

Nyaluza 'Global' computer Whizz-kids back from Italy

THEMBELANI NONXUBA, Siyabulela Nomoyi and Nwabisa Somyali, the three Nathaniel Nyaluza delegates to the Global Junior Challenge (GJC), have returned from their participation in the challenge for computer whizz-kids and have a life changing experience to look back on - and an exciting on-going contact to look forward to.

The pupils and their teacher, Joy Turyagyenda, have been well prepared for the challenge of the next two years of a twinning programme between Nyaluza and the 300-year-old Virgilio School, through exposure to other award winning Information-Communications Technology (ICT) projects from participating schools worldwide.

While the focus of the challenge was exposure to ICT projects, the pupils also had the wonderful opportunity of living in the homes of Italian contemporaries and exploring

the cultural treasures of Rome. "The GJC appointed an interpreter as a guide and we were able to visit the amazing colosseum, the ancient forum of Rome, St Clementine, St Maria Marjorie cathedral and the climax was climbing the steps to the top of the dome of St Peter's Cathedral and the Vatican", said Joy Turyagyenda.

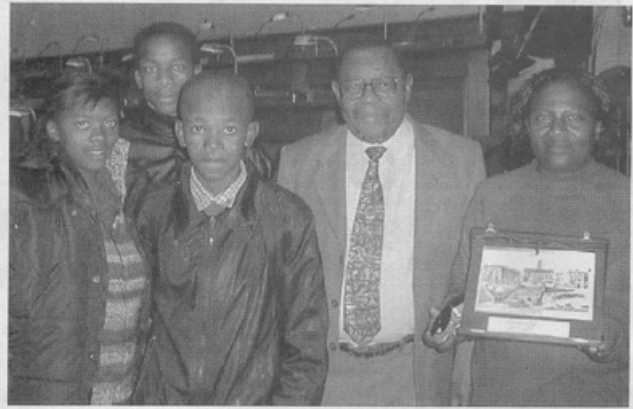
At the closing award ceremony, the South African ambassador to Italy congratulated the Nyaluza delegates after they received an award for their participation in collaborative global ICT projects.

Joy Turyagyenda has expressed grateful thanks to all who supported the learners directly or indirectly, and in particular to the Nathaniel Nyaluza school governing body and the staff, Rhodes University computer science department, Grahamstown Education circuit office, GADRA, ABSA, Sure-Go Travel, Eskom, Grahamstown Pharmacy, Kodak Express

Grahamstown, Ms Di Hornby of CSD, Welcome Centre, Incredible Books, Grahamstown Tourism office, AutoZone and Mr Stevens.

Special mention must go to Guy Halse for the technical support of the computer lab. Prof Cheryl Hodgkinson for training and support in school based ICT, and Alfredo Terzoli, co-ordinator of Telkom Centre of Excellence (hosted in the computer science department, Rhodes University) for the sponsorship of Internet connectivity and for constant monitoring of the Internet since 1999. Without the Internet, Computer-Mediated Collaborative Learning, and subsequent participation in the challenge would not have been possible for the learners of Nyaluza High School.

Below and on page three are the experiences of the three Nathaniel Nyaluza pupils who travelled to Rome for the Global Junior Challenge.



The three Nathaniel Nyaluza pupils who represented their school at the Global Junior Challenge in Rome during December. From the left, Nwabisa Somyali, Siyabulela Nomoyi and Thembelani Nonxuba seen here with the South African ambassador to Italy (second from the right). On the right is Nyaluza school teacher Joy Turyagyenda.

The journey to Rome

MS Joy Turyagyenda, Siyabulela Nomoyi, Thembelani Nonxuba and I (Nwabisa Somyali) went to Rome to attend a conference. The Global Junior Challenge (GJC).

It is about computer projects. We were called to Rome by the school we were twinned with. I felt very excited about the trip to Rome.

It was a marvelous trip because I went to many places in Rome. We went to the Colosseum, San Pietro, Pantheon, Piazza della Verita, The Pyramid of Gaius Cestius, Basilica of Santa Maria, Basilica of San Marco, Capitoline Hill and the Fontana della Barcaccia where you have to throw a coin in the water and make a wish with your eyes closed. We went to many other important places.

Rome is a very beautiful and historical city, surrounded by many beautiful ancient buildings which are still very strong and useful.

The people of Italy are very kind, sweet and loving. Not to mention the food that the people eat there, especially pizza. Pizza is very common to them like an African salad is to us.

The Italians make the most delicious Pizza I have tasted. Seeing the beautiful places in Rome was like a dream. Looking at the paintings, drawings and statues of the famous architecture. Michael Angelo was very exciting and I loved his work.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors who made this journey a little bit fun. I thank Eskom, Grahamstown Pharmacy, Telkom, ABSA Bank, GADRA, Rhodes Computer Science Department, Sure Go Travel and the ones I haven't mentioned, I want to say thank you very much.

Nwabisa Somyali
15 years



The Nathaniel Nyaluza pupils pictured with the Form VIB class of Virgilio School in Rome.

My trip to Rome

Thursday and Friday 6 to 7 December were the last days for me in Grahamstown. So I had to enjoy the two days while they lasted.

On Thursday people from Telkom and Centre of Excellence from Rhodes University shoot a video at school in the computer centre. I enjoyed that day but the day I enjoyed the most was Friday when we went to ABSA to change our currency to Euros.

We had photographs taken while

balloons with ABSA written on.

The next day when we were in Port Elizabeth, I was very excited. I could see the aeroplanes taking off and landing. When I was going to the aeroplane (Nationwide). I was very excited about taking off; those are the moments I enjoyed most.

I enjoyed the long wait in Johannesburg. Then we took off to Belgium by Sobelair. When we were in Brussels I was the first one to touch a coin. I enjoyed clay-

was to Rome (Alitalia). The service was good on board and I enjoyed watching television. When we arrived in Rome we had to wait for our baggage for a long time.

The teachers of Virgilio School welcomed us. It felt great to be in Rome, drivers, sit on the left, cars run on the right hand side of the road and the cars are very small. The family that I lived with I am very grateful to. In my room there was a TV and I had my own bathroom.

Colosseum, arch of the Constantine, fountain of Trivi, Fontana del Moro, saw the court of the angel, the most beautiful one St Peter's Basilica, Bocca Della Verita, Pyramid of Gaius Cestius and other beautiful places. I loved the places, tours and the food. I wish I could go back.

I would like to thank all the people who helped us and supported us for our trip. God bless them as He blesses me. Thank you.



Thembelani Nonxuba, Nwabisa Somyali and Siyabulela Nomoyi pictured in front of the building where the Global Junior Chal-