AJU Monthly Digest

October edition, 2026



IN THIS ISSUE

- AJUDO Tournament
- ZIMCHE visit
- Samantha Mashingaidze's Japan Experience
- Marketing Outreaches
- New Appointments

AJU MONTHLY DIGEST

Welcome to the October Edition

The Marketing and Communications Department is pleased to present the October 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.

This issue highlights student achievements, international engagements, marketing outreaches and awareness campaigns.
Thank you for your continued support in building the AJU Brand.

Table of Contents



1. Academic highlights
2. International engagements
3. Marketing Outreaches
4. Staff Development
5. Alumna Profile
6. AJU Sports
7. AJU Awareness Campaigns
8. Memorial Mass for Prof Chennells



AJUDO 2026: Celebrating Intellectual Excellence, Dialogue and Student Engagement.



Arrupe Jesuit University successfully hosted the 2026 Arrupe Jesuit University Debate Open (AJUDO) tournament on 16–17 October 2026 under the theme "Sovereignty in a Connected Africa: Defining Our Future." The two-day event brought together university students and independent participants from various institutions across Zimbabwe for an engaging celebration of intellectual exchange, critical thinking and the art of debate.

The tournament was organized by the AJU Debate Club, with the support of student leadership and the organising committees. AJUDO 2026 provided a vibrant platform for young people to interrogate issues shaping Africa's present and future. Through competitive debating, participants explored questions surrounding African sovereignty, identity and the continent's place in an increasingly interconnected world. The theme encouraged thoughtful reflection, diverse perspectives and constructive engagement on matters of regional and global significance.

The participation of students from institutions including Midlands State University, Bindura University of Science Education, University of Zimbabwe, National University of

Science and Technology, Harare Institute of Technology, Zimbabwe Open University, Women's University, Mutare Teachers College, Seke Teachers College and other institutions enriched the discussions and fostered interaction among young intellectuals from diverse academic backgrounds.

The event was also a testament to the commitment, teamwork and initiative demonstrated by the AJU Debate Club, student leadership, volunteers, adjudicators and organising committees. Their collective efforts contributed to creating an environment where students could exchange ideas, learn from one another and develop their intellectual abilities. The arrangements for accommodation, transport, catering and competition venues further supported the hosting of participants throughout the event.

The feedback received highlighted the importance of continuing to invest in student debating, mentorship and platforms that nurture emerging leaders.
AJUDO 2026 was more than a debating competition; it was an opportunity to amplify student voices, celebrate diverse perspectives and encourage young Africans to think critically about the future of their continent.

Through initiatives such as this, Arrupe Jesuit University continues to promote a culture of intellectual curiosity, dialogue, leadership and academic engagement, empowering students to become confident contributors to society.



> *"Arrupe Jesuit University continues to promote a culture of intellectual curiosity, dialogue, leadership and academic engagement.."*



ZIMCHE Quality Assurance and Institutional Audit Visit to Arrupe Jesuit University

The Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE) conducted an institutional visit to Arrupe Jesuit University, during which the Council provided an overview of the audit objectives, scope and programme.

This was followed by a comprehensive presentation by the University, which outlined the weaknesses and areas requiring improvement that had been identified during the previous audit, together with the corrective measures and interventions implemented to address the observations. The presentation also highlighted the progress made since the last visit, as well as the University's ongoing initiatives and achievements in advancing the Education 5.0 agenda.

> *"The visit provided a valuable platform for engagement, feedback and reflection on the University's progress..."*

The ZIMCHE delegation applauded the University for



the significant progress made in addressing and implementing the recommendations provided during the 2023 assessment. The Council commended AJU for the progress achieved and congratulated the institution on several important milestones, particularly the establishment of an Innovation Hub, the development of new accommodation facilities for female students, and the adoption and implementation of recommendations made during the previous visit.

These developments were recognised as important steps towards strengthening the University's institutional capacity, improving the student experience and enhancing its contribution to innovation and research.

The visit provided a valuable platform for engagement, feedback and reflection on the University's progress, while reaffirming AJU's commitment to continuous improvement, quality assurance and the implementation of best practices in higher education.







Celebrating Student Excellence: Munashe Madondo's Achievements in Debate and Beyond



Arrupe Jesuit University continues to celebrate the talents, dedication and accomplishments of its students. Among those making notable strides in debating and intellectual engagement is Munashe, whose recent achievements have demonstrated a strong commitment to developing excellence in adjudication and competitive participation.

At the Easters Debate Tournament, Munashe distinguished by being recognised as the 4th Best Judge, an achievement that reflects his growing expertise in debate adjudication. This accomplishment was followed by another notable performance at the recently hosted Arrupe Jesuit University Debate Open (AJUDO) 2026, where Munashe secured 7th place among approximately 40 judges on the adjudication tab.

Beyond debating, Munashe also participated alongside Zoe in the SayWhat Quiz. Although the team did not attain the anticipated results, the experience provided an opportunity to challenge themselves, acquire new knowledge and identify areas for further growth and improvement.

> *"Arrupe Jesuit University celebrates these milestones and encourages its students to continue pursuing opportunities that nurture their talents..."*

These accomplishments reflect Munashe's enthusiasm for intellectual development, willingness to embrace new challenges and commitment to continuous learning. Arrupe Jesuit University celebrates these milestones and encourages its students to continue pursuing opportunities that nurture their talents, broaden their experiences and develop their potential.

AJU Book Club: Fostering a Culture of Reading and Intellectual Exchange

Great conversations begin with great books.

The Centre for African Studies continues to promote a culture of reading, reflection and intellectual engagement through the AJU Book Club. The initiative brings Arrupeans together to explore diverse literary works, exchange ideas and engage in meaningful conversations on issues shaping Africa and the wider world.

Guided by the philosophy of "Reading the world from Africa, and Africa into the world," the club provides a platform for members to broaden their perspectives, deepen their understanding of African experiences and appreciate different viewpoints through literature and shared reflection.

All students are welcome to join the AJU Book Club, share ideas and discover new perspectives.

Bring your curiosity and let's explore the world, one page at a time!



> *The initiative brings Arrupeans together to explore diverse literary works, exchange ideas and engage in meaningful conversations on issues shaping Africa and the wider world.*

From SADO Island to New Perspectives: Samantha's Transformative Experience in Japan



"I don't procrastinate. I don't make excuses. I don't rest until the job is done, and that has changed everything."

Representing Zimbabwe as part of a diverse African delegation, I had the privilege of participating in a two-week Water Quality and Community Sustainability Project on SADO Island, Japan. The experience brought together environmental research, cultural exchange and community engagement, giving me an opportunity to learn from Japan's approaches to sustainability and development.

During the project, I participated in water quality assessments at Lake Kamo, where we examined parameters such as pH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity, while learning about the impact of agricultural runoff and water filtration systems. We also visited Tokinomori Park, where I learnt about the conservation and successful reintroduction of the Japanese Ibis, an inspiring example of how sustained community commitment can protect endangered species.

One of the highlights was meeting the Mayor of Sado Island and observing how local communities actively participate in governance and environmental conservation. I was particularly inspired by the island's emphasis on self-reliance, where residents take responsibility for maintaining their environment rather than depending entirely on government intervention. This experience challenged me to reflect on how similar community-driven approaches could contribute to sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

Beyond the technical aspects, the project offered a rich cultural experience. From participating in traditional festivals and wearing the Japanese Yukata to experiencing



authentic Japanese cuisine and the island's natural hot springs, I gained a deeper appreciation of Japanese culture and traditions.

Representing Zimbabwe as part of a diverse African delegation, I had the privilege of participating in a two-week Water Quality and Community Sustainability Project on SADO Island, Japan. The experience brought together environmental research, cultural exchange and community engagement, giving me an opportunity to learn from Japan's approaches to sustainability and development.



Above all, my time in Japan taught me that meaningful development begins with individual responsibility, community ownership and a commitment to excellence.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have represented Zimbabwe and Arrupe Jesuit University on this international platform. I returned not only with new knowledge and cultural experiences but also with a renewed determination to contribute to my community and use my education to make a meaningful difference.

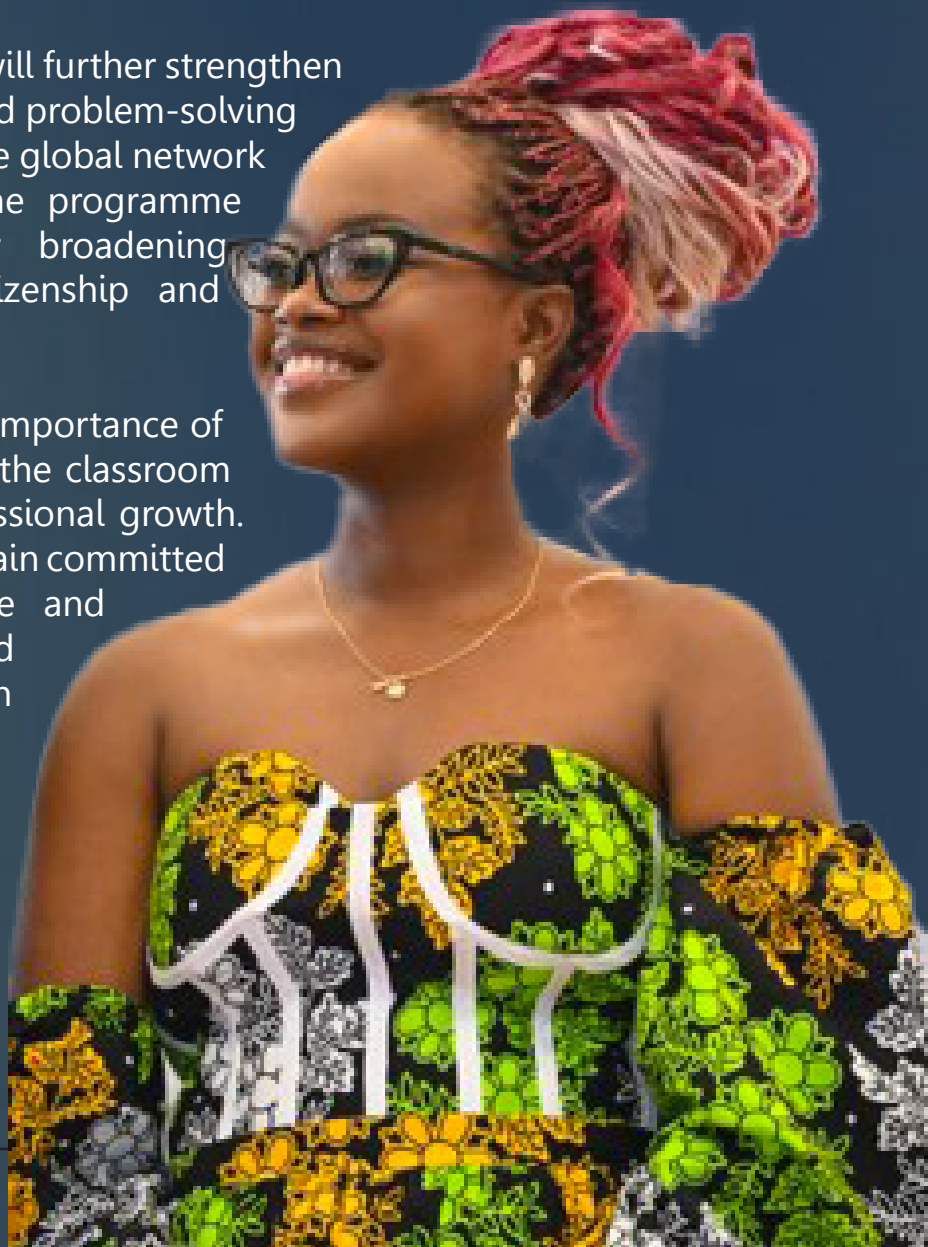
Celebrating Student Achievement

Arrupe Jesuit University proudly celebrates Nicole Matambudza, a third-year student pursuing an Honours Degree in Accounting and Management, on her acceptance into Cohort 4 of the Aspire Leaders Programme.

Founded within the Harvard University ecosystem and delivered by the independent non-profit Aspire Institute, the international leadership development programme brings together emerging leaders from more than 190 countries. It offers participants opportunities to develop their leadership potential through professional development, masterclasses, leadership training and international collaboration.

Through this opportunity, Nicole will further strengthen her leadership, communication and problem-solving skills while engaging with a diverse global network of emerging change makers. The programme also provides a platform for broadening her perspectives on global citizenship and community impact.

Nicole's achievement reflects the importance of embracing opportunities beyond the classroom and pursuing personal and professional growth. At Arrupe Jesuit University, we remain committed to nurturing ethical, responsible and forward-thinking leaders equipped to make a meaningful difference in society.
Congratulations, Nicole!



Marketing and outreach highlights

Expanding AJU's Visibility, Engagement and Partnerships

Taking the Arrupe Jesuit University brand beyond campus, the Marketing Department continued to strengthen the University's visibility and build connections with prospective students, schools and the wider community. Through participation in various community and educational events, the department created opportunities to showcase AJU's academic offerings, engage with young people and promote the University's identity and values.

> "**AJU** continues to expand its reach, inspire future students and build meaningful community connections"

The Marketing Department extended Arrupe Jesuit University's visibility through a series of outreach activities, engaging prospective students and the wider community at the St Peter's Kubatana Prize-Giving Day, Kutama College Career Fair and Mutupo Music Festival. The department also engaged with current AJU students as part of these initiatives, strengthening awareness of the University's programmes and creating opportunities to connect with prospective students and promote the AJU brand.

The outreaches provided AJU students who were part of the Marketing team with a valuable opportunity to showcase the University's academic programmes and extracurricular activities to visiting students and parents. Having current students at the stand made the engagements more relatable and impactful, as they shared their personal experiences, spoke about campus life and highlighted the opportunities available at AJU. Their firsthand accounts helped inspire high school students to consider the University as a place to pursue their academic and personal aspirations.





The team also engaged with other organisations exhibiting at the events, introducing them to AJU's programmes and exploring opportunities to promote the University as a destination for career development and further education.

Key Outcomes

The engagements generated encouraging interest and opened up exciting opportunities for AJU, with key outcomes including:

- **Increased brand visibility**
- **Student-led engagement**
- **Peer-to-peer inspiration**
- **Prospective student engagement**
- **Networking and partnerships**
- **Career awareness**

AJU continues to expand its reach, inspire future students and build meaningful community connections.








ARRUPE JESUIT UNIVERSITY
KUTAMA

Staff development:
Celebrating Staff Achievement



Arrupe Jesuit University celebrates Tsitsi Chigodo on successfully completing the professional certification requirements for Data Protection Officers (DPOs), including passing the requisite examination.

This achievement marks an important milestone in her professional development, strengthening her expertise in data protection governance, privacy management, regulatory compliance and institutional accountability, particularly in relation to Zimbabwe's Cyber and Data Protection Act.

The qualification comes at a time when safeguarding personal and sensitive information is increasingly important within the higher education sector. The knowledge and skills gained will contribute to AJU's ongoing efforts to strengthen data protection practices, promote responsible technology adoption and safeguard the privacy and rights of its students, staff and other stakeholders. ***Congratulations Tsitsi, on this professional milestone!***

Sr Monica Nyachowe Selected for International Church of the Sheaves Project





" Her selection is an important recognition and an opportunity to contribute to this global initiative aimed at strengthening collaboration and the missionary work of the Catholic Church"

The Catholic Church is embracing a new approach to evangelisation that encourages local Churches around the world to share their experiences, resources and gifts in support of one another. This was the focus of the international conference, The Church of the Sheaves, held from 22 to 24 October 2026 at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, Italy.

Held under the theme "A Church for All: Synodal in Method, Missionary in Spirit, Credible in Love," the conference brought together Church representatives and scholars from five continents to discuss how local Churches can work together in spreading the Gospel.

Organised by the Dicastery for Evangelization, the initiative promotes mutual exchange, recognising that every local Church, including those in the Global South, has valuable gifts and experiences to share. It also aims to equip approximately 5,000 Church leaders worldwide with skills in intercultural understanding, synodality and shared mission.

Congratulations to Sr Monica Nyachowe,OP, Ph.D., the coordinator of Transformational Leadership at AJU, who was selected as a scholar from Arrupe Jesuit University to collaborate with the Dicastery for Evangelization on the Church of the Sheaves project. Her selection is an important recognition and an opportunity to contribute to this global initiative aimed at strengthening collaboration and the missionary work of the Catholic Church

Celebrating New Appointments



Dr Abel Matsika
was appointed to the African Leadership Academy.



Engineer Gideon Moyo,
Supervisor of the University ICT department.



Mr. Nicholas Oyoo Onyango, SJ
Assistant Dean
Director of Sport, AJU



Fr Oscar Momanyi, SJ,Ph.D,
Acting Human Resources Officer

ALUMNA

My Journey Beyond Arrupe



By Thelma Tadiwa Chiromba

Having recently graduated from Arrupe Jesuit University with a First Class BSc (Hons) in Information and Communication Technology, I am currently exploring opportunities where I can apply technology, leadership, and innovation to create meaningful impact. My interests lie particularly in artificial intelligence, software development, digital transformation, and technology for social development.

Beyond academics, my time at AJU gave me opportunities to serve and lead. I served as Student Representative Council President, working with students, university leadership, and different stakeholders to address student needs and strengthen community life. I also remained involved in Model United Nations, public speaking, mentorship, and youth leadership.

My journey has included innovation and research. My work on Mukando, a digital revolving fund management system for informal savings groups, was recognised with third place in the tertiary sector at the 2025 Presidential Innovation Awards. I also explored veterinary telemedicine and climate innovation through academic and collaborative projects.

As I begin this next chapter, I hope to build a career where technology is not only about innovation, but also about people, inclusion, and service.

AJU taught me that education is not simply about acquiring knowledge or preparing for a career; it is about understanding how that knowledge can be used in service of others. The Jesuit emphasis on Cura Personalis, Magis, discernment, and being a

Having recently graduated from Arrupe Jesuit University with a First Class BSc (Hons) in Information and Communication Technology, I am currently exploring opportunities where I can apply technology, leadership, and innovation to create meaningful impact. My interests lie particularly in artificial intelligence, software development, digital transformation, and technology for social development.

Beyond academics, my time at AJU gave me opportunities to serve and lead. I served as Student Representative Council President, working with students, university leadership, and different stakeholders to address student needs and strengthen community life. I also remained involved in Model United Nations, public speaking, mentorship, and youth leadership.

My journey has included innovation and research. My work on Mukando, a digital revolving fund management system for informal savings groups, was recognised with third place in the tertiary sector at the 2025 Presidential Innovation Awards. I also explored veterinary telemedicine and climate innovation through academic and collaborative projects.
As I begin this next chapter, I hope to build a career where technology is not only about innovation, but also about people, inclusion, and service.

AJU taught me that education is not simply about acquiring knowledge or preparing for a career; it is about understanding how that knowledge can be used in service of others. The Jesuit emphasis on Cura Personalis, Magis, discernment, and being a person for and with others significantly influenced the way I approached university life.
Academically, AJU challenged me to look beyond simply finding technical solutions and to consider the people and communities those solutions are meant to serve. This influenced my interest in developing technology that addresses real social and economic challenges.

As a student leader, I also learned the importance of listening before leading. Serving as SRC President exposed me to different perspectives, needs, and

"AJU gave me the confidence to see myself not only as an ICT graduate, but as someone who can use technology, leadership, and service together to contribute meaningfully to society"



challenges within the student community. It taught me that leadership is not about having the loudest voice, but about creating space for others to be heard and taking responsibility for the community entrusted to you.

Most importantly, AJU gave me the confidence to see myself not only as an ICT graduate, but as someone who can use technology, leadership, and service together to contribute meaningfully to society.

One of the experiences that continues to guide me is serving as SRC President. It was a period that constantly reminded me that leadership is fundamentally about service. There were moments when I had to listen to concerns that did not have immediate or easy solutions, engage different perspectives, and make decisions while considering the wider student community.

The experience taught me to lead with humility, patience, and discernment. I learned that meaningful leadership does not always produce visible results immediately; sometimes, it is simply about showing up, listening, advocating, and creating opportunities for others.

That lesson continues to influence how I approach leadership and professional opportunities today.

I try to live out Jesuit values by intentionally placing people at the centre of whatever I do. In technology, this means asking not only, "Can we build it?" but also, "Who does it serve, and how can it make a meaningful difference?"

"Service continues to shape my approach to leadership, mentorship, and community engagement"

Service continues to shape my approach to leadership, mentorship, and community engagement. Through public speaking, Model United Nations, mentoring younger students, and technology projects, I try to create opportunities for others to learn, participate, and find their own voice.

Discernment has also taught me to pause and consider the wider consequences of decisions rather than simply pursuing what is immediately convenient. As I enter the professional world, I hope to carry this mindset with me, using my skills responsibly, remaining open to learning, and seeking opportunities where innovation can contribute to a more inclusive society.

Do not underestimate the value of the person you are becoming while you are still at AJU. Your degree matters, but so do the relationships you build, the people you serve, the mistakes you learn from, and the courage you develop along the way.

Take advantage of opportunities beyond the classroom. Lead something, volunteer, ask questions, build something, mentor someone, and allow yourself to try things you are not yet good at. Your time at AJU goes quickly, and some of the lessons that shape you most may come from experiences you never expected.

Most importantly, remember that being an Arrupian is more than being a graduate of a university. It is a responsibility to use what you have been given in service of something bigger than yourself.

As you move forward, carry the spirit of Magis, practise Cura Personalis, and remember the call to be people for and with others.

"As you move forward, carry the spirit of Magis, practise Cura Personalis, and remember the call to be people for and with others."



AJU AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

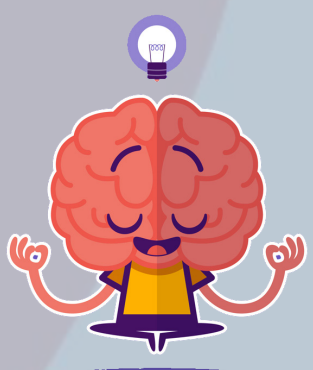


Promoting Mental Health and Well-being at AJU
The AJU Counselling Office, with the support of student peer supporters, organised a Mental Health Week aimed at raising awareness, encouraging open conversations and promoting a supportive campus environment. Held under the theme "Lived Experience Heard: Real Voices, Real Change" and guided by the motto "Your Mental Health Matters," the initiative highlighted the importance of recognising mental health as an essential part of students' overall well-being.

The week provided a platform for students to engage in conversations about mental health, share experiences and appreciate the importance of listening to and supporting one another. Through the involvement of peer supporters, the initiative also highlighted the valuable role students play in creating awareness, breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and encouraging their peers to seek support when needed.
By placing lived experiences and student voices at the centre of the conversations, the Mental Health Week reinforced the message that every experience matters and that meaningful change begins with listening, understanding and taking action.

" every experience matters and that meaningful change begins with listening, understanding and taking action"

The initiative reaffirmed AJU's commitment to nurturing not only the academic development of its students but also their emotional, psychological and social well-being.



Remember: Your mental health matters, your voice matters, and you do not have to navigate life's challenges alone.

AJU SPORTS

AJU secures convincing victory over HIT!

AJU delivered an exciting performance on the pitch, overpowering Harare Institute of Technology (HIT) with an impressive 5–2 victory. The team showcased determination, teamwork and attacking strength throughout the match, finding the back of the net five times to secure a memorable win. It was a fantastic display of sporting spirit and team effort as AJU continued to make its mark on the field. Well done, AJU!




ARRUPE
12
ARRUPE
2
ARRUPE
13
7



AJU Commemorates Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Arrupe Jesuit University joined the global effort to raise awareness about breast cancer through a series of activities commemorating Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The initiative brought the University community together to promote education, early detection and solidarity with individuals and families affected by the disease.
The commemoration began with a Holy Mass, followed by awareness talks that highlighted the importance of understanding breast cancer, recognising the value of early detection and encouraging regular screening. The sessions also provided an opportunity to emphasise the importance of offering emotional and social support to those affected by the disease.

Adding an energetic and interactive dimension to the awareness campaign, the AJU women organised a Breast Cancer Awareness Walkathon, bringing members of the University and the community together in support of the cause. The walk was complemented by an exciting Zumba session, which encouraged participation while promoting physical activity, wellness and healthy living.

Through these activities, AJU not only raised awareness but also reinforced the importance of collective responsibility in promoting health and supporting

"The commemoration served as a reminder that awareness, early detection and community support can make a meaningful difference."



those affected by breast cancer. The commemoration served as a reminder that awareness, early detection and community support can make a meaningful difference. Together, we walk, move and stand in solidarity for awareness, hope and a healthier future.







Remembering Prof. Anthony Chennells





" **Prof. Chennells** was a distinguished scholar who taught African Literature in the School of Philosophy and Humanities at Arrupe Jesuit University"





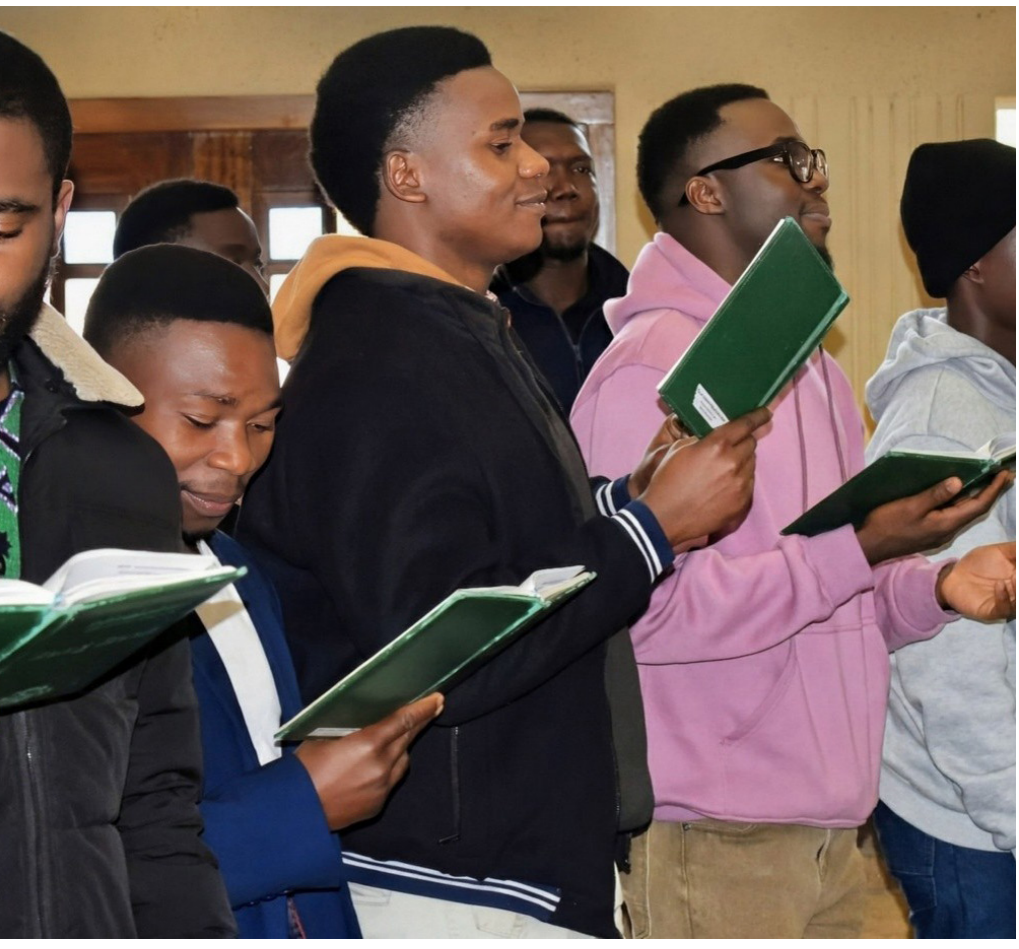
Family, friends, colleagues, students and members of the wider community gathered in a spirit of love and remembrance to celebrate and honour the life and legacy of Prof. Anthony Chennells during his Memorial Mass.

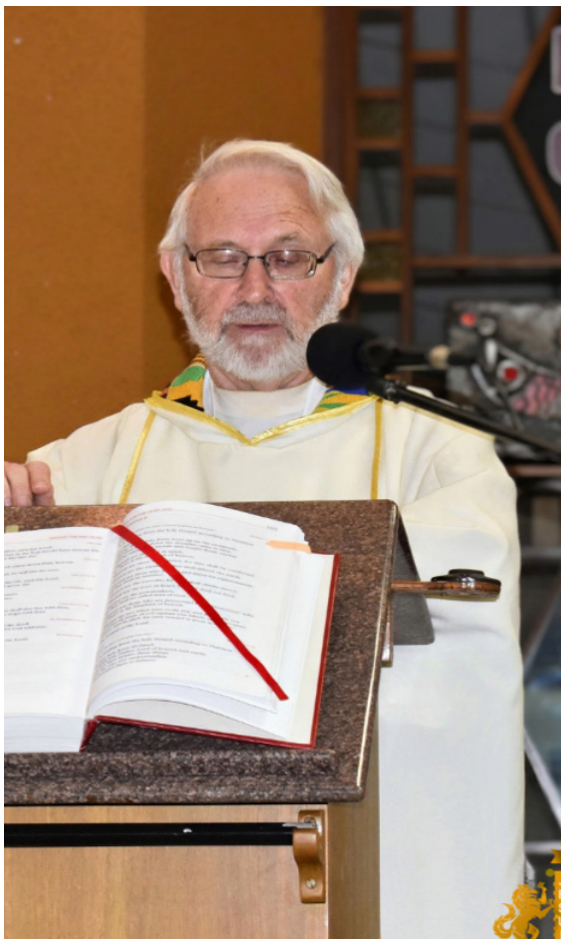
Prof. Chennells was a distinguished scholar who taught African Literature in the School of Philosophy and Humanities at Arrupe Jesuit University. Through his scholarship, mentorship and personal example, he touched many lives and left an indelible mark at Arrupe Jesuit University and beyond.

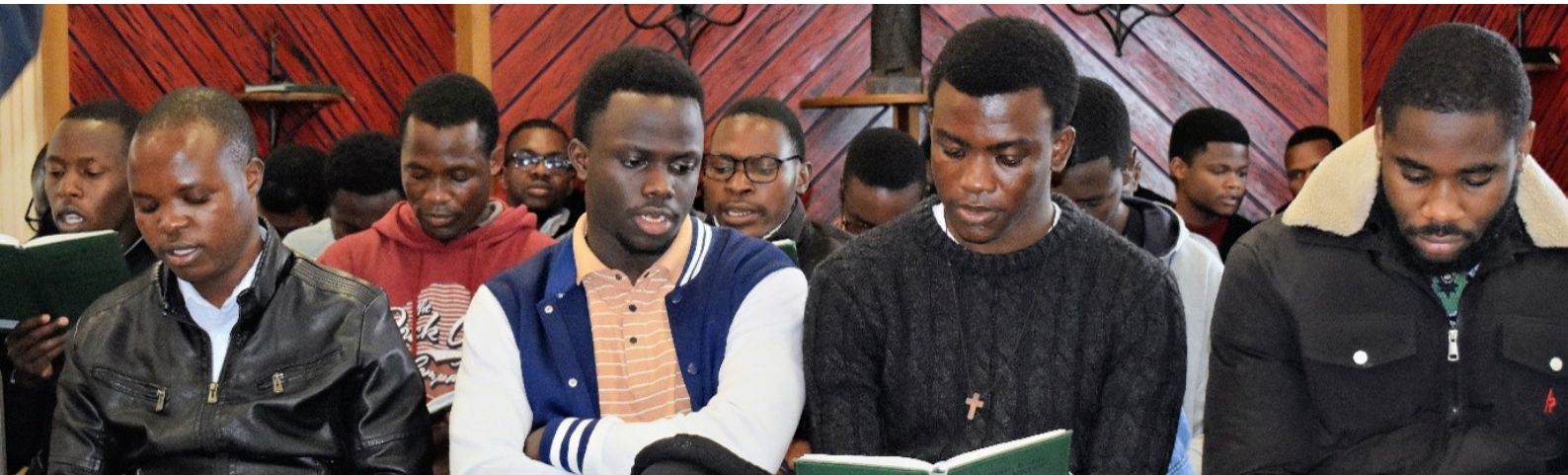
Through prayer, reflection and heartfelt tributes, those gathered remembered a remarkable academic, mentor and gentleman. The occasion offered an opportunity to celebrate his contributions, reflect on the lives he influenced and give thanks for the gift of his presence among us.

The moments shared during the Memorial Mass reflected the deep love, respect and gratitude felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him.
May his legacy continue to inspire generations to come, and may he rest in eternal peace.














ENT 429



AJU Unplugged, Beyond the Classroom



How well do you really know Tsitsi? There may be more to her story than you think! Tune in to this podcast episode for fascinating insights, surprising revelations and a fresh perspective. Click the link and discover something you didn't know! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPk_HDAt180

What to look forward to:

- AJU Unplugged: Beyond The Classroom Podcast, Episode 3
- Women's Conference 5 December 2026
- EASA Aviation Maintenance Training at AJU: Discover the EASA Aviation Maintenance Training MTO Part-147 programme by Flyon Aero, with the first phase focusing on examinations hosted at Arrupe Jesuit University (AJU), Harare. Planned examinations will be communicated as dates are scheduled, opening up opportunities for aspiring aviation professionals to advance their careers locally.

Find out more: https://flyon.aero/world/zimbabwe/

ARRUPE JESUIT UNIVERSITY

PRESENTS



ARRUPE CULTURE NIGHT 2026

Rooted in Culture, Inspired by Faith.

SATURDAY
NOV 7TH
6PM TILL LATE

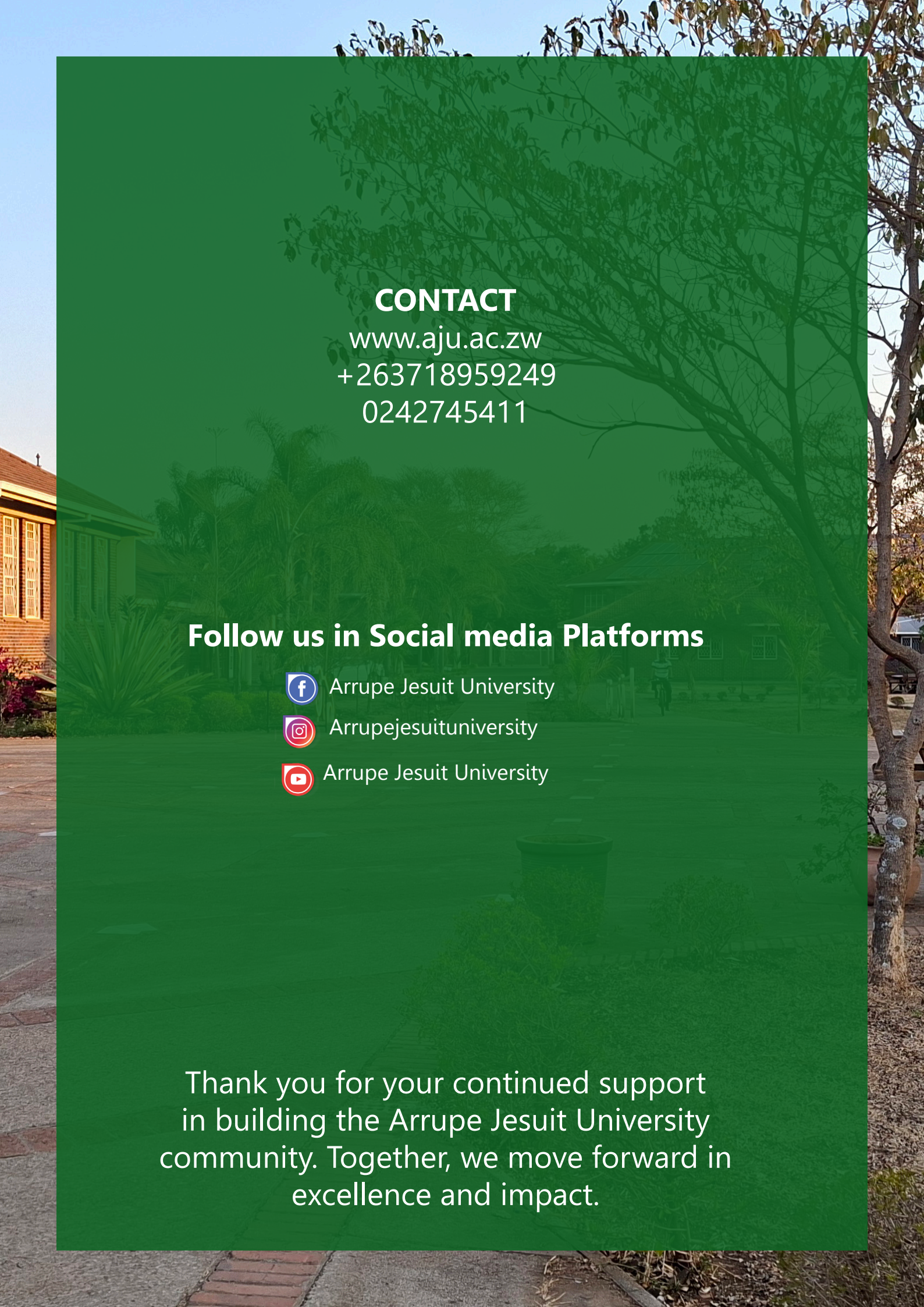
ARRUPE JESUIT UNIVERSITY
No. 16 Link Road,
Mt. Pleasant, Harare.

TICKETS

KIDS	ENTRY ONLY	ORDINARY	VIP	VVIP
$5 (No T-shirt)	$10 (No T-shirt)	$15 Round-neck T-shirt $20 Golf T-shirt	$25 Round-neck T-shirt $30 Golf T-shirt	$50 Golf T-shirt

All prices in USD

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRY
+263 789 990 833 | +263 781 635 696 | +263 778 254 414



CONTACT

www.aju.ac.zw
+263718959249
0242745411

Follow us in Social media Platforms

Arrupe Jesuit University
Arrupejesuituniversity
Arrupe Jesuit University

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