GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY
NEWSLETTER
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY

A partnership that continues to grow

Professor Rukuni (right) and Professor Chazovachii (middle) receive the ceremonial cheque from Group CEO Mr Sam Matsekete (middle) and Managing Director Old Mutual Life Assurance Company Rutendo Magorimbo (left)

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Leading financial services provider, Old Mutual Zimbabwe has donated twenty thousand dollars (USD 20 000) towards the establishment of the National Centre for Computational Intelligence and Actuarial Science, at the country's University of Choice.

The donation was handed over to the Chairman of the Great Zimbabwe University Council, Professor Mandivamba Rukuni and the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Bernard Chazovachii by the Old Mutual Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sam Matsekete, at a glittering function held at the Herbert Chitepo Law School on Friday, 1 March 2024.

Senior members of Great Zimbabwe University management and their counterparts from Old Mutual graced the event which is a testimony of the growing relationship between the University and major players in industry.

Integrity Committee Training Workshop for State Universities

Integrity Committee members during the workshop

Members of Great Zimbabwe University's Integrity Committee recently attended the Integrity Committee Training Workshop for State Universities. The workshop, was facilitated by officers from the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and was held at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). Staffers from Lupane State University and NUST also attended the training workshop.

At the workshop, ZACC unpacked the Integrity Committees concept, corruption risk assessment, and development of an integrity action plan.

Members of GZU's Integrity Committee appended their signatures to Integrity Pledges. By signing the Integrity Pledges, the members committed to lead by example in the fight against corruption and to ethically render their services with integrity.

Integrity Pledges serve as an oath to uphold the principles of Integrity for a corrupt free Zimbabwe. ZACC Commissioner Fungayi Jessie Majome administered the signing of the Integrity Pledges.

Integrity Committee members hold up their Integrity Pledges

GZU exhibits at the Robert Gabriel Mugabe National Youth Day

Radio station staff exhibiting at the National Youth Day

Great Zimbabwe University exhibited at the Robert Gabriel Mugabe National Youth Day that was held at Mushagashe Youth Vocational Training Centre in Masvingo on the 21st of February. His Excellency, President E. D Mnangagwa officiated at the event that saw scores of youths from the country's provinces turning up in their thousands to commemorate the day.

The programme which was running under the theme "Positioning youth empowerment and development towards achieving vision 2030" emphasised the critical role the youth have in economic development. In this vein, Great Zimbabwe University has since embraced Education 5.0, a transformative approach that supports information and communication technologies through offering programmes that enable the transformation of the country into an upper middle-class income economy by 2030.

Various high school students and other members of the community visited the GZU exhibition stand for inquiries and interviews on the campus radio.

Great Zimbabwe University stand at Mushagashe Youth Vocational Training Centre

First semester student orientation

Orientation of freshmen for the February/March 2024 semester was held at the magnificent Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education and Mashava Campus, with new students getting insights into operations at Great Zimbabwe University, the country's University of Choice.

It was a hive of activity as the students filled the auditoriums to capacity in order to get a first-hand appreciation of their new found academic home.

The students were addressed by the Deputy Registrar Academic Affairs, Mrs. Irene Tavengwa, the Director of Examinations, Mr. Moses Mawadza, the Dean of Students, Mr. Onesimo Simbo and personnel from other University departments.

Colleagues from youth service organisations including My Age Zimbabwe, SAYWHAT and the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council also addressed the freshmen, imploring them to walk the straight and narrow path to academic success.

The orientation programme ended with a tour of the Great Zimbabwe monuments.

Students following proceedings during orientation

GZU certificate of Sugarcane Agriculture program helps farmer to succeed

As a testament to the effectiveness of Great Zimbabwe University's tailor-made sugarcane agriculture programme, a pioneer student of the initiative, Francis Moyo scooped the top award at the Tongaat Hulett Zimbabwe Sugarcane Out-grower Awards held recently at Triangle Country Club.

Moyo, who won an award as the Best Large Plot Out grower farmer in the Large Scale Farmers Category for Triangle Mill group, is a shining example of the transformative power of education. Not only is he a pioneering students of the Certificate in Sugarcane Agriculture offered by Great Zimbabwe University but also a holder of the Diploma in Sugarcane Production and the Honours Degree in Soil and Plant Science all from Great Zimbabwe University.

In an interview, Moyo said after he was offered 150 hectares of dry land in 2016, he applied the knowledge he had attained from Great Zimbabwe University sugarcane agriculture programme.

"I am happy I managed to transform theory into practice hence deserving an award. Agriculture is an art and I want to encourage other farmers to take sugarcane production as a business. Farmers should pay attention to detail and have a listening ear as soil and plants do communicate", he said. – This article was culled from a report by TellZim News.

Francis Moyo

ALUMNI CORNER

GZU Alumnus shines

… As Mambo Guramatunhu is rewarded for his gift for language

Award winning Ngoni Paradza

Great Zimbabwe University alumnus and stage poet, Ngonidzashe Paradza, popularly known as Mambo Guramatunhu, did the University proud after emerging the winner in the Outstanding Poet of the Year category at the National Arts Merit Awards 2024 ceremony held in Bulawayo recently.

Mambo Guramatunhu, famous for his catchphrase, "Nyanduri wenduri dzinoti turi" is a multi-award winning poet who graduated from Great Zimbabwe University in 2022 with a Bachelor of Education Degree Secondary in – Service.

In an interview, Mambo Guramatunhu advised fellow poets to persevere with their craft stating, “Never stop putting pen to paper (fingers on the keyboard)”. Guramatunhu added that that the power of the written word is undeniable and essential to the world.

The University of Choice congratulates our "nyanduri wenduri dzinoti turi" on an outstanding achievement.

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Rising Up the Corporate Ladder

Climbing up the Corporate ladder is almost everyone's dream. Everyone at some point in their lives dreams of being big or of even becoming the CEO of the Organisation whilst others dream of being even the head of state. As a child grows they are always faced with a common question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” and the usual answers are, a president, a fireman, a policeman and the like, but no one says I want to be a destitute, thief or beggar. Now that is called ambition.

As we grow older, we shape our career paths and indeed it is our charisma, output, hard work and many other attributes which see us rising up the Corporate ladder. Rising up the Corporate ladder comes with a lot benefits which are attractive and these include a higher salary, better benefits, sense of achievement, opportunity to advance one's career and that is what the majority of us want.

However, it is not so easy to rise up the Corporate ladder because the work load becomes more and time for the family become compromised. There are long hours involved, increased stress, and politics associated with it. As one rises up the corporate ladder, they become less popular with the public. The job at the top requires a lot of confidentiality and by virtue of that most people who were once friends start distancing themselves because areas for discussion become limited and lines of friendship become fewer, making it lonely and tough at the top. In addition, being at the top comes with tough decisions which sometimes may not augur well with the majority further making life at the apex not very rosy. Positions of influence may sometimes influence certain perceptions, some of which may be misconstrued and if not properly understood may cause reputational damage. Being at the top indeed comes with a lot of respect but at times attracts stigma and victimisation. This cuts across both men and women in the corporate divide, but is worse for women because there are very few women at the top. In fact, it is not easy to rise up the corporate ladder when you are a woman.

As we celebrate International women's day this March, where we are advocating for Inclusion, let us support women as they rise up the corporate ladder and encourage each other to take up positions of leadership and even aspire to sit on boards. Let us inspire, include and embrace women. Let us support women and celebrate them as they rise.

#women inspiring inclusion
#women occupying better positions

Celebrating Women's Day!

Celebrating Women's Day!

Professor Tsitsi Nyoni (left) and Dr Ellen Zvobgo at the Women's Day Celebrations.

Great Zimbabwe University kicked off Women's Month celebrations with a bang! To celebrate International Women's Day on 8th March 2024, GZU Campus Radio had the station manned by female presenters for the entire day.

The icing on the cake was having the Registrar, Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo reading the news bulletin for an afternoon slot, and at 7.00pm. Campus Radio members of staff were also involved in the International Women's Day Celebrations and Business Expo organised by WEDO and held at Lee's Inn, Masvingo.

The celebrations ran under the theme Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress. Dr Ellen Farisai Zvobgo, the Director Nehanda Center for Gender and Cultural Studies was one of the guest speakers. She made a presentation on ' How research promotes socio- economic development'.

Professor Tsitsi Nyoni directed events for the day to cap off an eventful day of celebrations.

Strengthening Working Relationships!

GZU Council Chairperson, Professor Mandivamba Rukuni listens to deliberations during the meeting.

GZU Staff representatives at the luncheon

As part of an institutional tradition that thrives on an open door policy and regular interaction between University management, staff and students, members of the Great Zimbabwe University management led by the Chairperson of the University Council, Professor Mandivamba Rukuni, held a luncheon with staff representatives on Thursday, 8 March 2024.

The luncheon was held at the Herbert Chitepo Law School in a cordial atmosphere that saw management and staff exchanging notes on how to ensure that the University of Choice maintains its standing as an institution of repute.

In pursuit of quality

Members of the GZU Quality Assurance Directorate and their counterparts from HIT after their meeting.

Great Zimbabwe University's Directorate of Quality Assurance and Academic Planning recently hosted members from the Harare Institute of Technology 's Quality Assurance and Post Graduate studies department. The entourage visited the University of Choice as part of HIT's benchmarking programme for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. HIT team members comprised the Director Quality Assurance, Mr Kusema as well as Dr Mupfumira and Dr Nyatombo from the Post Graduate Studies Department.

During the exchange programme, Great Zimbabwe University's Director for Quality Assurance and Academic Planning, Professor Martin Musengi, clearly stated that in order for universities to give effective and high-quality educational programmes to students, quality assurance in higher education is essential.

Great Zimbabwe University shared processes and structures that preserve and improve the quality of education offered by the institution in order to maintain the demand for higher education that grows and changes constantly.

Keeping Standards High!

Workshop facilitators, Dr Pride Mukandatsama and Dr Nhamo Mashavira

Great Zimbabwe University's Human Resources Department under the Julius Nyerere School of Social Sciences, hosted University wide grooming and etiquette training workshops for staff and students.

The workshops were in keeping with the University's client services charter which, among other things, seeks to create an excellent experience by continuously improving and innovating the institution's products and services.

Topics that were discussed included office and telephone etiquette, grooming and expected codes of dress among others. Facilitators to the workshop were drawn from lecturers in the Human Resources Department.

Staff following the proceedings

HUMAN RESOURCES DESK

CONTACT LEAVE

By Terence Muchacha

Contact leave is study and research leave for a brief period. Study and research leave may be granted to a staff member to enable him or her to devote themself to a period of uninterrupted study and/or research of a kind that will be beneficial to both the University and the individual.

Renowned American writer and futurist Alvin Toffler predicted that "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read or write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn" From this quote one can simply come up with the purpose of contact visits, which is to allow members to visit other academic institutions and learn how others do business so as to tap knowledge and skills which can be useful to the University and the employee.

It is crucial to note that a University employee is not only restricted to another University for contact leave but can also visit any institution/ organisation as long as the skills and knowledge to be acquired are of relevance to the University.For example, an employee from the University's Examinations department can visit an organisation such as Zimbabwe School Examination Council (ZIMSEC) for his or her contact leave. This will enable employees to have diversified skills and competences relevant to their key performance indicators.

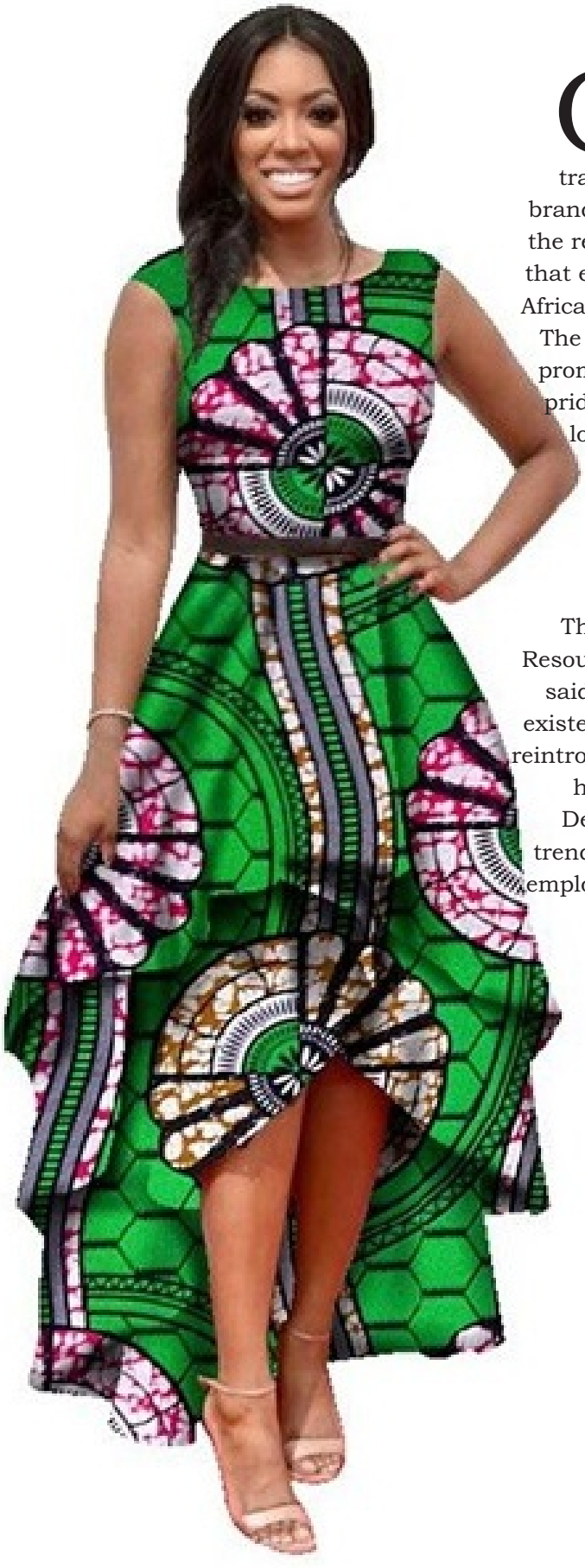
Members due for contact leave must, through the member's Departmental Chairperson, submit an application to proceed on contact visit, including an outline of the member's intended programme, to the Vice Chancellor for approval not less than three months before the expected date of departure.

Entitlements to contact visits are as follows:

1. A Professor will become entitled to a contact visit on completing two years of service with University; thereafter he will become entitled to a Contact visit every second year. The Contact leave shall be of 35 days from date of departure.
2. A member who is not a Professor will become entitled to a Contact Visit on completing three years of service within the University; thereafter he will become entitled to a Contact Visit every third year. The Contact leave shall be of 28 days from date of departure.

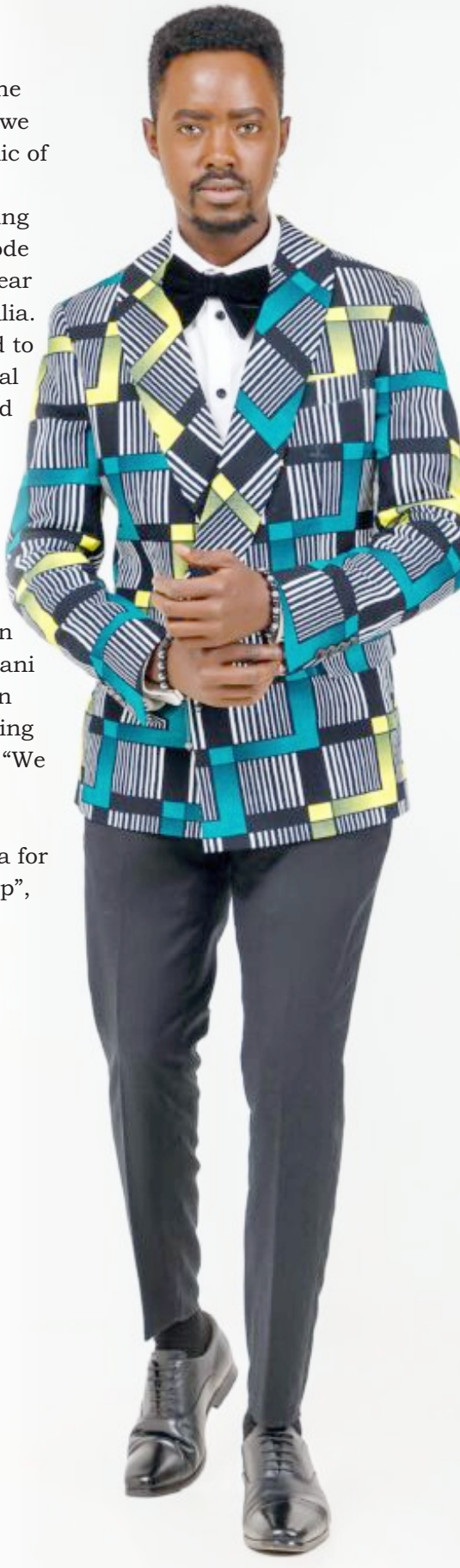
It must be noted that if a contact visit falls due in the same year as a member is entitled to Sabbatical leave, the visit must be taken during his Sabbatical leave. If a contact visit is not taken when due, the right to the visit and its benefits shall lapse unless the Vice Chancellor has agreed otherwise. Furthermore it is a condition attached to Contact Visits that a member who gives notice of resignation any time thereby forfeits entitlement to such visits and to the benefits attached to the leave.

African Print Fridays



On any given Friday, the offices at Great Zimbabwe University will be a mosaic of traditional African fabric and branded university wear, following the re-introduction of a dress code that encourages employees to wear African print and university regalia. The policy has been introduced to promote Africanism and cultural pride while also fostering brand loyalty, pride and visibility.

The Deputy Registrar, Human Resources, Mrs. Yeukai Murakwani said the dress code has been in existence for a while and was being reintroduced with a bit of vigour. “We have advised the Business Development Unit to provide trending and fashionable regalia for employees in the University Shop”, she said.



Hyper-active Wednesdays for University employees

Wednesdays are expected to be hyper-active at Great Zimbabwe University, as afternoons on the day have been officially reserved for staff sport. The staff are expected to put down their pens, log off their computers and pick up their sports gear to compete in a variety of games and activities and have some fun.

" We have set aside Wednesday afternoons for sports in line with the new government policy emphasizing on health and fitness for employees", said the Deputy Registrar, Human Resources, Mrs. Yeukai Murakwani.

The sports day was also set to promote team work and foster team spirit among members of staff and will culminate in a sports gala scheduled for the end of the March.

For A Worthy Cause!

Health service providers serving the Victoria Range community

Great Zimbabwe University's Psychology Department in conjunction with its partners, The Friendship Bench recently joined other health service providers in an initiative to offer free health services to residents of Victoria Range.

The initiative was held on Friday 8 March 2024 at Gwanoz Shopping Centre and saw the University's Mobile Mental Health Clinic partnering Masvingo City Council's Health Department, the Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council and Population Services for Health in providing free health services and consultation to residents for the day.

Addressing residents and stakeholders who gathered for the event, Psychology Department Chairperson and Great Zimbabwe University team leader to the event, Mr. Zivanai Samson reiterated the importance of mental health, noting that the Mobile Mental Health Clinic remains motivated to ensure the wellbeing of all its stakeholders. Samson added that the Mobile Mental Health Clinic is available for the community as and when required.

Personnel for other organizations also addressed the residents who turned out in their numbers at the colourful event that was spiced up by entertainment in the form of music and dance.

Members of the community implored the health service organizations to consider making the initiative a monthly event.

A Fine Performance!

GZU Staff Netball team in action

Great Zimbabwe University's staff sports teams put up a fine show to finish as overall runners up behind tournament hosts and winners, Chinhoyi University of Technology at the 2024 edition of the Zimbabwe Universities Staff Sports Association (ZUSSA) games held in Chinhoyi recently.

Competing in an array of disciplines including men's football, tennis, basketball, netball, darts, chess and snooker, the Team of Choice did not disappoint, scooping three gold, three silver and two bronze medals.

Stand out performances were recorded in the men's football competition where GZU came from behind to hand tournament hosts and favourites CUT, a 3-1 drubbing. Not to be outdone were the men's darts team who struck gold in a tense final. The men's tennis team also performed admirably winning gold for the Team of Choice.

In the netball, CUT avenged the loss suffered by their colleagues in the football final, narrowly edging GZU who had to settle for silver while in women's volleyball Great Zimbabwe University defeated perennial rivals, the University of Zimbabwe to win bronze.

Speaking at the end of the three day sports festival, Great Zimbabwe University sports director, Olivarth Guvuriro applauded the athletes for flying the University flag with distinction. The sports director also expressed profound gratitude to the University's management for extending financial and moral support to the team.

The Team of Choice will do battle with colleagues from other state universities later in the year at the Chancellor of Zimbabwe State Universities Staff Games.

GZU staff soccer team

GZU FC Joins Eastern Region Division One League

A bird's eye view of Mashava Stadium

Great Zimbabwe University Football Club (GZU FC) has gone a notch higher after securing a spot in the ZIFA Eastern Region Division One soccer league for the 2024 season.

The Team of Choice will pit their wits against more seasoned campaigners including home town rivals, Masvingo United and FC Wangu Mazodze and will be hoping to secure Premiership status, when the season commences in the next fortnight.

GZU FC will be using the majestic Mashava mine stadium for their home games with refurbishment and upgrading of the stadium currently ongoing ahead of this season's kick off.