



Welcome to the fifth edition of our library newsletter. In this issue, we highlight the courage of our students as they defend their dissertation, celebrate the outstanding research accomplishments by Rev. Dr. Musendekwa, explore the world of academic publishing from the Journal of Inclusive and Innovative Practices (JOIIP), then after, follow the journey of RCU FC as they navigate their inaugural season in the Masvingo Social Soccer Club. Lastly, we bid farewell to two members of the library department. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Students bravely defend their dissertations in the presence of the Pro Vice-Chancellor

The end of the semester brought fear and anticipation into the hearts of final-year students defending their dissertations. On May 15, 2024, the Faculty of Commerce in collaboration with the library department held Viva Voce for final-year students. On the day, 13 students had their nerves high as the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. Makaye, was part of the panel.

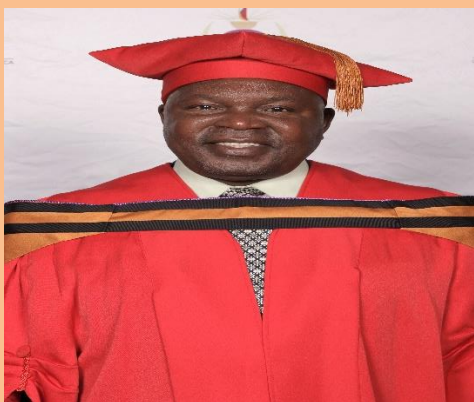
Stories of dedication and resilience were written all over anxious faces of students. Each student had spent months, immersed in their research, navigating through challenges both academic and personal. Some had struggled with persistent interactions with supervisors,

grappling with the demands of balancing research, coursework, and exams. Despite these hurdles, they made it to the final stage of their dissertation. As the VIVAs commenced, the Pro Vice-Chancellor listened attentively to each presentation, probing the students on their methodologies, findings, and the practical implications of their research. Some students demonstrated confidence, articulating their findings clearly, while others persevered through moments of uncertainty with the support of their Supervisors.

During breaks, the Pro Vice-Chancellor addressed the students and their supervisors, acknowledging their challenges and

emphasizing dedication to research excellence. Drawing on his experiences, he shared insights into key elements of successful research: rigorous methodology, ethical considerations, and effective communication of findings. The Pro Vice-Chancellor encouraged students and supervisors to build strong working relationships, built on trust, respect, and open communication. He emphasized the value of mentorship in guiding students through the research process, offering support during both triumphs and setbacks. The day ended with a sense of accomplishment as each student who had bravely defended their dissertation left with a renewed sense of purpose and pride.

Excellence in Research: Celebrating Rev. Dr. Musendekwa's Success in Research



Rev. Dr. Menard. Musendekwa, who recently earned his Doctorship. Is a distinguished Department of Theology Chairperson and a lecturer at Reformed Church University. Dr Musendekwa, has made significant strides in academic research. His dedication to expanding Theological discourse and contributing valuable

insights to research deserves commendation and recognition. In 2024, Dr. Musendekwa has managed to publish 5 publications. Prior to this, he has authored 7 Book chapters, 6 journal articles and has presented 14 International Conference Papers.

Rev. Dr. Musendekwa is an inspiration and a reminder of the importance of investing in publishing as research publications not only disseminate knowledge but also establish credibility, foster academic dialogue, and pave way for further advancements in the respective fields. His publications not only enhance the academic reputation of Reformed Church University but also contribute to the broader scholarly community. By actively engaging in rigorous research and consistently publishing his findings, Dr Musendekwa has set a high standard for academic excellence and intellectual curiosity among his peers. In his interview, Dr Musendekwa noted that what has brought about his success is his consistency and persistence as research and publishing require consistent effort and persistence. He dedicated time for research activities amidst teaching responsibilities and other commitments. On top of consistency and persistence, Dr. Musendekwa advises academics to engage in collaborations with colleagues and peers within and outside the institution as networking can provide valuable insights, feedback, and opportunities for collaborative research projects.

Dr. Musendekwa recommends that academics identify reputable journals and conferences that align with one's research focus as publishing in recognised spaces enhances the visibility and impact of one's research. Academics are advised to invest in publishing, share their published work with the library department to enhance content in the Institutional Repository and to always support one another in research and celebrate each other's success in publishing.

Inspiring Academic Research Publishing: Journal of Inclusive and Innovative Practices (JOIIP)

The Journal of Inclusive and Innovative Practices (JOIIP), a ground-breaking peer-reviewed, open-access journal, has made significant strides since its launch in 2023. Under the visionary leadership of Chief Editor Professor Gamuchirai Tsitsi Ndamba, JOIIP has become a vital platform for advancing research, promoting inclusivity, and fostering innovation. JOIIP focuses on the intersection of diversity, equity, and creativity across various domains the mission j JOIIP is to create a culture of inclusivity and innovation by amplifying the voices of the underrepresented and marginalized groups. Through original research, reviews, and perspectives, JOIIP sheds light on critical issues and encourages dialogue among scholars, practitioners, and policymakers.

The introductory volume 1 of JOIIP, which was released in 2023, features 12 thought-provoking articles. These contributions span a wide range of topics, from education and technology to social justice and commerce. JOIIP has an exceptional editorial team comprising of seasoned academics, researchers, and practitioners, who ensure the journal's quality and relevance. Expert reviewers from different countries collaborate to evaluate submissions, ensuring a broad range of perspectives. With its successful debut, JOIIP is set to make an even greater impact in the academic community. As it continues to evolve, the journal invites researchers, practitioners, and advocates to contribute their insights and engage in meaningful conversations. For more information and to explore the articles from JOIIP's inaugural volume, visit [Journal of Inclusive and Innovative Practices \(rcu.ac.zw\)](http://Journal of Inclusive and Innovative Practices (rcu.ac.zw))

From Campus to Field: RCU FC's Debut Season Challenges and Triumphs



RCU FC has presented a platform for staff members to engage in sports while promoting teamwork and fitness alongside their academic pursuits. Led by Coach T. Chisosa, the team has played 15 games, winning 6, drawing 1, and losing 8. It is currently sitting 14th in a 20-team log. Gift Saladi is the team captain and the top

goal scorer with 5 goals. As a relatively new entrant into the Masvingo Organised Social Soccer Club, RCU FC has faced a tough start, grappling to meet the high expectations set for a new team. Despite these early struggles, the team remains determined to learn and grow as the season progresses. During the interview, a team member expressed optimism, emphasizing their commitment to improving performance and leaving a positive impact on the league through the universal language of sport.

What truly sets RCU FC apart is its commitment to inclusivity as the football club actively promotes diversity and embraces players of all abilities. Notably, they have a hearing-impaired

member who plays a crucial role in the field. Participating in local leagues has provided a recreational outlet for staff members to unwind and bond outside academic responsibilities. The experience gained from competitive matches contributes to personal growth and teamwork skills. This overall fitness approach align with RCU's holistic trust to education and community engagement. In their next match, RCU FC has been paired with **Zimtile FC**. It promises yet to be another thrilling encounter as RCU battles with these giants at the Masvingo Arena B on the 20th of July. We are all encouraged to support RCU FC as they continue with their matches.

The Library Department bids farewell to two staff members.

It is with mixed emotions that the Library department bids farewell to two cherished members of the library team, Ms. P. Mabhena and Mr P. Zvenyika. The duo have been integral parts of our library family, contributing their expertise, dedication, and warmth to our community. We wish them well as they embark on new journey. We are excited to see the positive impact they will undoubtedly make in their future endeavors. **Please join us in wishing Ms. P. Mabhena and Mr P. Zvenyika the best of luck in their future endeavors!**

Editor's Corner

Reformed Church University Library newsletter aims to keep you informed with library valuable updates, resources, and insights. Published monthly, our newsletter is available digitally via email, WhatsApp, and our website, ensuring easy access for all members. Stay connected with us for the latest news and events at RCU Library!

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