



GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY

GZU REGISTERS MILESTONES

Great Zimbabwe University registered nine trademarks with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation in various disciplines and more are expected to be registered in 2024 as the heritage based education 5.0 continues to show tangible results in research, innovation and modernisation/industrialisation.

Speaking at the Great Zimbabwe University 17th graduation ceremony, GZU Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo said, “Your Excellency, we are pleased to announce that we have registered nine trademarks with the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO). The trademarks are in beverages, health supplements and skin care products.” He added that



Sharing a lighter moment after the Official Opening of the Innovation Hub by His Excellency and Chancellor Dr E.D Mnangangwa

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researchers in the innovation hub who include both staff and students have developed other products including Wezhira Wines, Nzviru Jam, herbal mahewu, mealie meal and poultry feed from traditional grains. He also said that in support of vision 2030, the mass production of these products will create employment, affordability and improve the nutritional status of our nation.

He also outlined several researches that the institution has registered. These include agro innovations, that are at varying stages, some of the products include organic fertilisers produced from local heritage based solutions. Researchers have also come up with herbal medicines from locally available indigenous plants in a bid to contribute towards improved health and well being,

These formulations are now ready for both industrialisation and commercialisation. The university is also supplying disinfectants and tailor made garments for the Masvingo community. The University has registered milestones in rural industrialisation and community development. GZU also launched its traditional grains milling company in Chiredzi under the drylands Agriculture programme.

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More feathers added to the Caps of GZU Management...



Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo



Dr Ellen F. Zvobgo

Great Zimbabwe University is excited with the latest achievements by two members of the University management staff. GZU Registrar, Sinikiwe Gwatidzo recently added to her list of accolades after attaining a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Business Administration. Dr Gwatidzo's latest achievement reinforces her reputation as an administrator of note as she also sits on a number of boards of parastatals in the country.

In addition, GZU's Director of the Nehanda Centre for Gender and Cultural Studies, Ellen Farisayi Zvobgo

also added another feather to her impressive list of academic accolades after graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Gender Studies from the University of Cape Town. Dr Zvobgo is a researcher of repute, with interests in gender mainstreaming, women and politics among others.

The University community congratulates both the newly minted Doctors on their illustrious achievements and looks forward to benefitting from their expertise.



His Excellency and Chancellor, President E.D. Mnangagwa congratulates the 2023 Overall Best Male Student of GZU Wonderful Chudu for winning the Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa Award. The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Minister Prof. Dr. Amon Murwira looks on.

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Free range poultry farming and traditional grains project has promoted mass production and mass consumption of indigenous products while leveraging on cultural heritage for industrialisation.

On the same day, Great Zimbabwe University capped 4899 students at its 17th graduation ceremony. This saw two students receiving the coveted Chancellor's award for being overall best graduands and these were Sandra Tatenda Ndere and Wonderful Chudu who walked away with 1000USD each.

Hebert Chitepo Law School Continues to Shine... Introducing The Champions of Africa!



The GZU Mooting Team receiving the award

Great Zimbabwe University congratulates the Team of Choice for winning the 2023 All Africa International Humanitarian Law Competitions held in Arusha, Tanzania. The team comprising Mishel Dhliwayo, Tinotenda Chiware and Regis Chirenga took part and won the well-deserved and well-argued prize.

The ICRC All Africa International Humanitarian Law Competition has existed for the past 22 years and educates the next generation of leaders, future policymakers, and legal professionals in the doctrines of IHL and its implementation. The students study IHL practice, while strengthening their skills in legal research and advocacy critical for the legal profession.

We extend our hearty congratulations to the winning team for a sterling achievement.



Team GZU with the panel of judges

GZU wins the Arrupe Debate Tournament, again!



Winning team receiving accolades

The Great Zimbabwe University Debate Team successfully defended their reign as champions of the Intervarsity Debate Tournament when they won the 2023 edition of the tournament held on Saturday, 4 November 2023, at Arrupe Jesuit University. The Tournament ran under the theme: Climate Justice and Sustainable Development. The team of Tariro Chisoro and Vuyani Chikasha, who won the Arrupe Jesuit University-organised tournament last year, ensured GZU's reign continued for yet another year when it prevailed over 10 other teams from Arrupe Jesuit University, Bindura University of Science Education, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Africa University, Ezekiel Guti University, Zimbabwe Open University, Belvedere Teachers

College, Morgan Zintec College and Women's University in Africa, among others. Two teams proudly represented GZU. The first one consisted of Vuyan Chikasha and Tariro Chisoro whilst the other one was made up of Tafadzwa Maravanyika and Dylan Bvudzi. Dorcas Makanganise completed the GZU Debating Team as she was an adjudicator. The team of Dylan and Tafadzwa ended their fight in the preliminary rounds whilst that of Vuyan and Tariro battled it out in the finals against three other teams - two from Africa University (AU) and the other from Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU). The two teams from AU finished second and third while ZOU finished fourth. Patron of the GZU Debate Team and Lecturer in the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education Lecturer, Dr Joel Marashe, led the team at the tournament.

GZU shines at Masvingo Business Expo 2023



Team GZU receives first prize at the 2023 Masvingo Business Expo



Exhibition

Great Zimbabwe University continues to scale to greater heights as a game changing institution of higher learning that leads from the front after coming out tops for the outstanding exhibition at the recently held Masvingo Business Expo. The university earned plaudits for lively, innovative and captivating business interactions at the two-day Expo. The Great Zimbabwe University Campus Radio

complimented the exhibition by delivering a live broadcast at the Expo. Several industry and business experts thronged the stand for interviews during live broadcasts. As the world has moved into the fourth revolution, which is characterised by innovation and high end industrial advancement, GZU has adopted a new education curriculum which has a slant towards modern technological trends. Congratulations University of Choice. Here's to more wins.

Community Engagement

TRADITIONAL GRAINS CONTRACT FARMING PROGRAMME LAUNCHED



A musical ensemble from Chibwedziva entertains the crowd at the launch

In yet another milestone aimed at ensuring food security within the country and impacting rural livelihoods positively, Great Zimbabwe University's Innovation Centre for Excellence in Dryland Agriculture (ICEDA) launched its novel traditional grains contract farming programme at a colourful ceremony in Chibwedziva, Chiredzi recently.

The launch marked the culmination of a process that commenced in 2022, when the university initiated this programme in the seven districts of Masvingo aimed at encouraging the farming and popularization of traditional varieties of millet, sorghum and sun flower particularly in the arid areas of the Province.

In his key note address, Great Zimbabwe University Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo noted that the University is supporting farmers in growing traditional grains to improve soil and dietary health and then buying the grain from the farmers when they harvest in order to promote economic growth and stability through agriculture. Professor Zvobgo added

that the landmark project speaks to the broader national vision of attaining an upper middle income economy by the year 2030.

The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Professor Amon Murwira who was the guest of honour highlighted that farmers in southern Zimbabwe are shifting back to growing traditional small grains and maize after experiencing food shortages from the failure of hybrid maize crops, which have not adapted well to the region's dry soils.

Professor Murwira emphasised that the government is in full support of the programme whose overarching goal is to revive seed diversity, rediscover indigenous seed varieties, stop land degradation, and implement a method that works for soils and a changing climate.

Members of the Chibwedziva community expressed their gratitude to the government and Great Zimbabwe University, stating that they are anticipating massive harvests from the project.

LAW CLINIC OUTREACH PROGRAMME GOES TO HIGH SCHOOLS



The Herbert Chitepo Law School recently conducted a pilot law clinic outreach programme in secondary schools around Masvingo District, educating the young scholars in Child Rights, Child Marriages and Domestic Violence. The Dean of the Herbert Chitepo Law School, Mr Victor Nkiwane, said the pilot secondary schools Law Clinic Outreach programme

was targeted at empowering the boys and girls in three areas of law which directly affect them. He said following the success of the pilot outreach programme, law clinics will be taken to more secondary and high schools in the province. The pilot programme was a collaboration between the Herbert Chitepo Law School and Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI). @raoulwallenberginstitutet

Above and below... Staff and students from the Herbert Chitepo Law School are on a drive to educate high school students on Child Rights, Child Marriages and Domestic Violence



To abolish or not...the case of Zimbabwe's death penalty



Participating panelist receive donation books from Dr Gappah



On going debate session on death penalty

Zimbabwe's contentious death penalty came under the spotlight in a riveting debate held at Great Zimbabwe University's Herbert Chitepo Law School on Friday 17 November 2023. Lawyer, academic and author, Dr Petina Gappah led the debate which saw the participating teams advancing arguments for and against the death penalty, leaving the audience torn between abolishing or upholding the statute. Addressing the audience at the end of the debate, Dr Gappah expressed her delight at the incisive arguments provided by the panellists' and applauded them for being erudite and well informed. Dr Gappah also provided an insightful opinion into the death penalty, highlighting that as an individual she is

vehemently opposed to the penalty which she views as dehumanizing and cruel in its finality, given that it cannot be reversed in the event that new evidence emerges. Prominent playwright Peter Churu and eminent author Dr Tanaka Chidora were in attendance at the debate session with members of Churu's drama group staging an emotional play on the death penalty. Also in attendance was the Dean of the Herbert Chitepo Law School, Mr Victor Nkiwane, Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Dr Salachi Naidoo, staff and students from the Herbert Chitepo Law School and members of the Kyle College Debate Club. Dr Gappah capped off the day with a donation of books to the participating panellists as well as the Great Zimbabwe University Library.

GZU hosts Workshop on the World Heritage Site interpretation framework Development Project (WHIPIC)



Participants at the World Heritage Site interpretation framework Development Project Workshop

The Department of Heritage, Historical Studies and Strategic Development and the Centre for Culture and Heritage Studies in the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education held a workshop in the development of the Great Zimbabwe World Heritage Site interpretation framework in collaboration with WHIPIC (based in South Korea) and funding from UNESCO. The framework is set to benefit NMMZ who are custodians of the site. The workshop is

part of the activities of the French Agency for Development (AFD) funded Great Zimbabwe Development Project which was officially launched by His Excellency the President of Zimbabwe Dr Emmerson Mnangagwa in June 2022. The team that is working on the Great Zimbabwe Interpretation framework includes Professor Munyaradzi Manyanga, Dr Tawanda Mukwende, Thomas Thondhlana, Ms Genius Tevera and Prof Shadreck Chirikure of Oxford University.



Great Zimbabwe Monuments

Commemorating World Diabetes Day.



Students checking blood, sugar levels on some of the community members



Celebrating World Diabetes Day

Students from Simon Mazorodze School of Medical and Health Sciences in conjunction with their colleagues from the Zimbabwe Medical Students Association (ZIMSA) held World Diabetes Day celebrations in Masvingo on Friday 17 November 2023. To mark the day, the students provided free blood

sugar and hypertension tests to members of the public in the Masvingo Central Business District. In addition to joining hands with ZIMSA, the medical students were also partnered in the ground breaking community social responsibility project by leading pharmaceutical concern, Booties Pharmacy.

Walking for life!



GZU Staff supporting the Walk for Life against substance abuse

Students and staff from other institutions joined Great Zimbabwe University in an anti-drug abuse campaign held in Masvingo on Thursday 16 November, 2023. Dubbed, "the walk for life", and coordinated by the Ministry of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, the campaign kicked off with a march from the Civic Centre to Mucheke Stadium. Upon arrival at the stadium, participants engaged in physical exercises as part of an initiative to raise awareness on the need for individuals to maintain physical fitness.

In a keynote address read on her behalf by the Director of Sports in the Ministry, Dr Eugenia Chidhakwa, the Minister of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Honourable Kirsty Coventry implored individuals, particularly the country's youth to desist

from abusing drugs, emphasising that the vice of drug abuse not only has negative effects on the physical wellbeing of individuals but is also detrimental to the social and moral fabric of the nation. Minister Coventry applauded Masvingo Province for taking the initiative in the fight against drug abuse and urged the community to remain committed in combating the scourge. Masvingo Province was also singled out for praise as a hub of sporting talent having produced the likes of Ovidy Karuru and Charles Manyuchi, among the array of outstanding sports personalities hailing from the Province. The colourful event saw artistes from Masvingo providing entertainment to the appreciative crowd that was in attendance with the GZU choir taking the limelight with a captivating performance that left the audience asking for more.

CAMPUS TOURS CATCHING THEM YOUNG



Students from Dewe Primary School touring GZU Campuses

The University of Choice got a courtesy visit by pupils from Dewe Primary School located in the Chivi district of the Masvingo Province. The pupils were excited to have the opportunity to visit the prestigious Herbert Chitepo Law School, especially the moot court where they got a hands-on experience of what a prototype court room looks like. In addition, some of the pupils, managed to broadcast live at the GZU Campus radio station, with Chantel a grade three student narrating what she had seen at GZU during the tour. Some of the pupils had an opportunity to eloquently sing live on radio. At the end of the tour, the head of delegation Deputy Headmistress Mrs Manyanga expressed her heartfelt gratitude with the inspiration that the school derived from the tour. She mentioned that it was such exposure which gives the pupils the motivation to excel in their studies.



Dewe Primary School Students at GZU Campus Radio

GZU now an Educational Tour Destination of Choice



Groups of students from high schools across the country, continue to troop to Great Zimbabwe University on educational tours, as the institution has established a reputation as a destination of choice for students who want to know about the functions of a University, the programmes and facilities on offer and the entry requirements.

A delegation from Marange High School recently visited Great Zimbabwe University on a Science Education Tour aimed at enlightening science learners on the degree options available to them upon completion of their Advanced Level studies.

The delegation, comprising pupils from Form Three to Upper Six visited the Simon Mazorodze School of Medical and Health Sciences and got a first-hand appreciation of facilities at the newly minted medical training facility.

Students also got insights into the requirements for enrolling into the medical school. In addition, the touring delegation met members from the School of Natural Science as well as the Gary Magadzire School of Agriculture who provided details on the degree options available for the students.

Not to be out done, learners from St Annes Goto and Glen View 2 High schools also toured Great Zimbabwe University on 27 July 2023 and undertook an expansive tour of the facilities at the University.

The touring party took keen interest in the University's state of the art Campus Radio station and the majestic Herbert Chitepo Law School with most students expressing their desire to return to the University to pursue their tertiary education.



Pupils from Glen View 2 High School listen to an address at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education

Your hard work does not go unnoticed. Thanks for all you do! - GZU Secretaries thanked.

On Friday, 17th November 2023, Great Zimbabwe University treated its secretaries to lunch at a Masvingo hotel to celebrate the annual Administrative Professional Assistants Week. The week is celebrated yearly by bringing administrative professionals together and honouring them in various ways for a job well done throughout the year. Addressing the Secretaries, Great Zimbabwe University Registrar, Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo, said

secretaries are important to the University as they are the glue that gel the institution's activities together. The Acting Director for Human Resources, Ms Yeukai Mutevedzi praised the secretaries for their hard work throughout the year. Speaking on behalf of the secretaries, Ms Nomercy Ndomoro thanked the University Management for hosting the lunch for the Secretaries and pledged her colleagues' total dedication to delivering quality service to the University and its stakeholders.



Above and below... GZU secretaries enjoy their sumptuous meal at the University organised Secretary's event



Performance Par Excellence!



Acting Great Zimbabwe University Vice Chancellor, Professor Bernard Chazovachii officially opening the 2023 (ZUSA) Paralympic games

GZU recently hosted and won the 2023 edition of the Zimbabwe Universities Sports Association (ZUSA) Paralympic Games. Team GZU put up a scintillating show to emerge winners of the 2023 edition of the Zimbabwe Universities Sports Association (ZUSA) Paralympic games that were held at the Mashava Campus on the 11th and 12th of November. Competing in track and field athletics, chess, five a side football and goalball, the Team of Choice amassed an impressive 24 gold, 21 silver and 17 bronze medals in a dominant display before an appreciative bumper crowd that thronged the scenic Gaths stadium. Guest of honour and Acting Great Zimbabwe University Vice Chancellor, Professor Bernard Chazovachii officially opened the sporting showcase. In his remarks, Professor Chazovachii thanked the athletes for displaying fortitude and

commitment by competing at the games, noting that the games were a clear display of the heights that the athletes could surpass despite being differently abled. The Acting Vice Chancellor reiterated the need for the student athletes to remain focused and to steer clear of the scourge of drug abuse. The Paralympic Games were held under the theme, “Spirit in Motion” and brought together student athletes from the hosts, Great Zimbabwe University, Midlands State University, Reformed Church University, Bindura University of Science Education, Chinhoyi University of Technology, the National University of Science and Technology, University of Zimbabwe and a guest team from Belvedere Technical Teachers' College. The winning athletes will represent Team ZUSA at the 2023 Zimbabwe Tertiary Institutions Sports Union (ZTISU) Paralympic games. We congratulate the Team of Choice on a fine showing! (Pictures to follow)

From the Human Resources Desk ABOUT SICK LEAVE

Terrence Muchacha

Administrative Assistant; Human Resources Department



Leave is simply taking an off from work day after informing the management. Leaves are the days that every working person is entitled to and paid for, apart from the holidays. Paid leaves are a part of benefits offered by companies apart from medical claim. There are different types of leave such as maternity, study, sabbatical, ordinary, compassionate and sick leave. In this article we'll look at sick leave and we'll also look at a few ideas on how to properly manage sick leave.

As the name implies, sick leave occurs when an employee gets ill and needs time to recover. An employee is allowed 90 days of sick leave on full pay upon request, supported by a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner. If the employee has exhausted the 90 days of sick leave in any one-year period of service, they may request a further 90 days of sick leave at half pay.

According to the Labour Act Chapter 28:01 section 14(2), sick leave is an entitlement to every employee. However, employees have abused the sick leave resulting in negative consequences that lead to a toxic relationship with the employer.

There's no level of sickness that applies to everyone here; it really comes down to the individual. "If you're questioning, whether you're well enough to work, that's a good reason to take a sick day. On the other hand, pretending to be sick is a serious violation of company policy.

The most important fact that many employees often mistake is that their contract of employment is between them and their employer not with the medical practitioner. In most cases employees have been found on the wrong side of the law when they absent themselves from work, without notifying their employer, after only getting a certificate from a medical practitioner. The fact here is that, 'the medical practitioner recommends that an employee should go on sick leave and the employer grants or approves the sick leave'. In other words, after getting a doctor's certificate, an employee should request for sick leave using the doctor's certificate as a supporting document.

The employer requires an employee to notify the immediate supervisor as soon as possible if you are taking a sick day. If you are severely ill and cannot report to work to notify your supervisor and fill in the sick leave forms, it is helpful if you update your supervisor through a phone call or by sending the sick leave certificate to your supervisor through a relative or a workmate. Giving adequate notice allows your supervisor and colleagues to plan around your absence.

Abuse of sick leave means the misrepresentation of the actual reason for taking sick leave, using sick leave for unauthorized purposes, failure to report sick leave, and may include chronic, persistent or patterned use of sick leave.

Health Tips

Stay hydrated during this heat wave.



Stay hydrated - Water is life

Here are tips on how to cope with the current climatic conditions, the experts advised to:

1. Drink more water to stay hydrated.
2. Keep a water bottle with us to remind us to take water.
3. Avoid alcoholic and caffeinated drinks during this time.
4. Reduce the consumption of foods high in protein (eg red meats) as they increase metabolic heat.
5. Eat fresh fruits and vegetables which are better options.
6. Monitor our blood pressure to make sure we are within the normal range.
7. Stay indoors (in our home or office) between noon and 3 pm each day as much as possible.
8. Take cold water baths before going to bed at night.

Let us therefore strive to comply with it and to share with others.

Tribute to Prof Ngwabi Bhebe



CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



Professor Emeritus Ngwabi Mulunge Bhebe

The Chairman of the University Council, Professor Mandivamba Rukuni, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Jonas Zvobgo, the University Council, Senate, staff and students of the Great Zimbabwe University express their heartfelt condolences to the Bhebe family, the entire academic fraternity and the nation at large on the untimely passing of Professor Emeritus Ngwabi Mulunge Bhebe on the 17th of November 2023.

Professor Emeritus Bhebe was a visionary administrator, an eminent historian and a consummate academic whose contribution to shaping the country's academic landscape will live long in the history books.

As an institution, Great Zimbabwe University remains indebted to Professor Bhebe's wisdom, guidance and insightful leadership during his time as Vice Chairman of the Great Zimbabwe University Council. Professor Emeritus Bhebe's critical role in nurturing capable administrators who have served and continue to serve the country in different capacities is best evidenced by the fact that key members of Great Zimbabwe University management blossomed under his stewardship and continue to contribute to the national development agenda.

We join the Bhebe family in mourning the loss of Professor Bhebe.

Rest In Peace Tumbare Wejila Jena.

Graduation in Pictures...



Graduation in Pictures...



Official Opening of the Innovation Hub In Pictures...



Official Opening of the Innovation Hub In Pictures...

