

# WELLINGTON TATENDA GWAVAVA

Graduate Research Assistant | PhD in Cyber Studies | TU Cyber Fellow

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## SUMMARY

Dynamic professional with over 11 years of progressive academic experience—progressing from Teaching Assistant to Lecturer and eventually Acting Chairperson—where I honed leadership, consulting, and management skills. Currently pursuing a PhD in Cyber Studies at The University of Tulsa, focused on enhancing cybersecurity efficiency by aligning CISO and analyst objectives. Demonstrated success in digital transformation, quality assurance, and program development, with a passion for collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement. Passionate about bridging academia and industry through research, innovation, and strategic cybersecurity initiatives.

## CORE SKILLS & EXPERTISE

- *Cybersecurity & Operational Efficiency:* SOC Governance, CISO-Analyst Alignment, Incident Response, Risk Management, Threat Intelligence, Security Awareness Training, Vulnerability Management, Security Auditing
- *Leadership & Consulting:* Faculty Management, Stakeholder Engagement, Security Strategy & Policy Development, Curriculum Design, Industry Collaboration, Project Oversight
- *Digital Transformation:* SOP Digitization & Automation, Process Optimization, ERP Solutions, Data Security, Cloud Security, IT Governance
- *Project Management:* Cross-functional Team Leadership, Industry Collaboration, Hackathon Organization, Research Supervision, Project Delivery
- *Technical Expertise:* Full-Stack Development (HTML, CSS, JS, React, Node.js, PHP, SQL, Java), Python, R, SIEM, NIST Cybersecurity Framework, MITRE ATT&CK
- *Certifications:* Google Cybersecurity, AWS Cloud Foundations

## EXPERIENCE

### The University of Tulsa

#### *SOC Analyst in IT/IT Security*

Tulsa, OK

(June 2025 – Present)

- Conduct research targeting improvements in cybersecurity operational efficiency through organizational alignment.

### The University of Tulsa

#### *Graduate Research Assistant & TU Cyber Fellow*

Tulsa, OK

(Aug 2023 – Present)

- Conduct research targeting improvements in cybersecurity operational efficiency through organizational alignment.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams on strategic approaches to risk management and resource allocation.

### Harare Institute of Technology

#### *Acting Chairperson, Department of Computer Science*

Harare, Zimbabwe

(July 2021 – July 2023)

- Managed a team of 10 faculty members, executing strategic planning and enhancing program offerings.
- Led eight strategic academic regulations updates and launched three new degree programs (1 B.Tech and 2 M.Tech), incorporating industry needs and national standards.
- Digitized departmental SOPs (~70% online), improving operational efficiency and quality assurance.
- Established an Industry Advisory Board of 8 experts, strengthening ties between academia and the private sector.
- Supervised 2 Master's and 8 Bachelor's student projects, focusing on organizational resilience and cutting-edge automation technologies.

### Harare Institute of Technology

#### *Key Consulting & Advisory Highlights (While Acting Chairperson)*

Harare, Zimbabwe

(July 2021 – July 2023)

- ZIMSTAT: Developed a census registration tool, streamlining national data collection 2022 Population and Housing Census.
- HEXCO (Higher Education Examinations Council):
  - Served as IT expert for 3 exam moderation sessions and 1 curriculum development.
  - Investigated 16 exam integrity cases.
  - Evaluated 12 examination-center preparedness and recommended improvements.
- ZIMCHE (Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education):
  - Contributed to national IT curriculum standards.
  - Led 2 quality assurance audits and reviews for Computer Science department.

### Harare Institute of Technology

#### *Lecturer, Department of Computer Science*

Harare, Zimbabwe

(Oct 2015 – June 2021)

- Coordinated 12 examination sessions, ensuring academic integrity across multiple courses.
- Developed and delivered course materials for 18 courses, including “Web Programming, Software Project Management, Artificial Intelligence & Expert Systems, Neural Networks & Pattern Matching, Mobile Computing & Wireless Networks”.

- Created a digital internship monitoring platform, simplifying student–industry liaison.
- Supervised 15 BTech projects; organized 3 departmental exhibitions to showcase student innovation.

### **Harare Institute of Technology**

#### **Teaching Assistant, Department of Computer Science**

**Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**(July 2012 – Sep 2015)**

- Conducted tutorials and labs for 4 core courses, supporting foundational knowledge in Computer Science including “Artificial Intelligence & Expert Systems, Computer Organization and Architecture, and Introduction to Computer Science”
- Introduced a school-wide digital timetable system, significantly streamlining scheduling.

### **Unified Africa Technologies**

#### **Enterprise Solutions Executive**

**Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**(Apr 2012 – July 2012)**

- Provided technical sales and consulting for enterprise software/hardware solutions, tailoring offerings to client needs.
- Implemented ERP systems and led configuration for ZIMSTAT mapping devices during census operations 2012.
- Attained multiple industry certifications (VMware, HP, Kaspersky, EMC).

### **AIT Distribution (Pvt) Ltd**

#### **Developer, Designer & Animator (Intern)**

**Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**(Jan 2010 – Aug 2010)**

- Developed and debugged web applications, focusing on usability and performance.
- Created graphic designs and animations, contributing to enhanced user experience for client projects.

## **EDUCATION**

### **The University of Tulsa,**

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD, Cyber Studies ·

**Tulsa, OK**  
**(May 2026)**

*Focus: Streamlining cybersecurity operations through better CISO–analyst alignment and strategic planning.*

### **JNTUH College of Engineering Hyderabad,**

Master of Technology - M Tech, Computer Science ·

**Hyderabad, India**  
**(2013 - 2015)**

### **Harare Institute of Technology,**

Bachelor of Technology - B Tech, Computer Science ·

**Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**(2007 - 2011)**

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

- **Google Cybersecurity Certificate**
- **AWS Academy Cloud Foundations**
- VMware Sales Professional (VSP 5) & VMware Sales Technical Professional (VTSP 5)
- HP SMB Storage Certified Professional
- Sales Specialist of Kaspersky Lab Consumer Solutions
- EMC Technical Certification

## **PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCES**

- Mismatched SOCs: A Case Study of Cybersecurity Goal Incongruence Within an Academic SOC - *Workshop on SOC Operations and Construction (WOSOC) 2025*
- Virtual Technologies for Tourism Promotion in Zimbabwe - *2022 1st Zimbabwe Conference of Information and Communication Technologies (ZCICT)*
- Digitalization as a Way of Preserving Cultural Content, History, and Heritage Sites - *Zimbabwe Infrastructure Investment & Development Conference (ZIIDC) 2018*
- Collaborative Solution Optimization Using Virtual Technologies - *Zimbabwe Infrastructure Investment & Development Conference (ZIIDC) 2018*
- Virtual Mapping Using 3D Immersive Technology - *RIO-SET EXPO 2016*
- YA-LEACH – Yet Another Extended LEACH for Wireless Sensor Networks - *EEE International Conference on Information Processing (2015)*

## **EXTRACURRICULAR & ACHIEVEMENTS**

- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), University of Tulsa Chapter – Senator 2024-2025
- TU Association of International Students (AIS) - Secretary 2023/ Events Coordinator 2024-2025
- Organized Childline SCREEN ONLINE Hackathon (2022) and CIMAS Innovation Hackathon (2022).
- Organized and Participated in IndabaX Zimbabwe for two years 2022 & 2023, focusing on machine translation for local languages & AI's Intersection with Industry
- Multiple Chess & Table Tennis awards at Chancellor's Games (2017–2021).
- Servant Leadership Certificate, TEAM Seminar – BOOST Fellowship (2008).