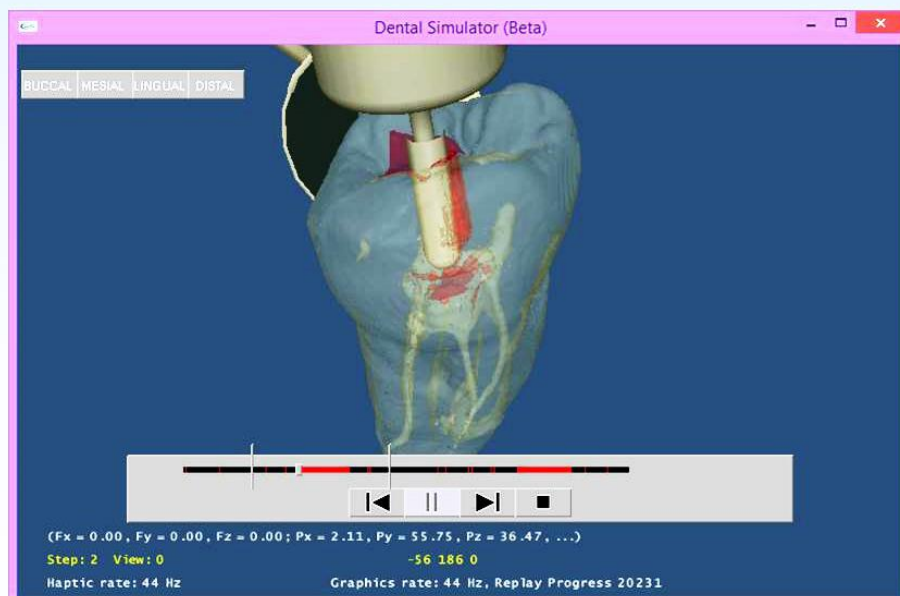
The Thai undergraduate student Mr. Farin Kulapichitr spent four months at the University of Bremen on a research internship. For his research stay from September to December 2016, he received a Santander BISIP scholarship from the Uni-

versity of Bremen. The Bremen International Student Internship Program (BISIP) is financed by Santander Universidades. Farin, a student in the Faculty of ICT at Mahidol University in Thailand, has recently been awarded with the Smart prize for his project. He was one of a group of eleven students from Mahidol University who carried out research in the Bremen Spatial Cognition Center as well as the Computer Graphics and Virtual Reality Lab at the University of Bremen.

The Thai student came to Bremen to benefit from the research environment in the Creative Unit Intra-Operative Information, which was established as part of the university's excellence initiative. His research involves the use of visualization techniques

to provide tutorial feedback in virtual reality simulators for teaching dental surgery. Farin's work takes complex and detailed information about errors in surgical outcomes as well as the portions of the surgical procedure responsible for the errors provided by the simulator and conveys it in an easily intelligible graphical form to help students understand how to improve their skills. Upon returning to Thailand, he continued his work as part of his undergraduate senior project in a team with two other undergraduate students. In May, the project was selected as one of three in the faculty to receive the Smart prize, supported by the Smart Corporation. According to Farin, "Receiving this prize would not have been possible without the supportive research environment provided by the Creative Unit at the University of Bremen."

## Enhanced Visual Replay



Screenshot of the system

© private

### Shorthand symbol:

MW:  
Mira  
Wischnosky

MB:  
Manuela  
Brocksieper

All of the used pictures in the Newsletter are taken from the alumni of the University of Bremen, if not marked differently.

### Impressum:

Alumni der Universität Bremen e.V.  
 c/o Universität Bremen  
 Geschäftsführer Derk H. Schönfeld  
 Enrique-Schmidt-Str. 7  
 28359 Bremen  
 Germany  
 alumni@uni-bremen.de

**You want to be up to date anytime?**

Visit our **Website!**  
 Join us on **Facebook!**  
 Join us on **XING!**  
 Check our **YouTube-Channel!**