



GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR GREAT ZIMBABWE UNIVERSITY

GZU scoops top awards at Presidential Innovation Fair



President Cde Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa presented Great Zimbabwe University with prestigious awards for Best Innovating University and Best Innovation in Agriculture at the 2024 Presidential Innovation Fair. Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo, University Registrar Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo, and the then Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development Professor dr. Amon Murwira celebrate this milestone in innovation excellence

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Whole of Government
Management Training

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aspirations!

Great Zimbabwe University was awarded the Best Innovating University and Best Innovator in Agriculture at the 2nd Presidential Innovation Fair, held at Harare's Rainbow Towers Hotel recently. The awards were presented to the University by His Excellency, the President of Zimbabwe and Chancellor of All State Universities, Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa.

This recognition is a testament to GZU's groundbreaking agro innovations for rural industrialization at the Innovation Centre for Dryland Agriculture in Chivi.

The university received \$10,000, a trophy, and a certificate for Best Innovating University, and \$5,000, a trophy, and a certificate for Best Innovator in Agriculture. These awards showcase GZU's commitment to innovation and excellence in providing research products and solutions that cater to societal needs.

Professor V. Z. Nyawo Receives Outstanding Research Award



His Excellency, President E.D Mnangagwa hands over the award certificate to Professor V.Z Nyawo

Great Zimbabwe University's (GZU) Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Professor Vongai Nyawo, was bestowed the prestigious Outstanding Research Award in Environmental and Natural Sciences at the 13th Zimbabwe International Research Symposium, held at the Harare International Conference Centre (HICC) on Monday, 14 October. This notable achievement underscores Prof Nyawo's leadership and expertise, reflecting GZU's dedication to excellence in research. Prof Nyawo acknowledged the recognition, crediting the GZU community and colleagues for their invaluable support. Please join us in congratulating Prof Nyawo on this outstanding achievement.



Part of the display at the International Research Symposium

Forging a cyber-security framework



In picture: Director ICT, Daniel Govo (middle), members from the Ministry of ICT, Postal and Courier Services and GZU staff members

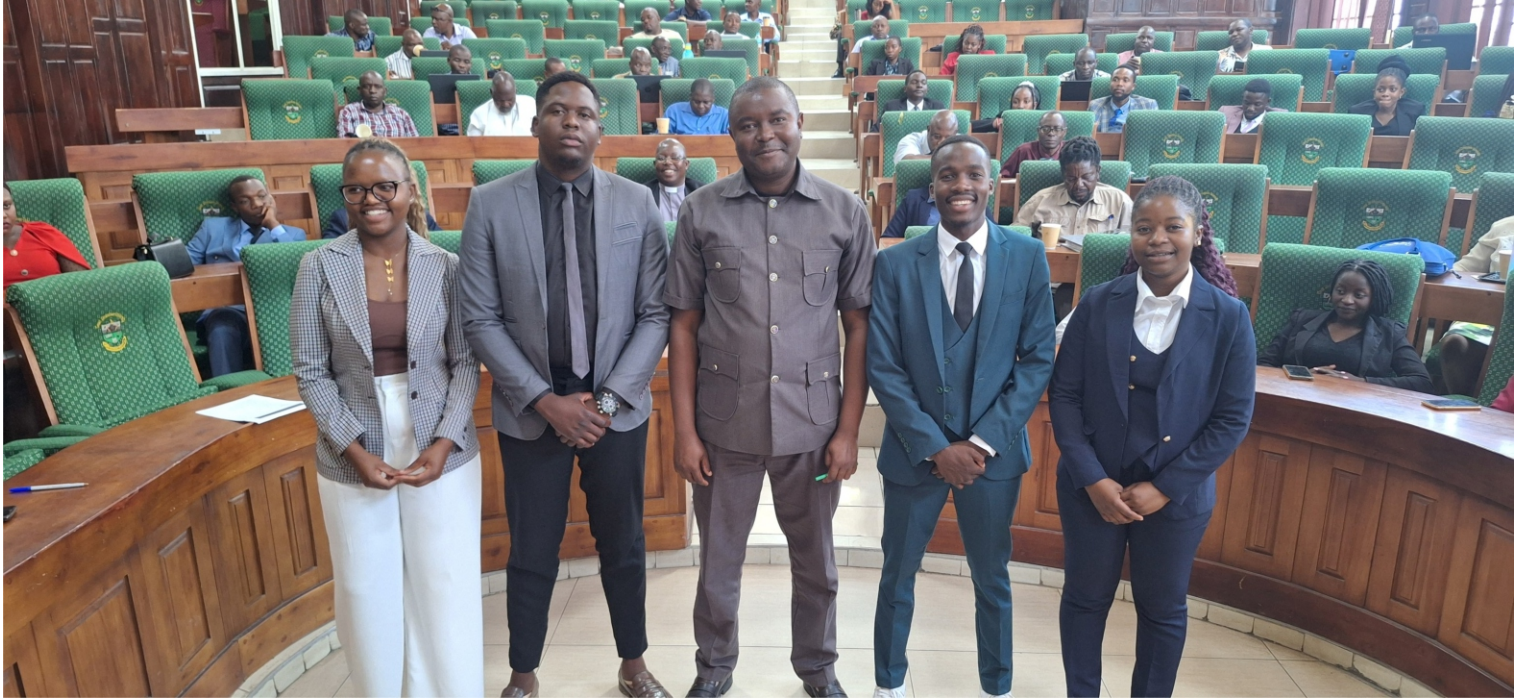
The Ministry of ICT, Postal & Courier Services (MICTPCS) in collaboration with Great Zimbabwe University [GZU] recently held a National Cyber Security Consultative Workshop at the Herbert Chitepo School of Law and Business Sciences.

The presentations by various experts at the workshop underscored the urgent need for enhanced cybersecurity measures in Zimbabwe. It was agreed that by focusing on education, collaboration among stakeholders, and effective policy-making, it was possible to build a more resilient cyberspace that can withstand evolving threats.



Session in progress

New student leaders sworn – in



Newly elected president, Tadiwanashe Matope (second from left), Professor David Chikodzi middle and Executive board members of the SEC

The newly elected members of the Executive Board of Students Executive Council and the Student Representative Assembly were sworn in during the Special Senate Meeting held on Thursday 26 September 2024 at the Robert Mugabe School of Heritage and Education Auditorium 1. Acting Pro Vice Chancellor Professor David Chikodzi who was standing in for the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo, officiated the ceremony.

Members of the Executive Board of Students Executive Council and the Student Representative Assembly represent the Student Representative Council of Great Zimbabwe University.

The newly elected president, Tadiwanashe Matope, led the oath-taking ceremony reaffirming the diligence and dedication with which the new student council would function. He pledged to obey and uphold the values and mission of the Great Zimbabwe University.

Each member of both the Executive Board of Students Executive Council and the Student Representative Assembly presented themselves in person to the Acting Pro Vice Chancellor. Members pledged to uphold the university's values and mission.

After the swearing of oaths, the Acting Vice Chancellor offered words of counsel and wisdom to the student representatives.



Enhancing Climate Resilience



Dr Michael Mubvuma and Pardon Chidoko, Lecturers in the Gary Magadzire School of Agriculture and Engineering following proceedings during the conference

Great Zimbabwe University was part of the Traditional Grains Conference held in Bulawayo on the 27th of September 2024 at the ZITF grounds.

Panel discussions and presentations from representatives of various organisations such as ICRISAT and GMB showcased the importance of traditional grains in Zimbabwe's agricultural sector. Guest Speaker Professor Dr. Obert Jiri, Permanent Secretary of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Development, highlighted that traditional grains contribute significantly to food security, nutrition, and sustainable livelihoods.

The conference discussions centered around enhancing climate resilience, commercialisation of small grains, and economic sustainability.

In response to the devastating effects of climate change, Great Zimbabwe University has partnered with local farmers in Masvingo district to implement a hunger alleviation project. This collaborative initiative aims to enhance food security and resilience during the current agricultural season.

The GZU-Masvingo farmer's partnership demonstrates the power of collaborative efforts in

addressing hunger and climate change.

This partnership exemplifies the critical role of universities in addressing societal challenges and promoting sustainable development.

By addressing these areas, industrial collaborations like the Traditional Grains Conference help to drive growth, improve food security, and support sustainable development in Zimbabwe's agricultural sector.



Inaugural international disability and inclusive music festival launched



Tatenda Moyo, Disability resource officer at the inaugural international disability and inclusive music festival

Great Zimbabwe University staff attended the inaugural International disability and inclusive music festival held at Midlands State University (MSU).

The event was launched to support talented individuals living with disabilities and aimed to challenge the misconception that disability equals inability.

Professor Thomas Marambanyika,

Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at MSU said the international disability and inclusive music festival came to break barriers and to prove that regardless of being disabled, one should participate equally in society

MSU Acting Vice Chancellor Dr Gift Manyatera urged students and the local community to celebrate the talents of people living with disabilities.

Dr Edmos Mtetwa, a Social Work lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe who graced the event said that Africans should fight against discrimination of people living with disabilities as they should participate in all activities. He added that some people view disability as a burden and the musicians are referred to as worthless, when they should, in fact, be appreciated.

GZU Disability Resource officer Tatenda Moyo said the international disability and inclusivity festival is an opportunity to learn how institutions of tertiary learning are embracing social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The event was attended by high school and college students and the local community.

In Pursuit of Good Health and Wellness!



GZU Staffer, Martin Makweza participating in the wellness programme

Great Zimbabwe University in conjunction with leading medical aid services provider, Bonvie were running a week long employee wellness initiative at the institution's campuses recently.

The initiative was part of continuous efforts by the institution and its partners to ensure employee wellbeing. Employees had access to counselling services, blood pressure and diabetes checks, HIV testing, eye screening and dental examinations among other services being offered under the wellness programme.



What A Day!!



University Band performing at the Open Day



Thornhill High School students

Great Zimbabwe University campuses were transformed into a sea of colours as students from High Schools across the country thronged the country's premier institution of higher learning for the 2024 Open and Business Day.

Held under the theme, 'inspiring careers', the Open Day provided students with an opportunity to appreciate the University's different schools and departments, receive career guidance and get a first-hand experience of student life.

Students also got the opportunity to interact with the University Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Zvobgo who, in his usual affable manner, delivered several nuggets of wisdom on the benefits of education as well as the impact that Great Zimbabwe University continues to make at Provincial and national level.

In his welcome remarks, the Vice Chancellor extolled

the values of the University of Choice and emphasized that the institution remains a beacon of excellence, as evidenced by the numerous awards in its custody, the most recent being the Most Innovative University.

Among the highlights of the day was a riveting performance by the Great Zimbabwe University band, which had students taking to the dance floor.

Students were also awed by the Campus Radio live broadcast of the event and were captivated by the Innovation Hub and the Simon Mazorodze School of Medical and Health Sciences.

In attendance at the event were senior members of the University executive as well as members of staff.

Not to be outdone were members of the business community who showcased their goods and services in addition to offering career guidance.

This was indeed, an awe inspiring day to remember!



Junior High School CEO Mr Junior Marime, students and teachers



Student interactions with GZU staff

Long-serving employees celebrated



Deputy Registrar, Academic Affairs, Mrs Irene Tavengwa receiving her long service award from the Vice Chancellor, Professor Rungano Jonas Zvobgo and the Registrar Dr Sinikiwe Gwatidzo

Great Zimbabwe University recently honoured forty – one (41) dedicated employees for their continuous service of twenty (20) years and more during a special luncheon held in their honour. The awards celebrated the contributions of staff from both academic and non-teaching departments, highlighting their commitment to the institution.

Among the honorees was the late Professor Kutsirai Timothy Gondo, who served the university for twenty-five (25) years before his passing on 18 July 2024. He was recognised posthumously with a shield and a cash award, acknowledging his significant impact on the university community.

The remaining employees were awarded certificates,

cash prizes, and branded blazers, symbolising their loyalty and service.

In his address, Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo expressed gratitude to the award recipients, noting their resilience and dedication amidst challenges. He emphasised the importance of collective effort in fostering a thriving educational environment, reflecting on the challenges and achievements that have shaped the university's journey.

"Your hard work and commitment are vital to our continued success," the Vice Chancellor said.

Speaking on behalf of the long-serving employees, Professor Martin Musengi and Mrs Rumbidzai Zanamwe expressed their appreciation for the recognition. They highlighted the importance of loyalty and dedication to the growth and success of the university.

List of long serving employees:

CHINYOKA ANDRIAS

TAVENGWA IRENE

TAVUYANAGO ZVINAKE

ZIVANOMOYO JAMES

KADODO WEBSTER

CHIGONDA TANYARADZWA

MATANHIRE TINEYI

MASAKA DENNIS

MUSHEKWA TOGARA

MAREVA RUGARE

CHIKODZA ERIYOTI

MADZIVIRE ANNA

BUNU WINNIE

TABENGWA IRVINE

CHEMHERE TAMAYI

RUGARA TOFARA

SIBANDA FORTUNE

MAGUDU SNODIA

MARASHE JOEL

ZIMIDZI WEBSTER

GWARAVANDA EPHRAIM TAURAI

MPOFU BEAULAR

ZANAMWE RUMBIDZAI

BHEBE CORDIAL

MUNTHALI AKIM

CHUMA MAXWELL

GUNHU RWATIRERA

MUNERI-JASI HLAULANI

MUTEMACHIMWE TENDAI

MUSHATI AMOS

GONYE JAIROS

GUNANGA TSVERUKAYI

MBINDAH AUGUSTINE

DURI FIDELIS

MUTIKANI SVODAI

MATINGWENA JANETH

CHENGETA CAESAR

MAKOTORE YEUKAI

NYANGA TAKUPIWA

MUSENGI MARTIN



Great Zimbabwe University Moot Team, wins AGAIN!



Great Zimbabwe University Moot Team

In yet another trailblazing achievement, Great Zimbabwe University claimed the top prize in the inaugural Fiscal Justice & Economic Development Moot Court Competition held at the Herbert Chitepo Law School.

The Great Zimbabwe University winning team consisted of Dorcas Makanganisa, Venessa Thilivali Msipa, and Tinotenda Muyambo. Msipa also won the Best Orator Award. The team faced and overcame competition from Midlands State University, Africa University, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, and the University of Zimbabwe.

This achievement marks a significant milestone, underscoring the university's continued excellence in legal education and advocacy. As reigning champions in Africa and nationally of the International Committee of the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition, this win further cements the University's reputation and prowess in mooting.

Organised by the Herbert Chitepo School of Law and Business Sciences in partnership with ZIMCODD, the competition aims to raise awareness among Zimbabwean youth about critical issues related to public finance, debt, development, accountability, and transparency.

Vice Chancellor Professor Rungano Zvobgo, represented by the Executive Dean of Agriculture and Engineering, Dr. Xavier Poshiwa, noted that the competition aligns with the National Development Strategy 1's vision of good governance and supports Sustainable Development Goal 16's emphasis on the rule of law, peace, and justice. Dr Poshiwa also highlighted the competition's alignment with Heritage-Based Education 5.0, emphasizing practical learning and solutions for national development.

ZIMCODD's Mr. John Maketo expressed gratitude to the partners for their support, emphasising the event's crucial role in sensitizing youth about public resource management and mitigating the abuse of public funds.

Members of the winning team received USD 500.00 each, which will go towards their fees.

The competition, was attended by a distinguished audience, including High Court judges, legal professionals, university staff and students, and community members.

Creative expressions at Sanganai Tourism Expo



The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, Technology development, Professor Dr Amon Murirwa with the GZU exhibition team.

Great Zimbabwe University showcased at the 2024 Sanganai/Hlanganani Tourism Expo, under the theme "Unlocking Tourism Potential for Sustainable Development" which was held in Bulawayo at the ZITF grounds.

Students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism were exhibiting captivating displays, including confectionery made from indigenous products like the madhumbe cake as well as exotic cocktails and mocktails crafted by Chipo Charuka, a part 4.1 student Bachelor of Commerce Hospitality, Tourism and Culture.

Additionally, Bolton Mawedzere, a part 4.2 student Bachelor of Commerce Hospitality, Tourism and Culture, represented the University at the Scholastica conference where he gave an exceptional presentation on how tourism encourages entrepreneurial spirit and innovation among students.

The Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science, Technology development, Professor Dr Amon Murirwa visited the stand and applauded Mawedzere for giving an insightful presentation as well as the University for making use of indigenous products for sustainable development.

The University offers a Bachelor of Commerce Honours degree in Hospitality, Tourism and Culture that is designed to drive economic development through innovative solutions in the gastronomy industry. This is in line with education 5.0 system which emphasizes that the education system must meet society's needs and produce goods that are needed by the market.



Level 4.1 Tourism Student, Chipo Charuka preparing cocktails at the expo



Lecturer in the Department of Management and Tourism, Rumbidzayi Chakanyuka showcasing unique madhumbe muffins and cakes.

GZU Law school empowers Chief Mugabe community

The Great Zimbabwe University Law Clinic visited Chief Mugabe and his headmen recently, to engage with the local community on critical issues such as environmental rights, child marriages, and domestic violence. The mission aimed to raise awareness and educate residents about their rights and legal protections, fostering dialogue on these important social issues. This initiative highlights the clinic's commitment to promoting legal literacy and empowering communities.

Led by their lecturer, Douglas Musebenzi, alongside Sharon Tshado from the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC), the law students engaged community members in discussion on the three topical topics.

Watipa Rungano, who was backed by Law Lecturer Emerge Masiya, emphasised that the community has rights to a clean and safe environment. Masiya highlighted the importance of reporting mining companies that operate in communities without conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)

The Child Marriage topic delivered by Mutsawashe Chinhamo and Sharon Tshado generated a lot of interest and debate. Participants raised concerns that today's children do not obey their parents anymore hence the rising percentages of child marriages.

Miriam Masikati and Ropafadzo Mvuto encouraged parents to get help from the GZU law clinic desk at the Masvingo Magistrates Court when they encounter cases of domestic violence.

Chief Mugabe appreciated GZU for such a helpful session and he said the headmen who were attended will take the lessons to the villagers.

He added that customary laws should be restored as they also play a role in reducing cases of child marriages.



Mutsawashe Chinhamo, Law School student addressing the local Community



Chikarudzo community

Yet another outstanding achievement



Shadreck Dzingai (Lecturer in the Robert Mugabe school of Heritage and Education) receiving the first prize certificate from the Minister of State and Devolution for Masvingo Province, Ezra Chadzamira

Great Zimbabwe University emerged victorious, winning the first price in the institutions category at the Masvingo Business Expo held at the Urban Lifestyle Resort.

The prestigious event themed, "Accelerating Entrepreneurship through Innovation" showcased the best of entrepreneurial spirit and innovative ideas in the Province. GZU's triumph is a testament to the university's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship through business development, innovation and excellence.

We celebrate another feather in our cap!



Great Zimbabwe University exhibition stand at the Business Expo

GZU Buzzing with Activity: Career Fairs, exhibitions, campus tours galore



Waterfalls Academy students and teachers pose for a group photo



Waterfalls Academy students enjoy the Campus Radio experience



Tugwane Career Guidance



Gokwe Career Fair

Great Zimbabwe University has been astir with activity, hosting a series of career fairs, campus tours and attending exhibitions designed to inspire and inform prospective students and other stakeholders. The events aim to bridge the gap between academia and industry, providing students with valuable insights into their chosen career paths as well as building and maintaining relationships with the cooperate stakeholders.

Career fairs brought together renowned industry professionals, alumni, and students, offering a platform for networking, mentorship, and guidance.

Participants engaged in interactive sessions, workshops, and one-on-one consultations, exploring opportunities in various fields. Great Zimbabwe University hosted students from Waterfalls Academy which is located in Victoria Falls. The University also participated in the Tugwane High School Careers Guidance and Prize Giving Day and at the Zimeducate National Rural Educational, Career Guidance in Gokwe which provided valuable platforms for interaction with students and offered insights into potential degree programmes following their Ordinary and Advanced level studies.

Meanwhile, the campus tours provided a unique opportunity for prospective students to experience GZU's vibrant academic environment firsthand. Visitors explored state-of-the-art facilities, including the Herbert Chitepo Law School, Robert Mugabe School of Education, and the Simon Muzenda School of Medical and Health Sciences. Recently, students from Perseverance Christian College in Gutu visited Great

Zimbabwe University for career guidance and a comprehensive tour of the campuses. In an interview with the Campus radio, Mr Tafadzwa Chimiti from Perseverance Christian College praised the exceptional work being done at GZU, highlighting the impressive infrastructure and quality of education. He expressed gratitude for the exposure his students gained from the visit, acknowledging the valuable experience.



Perseverance Christian College at the Simon Mazorodze School of Medical and Health Sciences



The Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Professor Mavima at the GZU stand at the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show

Moreso, the University was also part of the 114th edition of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Society and the Masvingo Agricultural Show exhibitions that came with numerous patrons having to visit the Great Zimbabwe University stand. The exhibitions provided a platform for the institution to interact with stakeholders and reaffirm its position as the University of Choice.



One on one interactions by the public with members of staff at ZAS



Masvingo Agricultural Show

Advancing Research Through Technology Transfer



Praymore Tendai with colleagues from different universities

Great Zimbabwe University Sub Librarian (Client Services), Praymore Tendai participated in the International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) in the United States of America, sponsored by the Department of State through the Public Diplomacy section of the US Embassy in Harare.

The IVLP is the US Department of State's premier professional exchange programme. Through short term visits to the USA current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields get to experience the USA first hand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts.

Participants get to participate in professional

meetings that reflect their professional interests as well as the foreign policy goals of the USA.

The theme of the visit was, "Advancing research and Technology Transfer". Mr Tendai visited a number of libraries in the USA as well as innovation hubs and business incubation centres as part of the learning journey. The universities visited during the trip include the University of Central Florida, Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Tendai also visited the National Science Foundation, the Global Intellectual Property Academy, The Smithsonian Institute (SparkLab!), Association of University Technology Transfer Managers, and the Library of Congress.

From "publish or perish" to "visible or vanish"



University Librarian, Mr. Lawrence Chikwanha delivering a presentation

The Great Zimbabwe University Library department in conjunction with Nairobi based partner, Training Centre in Communication (TCC Africa) hosted research clinic aimed at empowering researchers in different facets.

Areas explored included writing standout grant proposals, avoiding predatory journals as well as exploring how collaboration between scholars and libraries enhances academic impact.

Key note speakers included the University librarian, Mr. Lawrence Chikwanha, Ms. Joy Owango and Mr. Harrison Weda from TCC Africa.

Members of staff from different schools within the University as well as library personnel were in attendance.



Delegates following proceedings

International Church History Society of Southern Africa Annual Conference



Panel discussion chaired by Professor Manyanga

Great Zimbabwe University hosted the Church History Society of Southern Africa Annual Conference, a premier international event that brings together scholars and experts from around the world. This milestone conference marked the first time the event has been held outside South Africa since 1971, and the first time it is being held in Zimbabwe.

The conference featured physical and virtual participation from renowned academics, researchers, and delegates from top universities globally.

This prestigious event was made possible through

the collaboration of Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe Open University, and the University of Zimbabwe and other universities such as, University of South Africa, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Glasgow, University of the Free State, University of Stellenbosch, University of Venda, North-West University and the Anglican Diocese of Namibia.

The conference was held at the Herbert Chitepo Law School Moot Court. The University of Choice welcomed participants from around the world who engaged in meaningful discussions and exchanges on church history and related topics.



Members in attendance following proceedings

Join the pink ribbon movement!



**PINK
OCTOBER**
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



Great Zimbabwe University

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Coming Soon!!!

Registration in progress
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1ST CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

PLAY GOLF FOR A CAUSE

PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS A
SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR THE
UNDERPRIVILEGED, DISABLED YET
INTELLIGENT STUDENTS

FRIDAY
08 NOVEMBER 2024
VENUE: MASVINGO
GOLF CLUB

FEES :-

us\$160	PER FOUR BALL BETA BALL
us\$40	PER INDIVIDUAL
us\$500	GIN TANK
us\$200	HOLE ADVERTISING

TIME:

REGISTRATION - 7AM
PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY - 6PM



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Presidential Innovation Fair in Pictures







The Dean for the Gary Magadzire School of Agriculture and Engineering, Dr Xavier Poshiwa, receives the Best Innovation in Agricultural Award at the Presidential Innovation Fair