

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

MOELLER STUDENTS 'PEN' PEERS IN MALAWI

CINCINNATI, September 3, 2007 – From southeastern Africa to northeastern Cincinnati, two writing teachers thousands of miles apart recently embarked on a literary venture to both broaden their students' perspectives and shrink their worldview.

Archbishop Moeller High School English Teacher Mike Moroski and a teacher in Malawi, Matt Maroon of Chaminade Secondary School in the town of Karonga, set up a pen pal – or, more accurately, an “e-pal” – exchange between their students.

“The project originated when Matt Maroon contacted Bro. Ron (Luksic) with the idea, and Bro. Ron forwarded the e-mail, and he set us up,” said Moroski. “I believe the mission of the exchange is to draw our Marianist Family closer together, and to teach our students a most valuable lesson: That we are all not so different. In fact, we are more like each other in our humanity than we ever stopped to realize.”

Robbie Stroehein '09 agrees. “(T)eens in American think and act just the same ways as the teens do in Africa,” he said. “I found out they take the same classes as us, but it is more difficult for them because they don't have lots of learning tools...”

“People in Africa live their lives, and they don't worry about what they don't have,” said Nathan Gushulak '09.

“I realized how lucky we are to have what we have here at Moeller,” said Matt Botts '09. “I also realized my pen pal has extremely high goals. (He taught me) that if you don't shoot high at a goal, the chance of you accomplishing what you want is almost impossible.”

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“The most amazing part of the project was seeing how excited the guys got about their letters,” said Moroski. “They even sent a box of Moeller t-shirts back with Matt (who visited Moeller and gave classroom presentations). Now, when someone mentions Africa, they will be able to say with pride that their friend lives there. Also, they will be far more open to the plight of the continent when they hear about it on the news. Who knows, one of them may go as a missionary, like Matt, to Malawi someday. *Very cool stuff!*”

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SIDEBAR: The **Republic of Malawi** is a democratic, densely populated country located in southeastern Africa. It borders Zambia to the northwest, Tanzania to the north, and Mozambique, surrounding it on the east, south, and west.

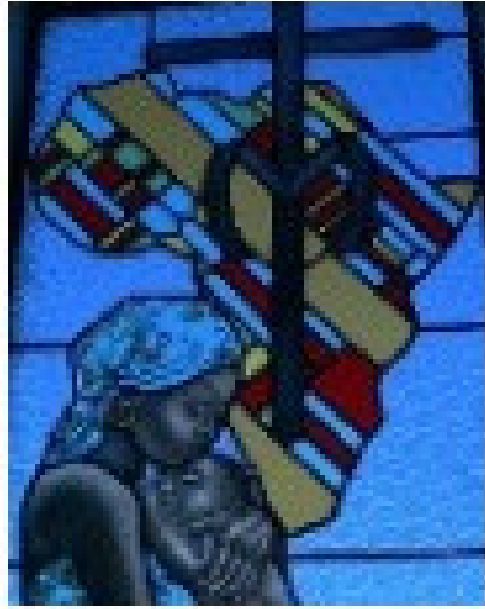
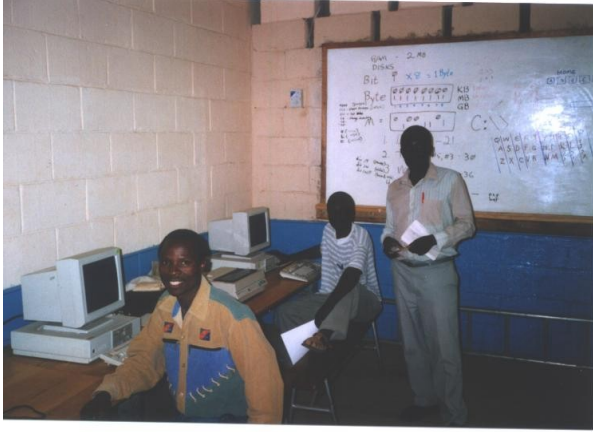
SIDEBAR for FAMILY ONLINE: In Malawi, the Marianists' projects are the Chaminade Secondary School and M.I.R.A.C.L.E., a rural job training service for youths orphaned by AIDS.

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Photos Attached:



Students in Malawi proudly wear their t-shirts and display solidarity for their Moeller “e-pals.”



Additional pics for *Family Online*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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