

Alumnus Prof. Dusan Stipanovic is Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering and Coordinate Science Laboratory at the University of Illinois. In 2008, he received the Alexander von Humboldt research fellowship award. He had been a fellow at the Chair of Professor Klaus Schilling for Informatics VII - Robotics and Telematics at the University of Wuerzburg.

Prof. Stipanovic, what does Wuerzburg mean to you?

It is a wonderful balance of culture, science, and nature.

What is the Intelligent Robotics Laboratory?

It is really a very sophisticated robotics laboratory where cutting edge technologies related to teleoperation, medical robotics, and mobile robotics have been developed.

Do you think that there could be an intelligent roboter like in the Spielberg movie A.I. or the famous HAL in Stanley Kubricks Space Odyssey?

Well not what I would want to believe in. These are after all machines without emotions so I would be afraid if we try to look for something more.

Could you describe one of your favorite current scientific projects?

In essence I am more of a mathematician. So my current favorite project is deriving conditions for more sophisticated control of dynamical systems including mobile robots and satellites.

You are originally from Serbia and studied during the war in Belgrade. Could you tell us how that experience influenced your way of thinking?

Actually I grew up in Belgrade (Serbia) and Mali Losinj (Croatia) between our two houses. I guess I learned a hard lesson that we as humans are the greatest enemies to ourselves. And we do that for no particular reason as my experience has taught me.

Then on the other hand, I grew up with wonderful parents and my brother who were examples of wonderful loving human beings, so in minority we can be delightful! Thus I like to say "Globally I am a pessimist and locally I am an optimist" which is maybe sad but I find it true.