October 16, 2001

'Soft Computing' topic of Dow Visiting Scholar

Dr. Tadao Murata, professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will present "Performance and Possibility Evaluation by Soft Computing" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 23 in the Rhea Miller Recital Hall. A reception will be held at 6 p.m. outside the Recital Hall.

Soft Computing (SC) is a group of methodologies such as fuzzy logic, computing with words, and neurocomputing, aimed at exploiting the tolerance for “fuzziness” (imprecision, uncertainty and partial truth) to achieve tractability, robustness and low computational cost. This talk will show how a simple SC methodology using fuzzy-timing Petri nets quickly yields useful information on system performance such as: how long it would take to complete a project or job; what are possibilities to finish a project or job before a given deadline; and what are possibilities to satisfy time-related requirements.

Murata recently received the first Carl Adam Petri Distinguished Technical Achievement Award in his field, research on Petri Nets. He is also the recipient of the 1991 IEEE Donald G. Fink Prize Award. He has served on the U.S. National Academy of Science/Computer Science and Technology Board and as general chairman for the 1987 International Workshop on Petri Nets and Performance Models. He is a Fellow of the IEEE.

Murata’s visit to SVSU is part of the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists Program. For more information call Judith Kerman, professor of humanities, at 790-4063.

Voices in the Valley features author McKnight

Author Reginald McKnight, an African-American novelist and short-story writer, will give a reading as part of the Voices in the Valley series. McKnight will read in University’s Founders Hall at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Critics have noted that McKnight’s third story collection, White Boys, comes at the question of relations between the races at angles that slant and slope, confusing white and black until if only for a moment – all distinctions disappear. His other works include the story collections The Kind of Light that Shines on Texas and Moustapha’s Eclipse, and the novel I Get on the Bus. McKnight has received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, and a Whiting Writer’s Award. He recently relocated to Michigan, and teaches at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

McKnight’s writing has garnered several awards, including the Bernice M. Slote Award, the Drue Heinz Prize, a Special Citation from the PEN/Hemingway Foundation, a 1991 NEA, a Pushcart Prize, two Kenyon Review Awards for Literary Excellence and a Whiting Writers’ Award in 1995. His nonfiction works include African American Wisdom (1994) and Wisdom of the African World (1996) as well as several essays, articles, and reviews. McKnight’s newest novel is He Sleeps.

McKnight’s appearance at SVSU is sponsored by SVSU’s Office of the Dean of Arts & Behavioral Sciences and the King-Chavez-Parks Program. The River Junction Poets also provided assistance.
2001 Homecoming Court — (standing): Jeaninne Nicoll, Dan Stephens, Jason Messing, Cory Hillman, Tremayne Marshall, Tim O’Malley, Shaun Johnson and Steve Fisher; (seated) Kenyatta Hurd, Lesley Gilbert, Jessica Bulgrien, Bridgett Lamar, Meesha Harter and Andrea Munger; (kneeling) Nathan Remindee and Sabrina Coburn. Measuring and Harter were crowned 2001 Homecoming King and Queen during halftime ceremonies of the Oct. 6 football game against Mercyhurst. The Cardinals won the game, 28-21, in front of 4,063 fans at Wickes Stadium. It was the school’s 150th all-time win.

Have You Heard?
• A faculty/staff luncheon will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25 in the Emeriti Room.
• Flu Vaccine is available in Health Services, W267, for a fee of $10. Walk-ins accepted.
• Nov. 1 is the next important date for the Open Enrollment (Oct. 16).

Calendar of Events
• Applications for Fulbright Scholar Program. Deadline is available in Health Services, W267, for a fee of $10. Walk-ins accepted. Nov. 1 is the next important date for the

Professional Profile
• Hasan Al-Haees, assistant professor of mathematical sciences, presented “Banach- Stone Theorem for Nice Operators on Banach Function Modules” at the Trends in Banach Spaces and Operator Theory conference, Oct. 5 through 9 at the University of Memphis.
• Judith Kerman, professor of humanities, served as judge for the 2001 Oregon Literary Fellowships for Publishers offered by Literary Arts, a Portland, Ore., arts organization.
• Melissa Ladd Tedd, assistant professor of history, presented “Education and Women’s Identity in 19th Century Connecticut: Mary Hawes and Sophia Peck” at the Mid-America Conference on History, Sept. 20. Also, Tedd presented “If I Only Wore a Coat and Pants.”
• Gender & Power at Hartford Public High School; Oct. 9 at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Education in Berkeley, Calif.
• Matthew Zivich, professor of art, has three drawings accepted in the 41st Annual Greater Michigan Art Exhibition at the Midland Center for the Arts. One of the works, That Damned Civil War, won the $250 Award of Merit. It is a brush and ink with oil crayon drawing with a title taken from a quote by Gertrude Stein. The three drawings are part of Zivich’s Americana Series. The show runs through Nov. 24.

Across Campus
• James P. Dwyer, director of admissions, was selected to serve as a member of ACT’s Board of Trustees. His three-year term began Oct. 17. ACT Inc. is a national, nonprofit educational organization that administers a college-entrance and placement exam.

Condolences
The University community extends condolences to Joni Boye-Beaman on the loss of her father, Ronald Boye, who died Sept. 15.

Transitions
Please note the following Human Resource changes in your Faculty/Staff Directory: