



# AJU MONTHLY DIGEST

June 2026



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### Welcome to the June Edition

The Marketing and Communications Department is pleased to present the June edition of the AJU Monthly Digest.

This publication highlights key academic, marketing, and University-wide activities that continue to position Arrupe Jesuit University as a centre of excellence. Our aim is to keep you informed, engaged, and connected to the pulse of the University.

Thank you for your continued support.

# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

## CONFERENCES

### ISLAMIC FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

The Interfaith Conference on Family, hosted by Arrupe Jesuit University in partnership with the International Institute for Islamic Studies (IIS), offered a timely reflection on the enduring importance of the family in a rapidly changing world. At a moment when families are navigating social, cultural, economic, and technological pressures, the conference highlighted the value of interreligious dialogue in shaping shared responses rooted in dignity, justice, and human development.



A central theme of the gathering was the family as the foundation of society. Dr. Ahmad Qani described marriage as a sacred bond, children as both a blessing and a responsibility, and parents as the first educators entrusted with nurturing resilient and morally grounded individuals. He also reflected on the important roles played by biological, familial, and spiritual fathers in shaping communities. The discussions drew on the Bible and the Qur'an to explore the moral and spiritual foundations of family life, while also considering shared Christian and Islamic perspectives on parenting, marriage, and gender. Another important focus was the impact of artificial intelligence and digital culture on domestic life, with a strong emphasis on ensuring that technology serves humanity and upholds human dignity. The conference ultimately reaffirmed the need for continued collaboration between faith communities in strengthening families as the cornerstone of peaceful, just, and flourishing societies.



### DEEP LEARNING INDABAX CONFERENCE

Deep Learning IndabaX, in partnership with Arrupe Jesuit University, hosted a two-day conference on the theme, "Preparing the Workforce of Zimbabwe for an AI-Driven Future." The event brought together academics, industry experts, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and students to explore how Zimbabwe can harness artificial intelligence for sustainable national development.



The conference featured practical workshops, panel discussions, and interactive debates on key issues shaping the country's AI landscape. Participants examined Zimbabwe's readiness for an AI-driven workforce, the implementation of the National AI Strategy for workforce development, and the importance of building inclusive AI communities that support grassroots innovation. A startup mentorship session also provided aspiring entrepreneurs with guidance on developing AI-driven solutions to address local challenges. Throughout the conference, speakers emphasized the need to equip the workforce with future-ready digital skills while promoting ethical and inclusive AI adoption. The discussions reinforced the importance of collaboration among universities, government, industry, and local communities in preparing Zimbabwe to thrive in an increasingly AI-driven global economy.



# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

## Child Protection and Safeguarding Evaluation Workshop

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Office successfully convened the Final Evaluation Workshop for the Value-Based Advanced Diploma in Child Protection and Safeguarding, bringing together key stakeholders to assess the programme's effectiveness and its contribution to strengthening safeguarding within Catholic institutions.



In addition, the workshop identified challenges encountered during programme implementation and delivery, fostering constructive dialogue on areas requiring improvement. The deliberations culminated in practical recommendations aimed at enhancing the programme's quality, sustainability, and overall impact in promoting a culture of safeguarding across Catholic institutions.



The workshop provided an opportunity to review the curriculum's relevance to contemporary Catholic safeguarding priorities while ensuring that the programme remains firmly grounded in Catholic values and social teaching. Participants also evaluated the effectiveness of the teaching methodologies employed and examined how well graduates are being prepared to assume professional safeguarding roles within their respective institutions.

The evaluation reaffirmed the Office's commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in safeguarding education, ensuring that the diploma programme continues to equip professionals with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to protect children and vulnerable persons while advancing the Church's safeguarding mission.



# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

### AJU AT VEREAD CONFERENCES



Mpumelelo Moyo presented a paper titled "***The Politics of Religious Education in Colonial Africa and the Rise of Inequalities.***" at the Veread virtual Conference, held as part of The 3rd Conference of the African Association for the Study of Religions at Tangaza University in Kenya,

The conference explored the theme "The Ambivalence of Faith in Africa: Power, Knowledge and Gender Dynamics."

The presentation examined the role of Christian missionary education in colonial sub-Saharan Africa and its lasting impact on social inequality. It highlighted how mission schools, established primarily to spread Christianity, shaped access to education while sidelining African traditional religions, knowledge systems, and cultural practices in favour of Western values.

Using a nationalist historical approach, the study argued that missionary education, intertwined with colonial rule, contributed to enduring social and psychological inequalities. It concluded by calling for critical reflection and more inclusive education systems that recognise and value African knowledge and lived experiences.

#### AJU AT CONFERENCE IN ROME

Members of the AJU VeRead team, Mpumelelo Moyo and Dr. Zangairai, represented Arrupe Jesuit University at the 9th Conference of the European Academy of Religion Conference, held at LUISS University in Rome. Both scholars presented papers, contributing to international conversations on religion and society.



Dr. Zangairai presented a paper titled "***The Phenomenon of Religion and the Principle of (In)Equality: Interface, Interrogation and the Contested Complexity - A Case Study of the Zimbabwean Religious Landscape.***"

The presentation explored the status and influence of women in Zimbabwean Indigenous Religion, examining their roles in ritual life, leadership, and the transmission of indigenous knowledge.

Drawing on pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial perspectives, the study highlighted both the contributions of women and the historical and contemporary challenges they face, calling for a more balanced understanding of their place within indigenous religious traditions.

Mpumelelo Moyo and Ilaria Macconi presented a study "***Bridging the Inequalities in Higher Education in Africa and Europe***" a Case Study of the VEREAD Project, they examined how virtual exchanges can reduce inequalities in higher education between Africa and Europe.

The authors highlight the transformative role of the Virtual Exchanges in Religious Euro-African Dialogue (VEREAD) project in fostering academic collaboration through joint curriculum design, co-teaching, and intercultural virtual exchanges. The study demonstrates that digital technologies, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, have become essential tools for expanding access to quality education and strengthening international partnerships.

While challenges such as limited digital skills and resource constraints remain, the research concludes that virtual collaboration offers a promising pathway for promoting equity, academic excellence, and meaningful Euro-African dialogue in higher education.



AJU team visits AJU Alumni in Rome, Paul Bekone, SJ and John Bosco, SJ

# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

### MAGIS EXCHANGE: SUPPORTING STUDENTS ACROSS BORDERS

The Magis Exchange Programme Director, Mr. Zhou, recently travelled to Spain to participate in the Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme on ***Jesuit Studies and Digital Humanities***.



While attending the programme, he also took the opportunity to visit two of our exchange students, Victor and Zillah, to check on their well-being and experiences abroad.

This visit reflects the institution's commitment to supporting students beyond the classroom, ensuring they remain connected, cared for, and encouraged wherever they are in the world.

The visit also provided an opportunity to receive feedback from Loyola University, which spoke highly of AJU students and were commended for their academic excellence, exemplary conduct, and dedication to service.

Their achievements and positive representation of the institution continue to make the community proud and demonstrate the values that underpin the Magis Exchange Programme.

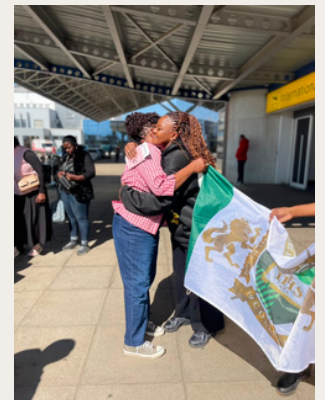


### FAREWELL TO OUR PIONEER JAPAN-NEXUS EXCHANGE STUDENT

The School bid a warm farewell to Lorna, a Social Work student, as she embarks on the Japan-Nexus Exchange Programme. Lorna makes history as the first Social Work student and the pioneer participant from the programme to undertake this prestigious international exchange.



Her parents also expressed confidence that she is in safe hands, especially with the presence of the programme coordinator, the marketing team, and her friends, who gathered to bid her farewell.



We congratulate Lorna on this outstanding achievement and wish her every success as she represents the University on the Japan-Nexus Exchange Programme. At Arrupe Jesuit University, our Social Work programme equips students with international exposure while forming men and women for others, committed to service, justice, and global engagement.

# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

### MAGIS EXCHANGE: WELCOME BACK VICTOR

10 months in Spain and I'm back home . My stay in Spain was a period of learning, self reinvention and self rediscovery. The first 5 months of my stay in Spain I was a student at Loyola University in Seville and a part-time English teacher volunteer at a local high school . I persuaude studies in Computer engineering. During this period of my stay I was able to thrive though academic pressure and I realized that one can achieve anything as long as you manage your time wisely and work hard for what you want . I say this because not only was I doing classes at Loyola university but I was doing all my classes at Arrupe online as well and on top of that I was an English teacher. This type of academic pressure can be overwhelming for a student but I was able to push through and thrive through the hardship.



I enjoyed my stay in Spain so much that I really wanted to stay even though my exchange was about to come to an end and I was fortunate enough to be offered an internship at Loyola university in the Quantitative methods department. The internship added to my additional 5 months stay in Spain . I would describe my experience as an intern in Spain to be completely life changing , I met a lot of talented people and I worked alongside brilliant doctors and professors within the engineering and computer science field. Every conversation, project and challenge helped me grow professionally and personally. I learnt a lot from my internship and I'm ready and motivated to implement what I learnt in Zimbabwe .

Besides career development ,Spain gave me something equally valuable which is lifelong friendships . Special shoutout to my Swedish Best friend who became family away from home . Thank you for the laughter, the adventures, the support and the countless memories we'll carry for a lifetime. Friendships like ours remind me that the greatest part of traveling is not just about seeing new places but it's about meeting new people who live a permanent mark on your life.



As I begin this new chapter of my life back home , I do so with a lot of gratitude. Thank you to everyone at Loyola university, Arrupe Jesuit University and all my colleagues and professors who supported me throughout this life changing journey.



**GRACIAS ESPAÑA . UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN !!**

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## New Appointments

The University is pleased to announce the appointment of four distinguished professionals to key leadership and academic positions. These appointments reflect the institution's ongoing commitment to excellence, innovation, and strategic growth in teaching, research, and community engagement.

The newly appointed members bring a wealth of experience, expertise, and leadership that will contribute significantly to advancing the University's mission and vision.



**1. Fr. Oderick Roxy Mweemba, SJ**

Appointed as : **Registrar** (Acting until approved by the Council)



**2. Professor Heinrich Watzka, SJ, Ph.D.**

Appointed as: **Pro Vice Chancellor (Administration and Finance)** (Acting until approved by the Council),



**3. Professor Simon Makuru, SJ, Ph.D.**

Appointed as: **Dean of Philosophy and Humanities.**



**4. Eng. Prudence Kadebu, Ph.D.**

Appointed as: **Assistant Dean for Engineering and ICT.**

The University community warmly welcomes the new appointees and wishes them every success in their respective roles.

Their collective expertise and leadership will play a vital role in shaping the institution's future and advancing its commitment to academic distinction, innovation, and service to society.

## ***Congratulations !!!!!***

# STUDY AT ARRUPPE JESUIT UNIVERSITY

Arrupe Jesuit University offers a wide range of undergraduate programmes and professional short courses designed to prepare students for success in a rapidly evolving global environment



  
Arrupe Jesuit University

## ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR AUGUST 2026 INTAKE

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Enrol Now

## Why Choose AJU?

- ✓ Industry-relevant and future-oriented programmes
- ✓ Practical, hands-on learning experiences
- ✓ Strong international partnerships
- ✓ Flexible study options for diverse learners

**Application Link**     <https://apply.apps.aju.ac.zw/>

***Join a University that is shaping ethical leaders, innovative thinkers, and professionals ready to make a global impact.***

# STUDY AT ARRUPE JESUIT UNIVERSITY



**ARRUPE**  
JESUIT UNIVERSITY

## ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR MARCH & AUGUST INTAKES

### SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

- Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) in Accounting & Management

### SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & ICT

- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in ICT: Networking & Software Development
- Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Telecommunications Engineering
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Cybersecurity & Forensics
- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Virtual & Augmented Reality

### SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP

- Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Social Work
- Bachelor of Education (Hons) in Inclusive Education
- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Transformational Leadership
- Diploma in Value- Based Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Post Graduate Diploma in Inclusive Education

### SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES

- Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Philosophy
- Bachelor of Philosophy (PUG)
- Post Graduate Diploma in Philosophy (PDP)
- Master of Arts in Philosophy of Law & Ethics
- Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
- MA in Philosophy
- Diploma in Ignation Spirituality
- Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy (PhD)



*Join a University that is shaping ethical leaders, innovative thinkers, and professionals ready to make a global impact.*

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## AJU Documentary: Beyond the Arrupe Narrative



<https://youtu.be/hJJdTtYt6jU?si=kLqrK4KQoakwxzko>

## CONTACT

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**Thank you for your continued support in building the Arrupe Jesuit University community. Together, we move forward in excellence and impact.**

