

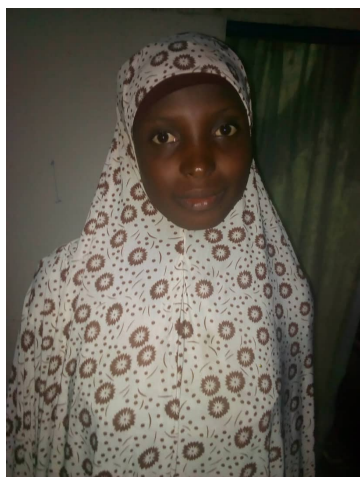


Salikenni Scholarship Fund Annual Report December 2018

In Their Own Words

For this year's annual report, we asked our students to reflect back on the academic year and tell us about their successes, challenges, and hopes for the future. With help from Ousman Jarju, SSF's manager in The Gambia, we include here a selection of their responses, very lightly edited.

Kassamanding Kanteh, Nusrat Senior Secondary School, Grade 12, Commerce



All years are not the same. Some can be boring while others can be really exciting and leave a memorable impression in your mind. This year, being among the years that excites me most, has to say a lot about my future. It is the year that marks the end of my secondary school career and the start of a new chapter in my life. After I walk across the stage in June, everything is going to change, nothing will ever be the same.

Sometimes I have this enlightened moment where I say to myself, Wow, this is my last year in high school, I am about to graduate. And then I see myself walking the verandas of the University.

Ever since I was in primary school, my eye was always set upon being a nurse, but due to some reasons, I wasn't able to study science.

However, I now like to study accounting and would like to become an accountant. From the day I started studying commerce as a field, accounting has been my best subject and that passion will continue to the end.

Fatoumata Fatajo, Salikenni Upper Basic School, Grade 7, new student

I am really happy for the fact that I took first in the trial exam among my fellow girls and as well glad for being part of the Salikenni Scholarship Fund. It is a project that has helped many succeed, and it's a pleasure to be part of the family. 2018 is quite a good year for me not only because of SSF but also it is a beginning of a new experience for me altogether.

I admire bankers and would like to be one in the future. For the fact that I enjoy playing with figures, I know that I will be comfortable in the banking sector and thus would want to choose it as my career.



Amadou Ceesay, University of The Gambia, 2nd Year, Political Science



The Salikenni Scholarship Fund is the organization that has molded up my potential and talents to be who I am today. It serves as an inspiration and keeps motivating me. It built up my career and I am glad today to be the only child of my parents going to the University of The Gambia. Going to the university is a privilege as many do not get access to it. SSF serves as my first and last resort. It gives me whatever I need as long as education is concerned.

This year is very special for me because I am getting to understand my area more as a 2nd year student, and I am getting even more prepared toward the last phase of my course. After completing my bachelor's degree, I want to do my master's in international relations.

My dream is to become a diplomat. This dream came to me as a result of the foreign policy of The Gambia, which in most cases does not serve its people.

Ebrima Jallow, newly graduated nurse

Words can't express how special 2018 is in my life. Being the first to receive formal education in my family, I am seriously happy that I am able to help my family, friends, and loved ones from the nursing job I got this year. 2018 has really opened a new page in my life. It shows how important I am now to my family and the community.

I am really proud to have achieved this feat but I have no intention to stop here. My target is to become a doctor and I hope and pray that this dream will come to light some day. I am proud and will always be thankful to SSF for always being there for me.



Mariama Ceesay, University of The Gambia, Final Year, Medicine



The excitement I have for 2018 is huge. I am expecting to finish my 7 years' marathon at the University. By December I will receive my license to operate as a medical doctor in The Gambia.

Even though I am not now sponsored by SSF, I still consider myself part and parcel of SSF as it was the one that stepped up for me when I needed it most. I am very grateful and proud that I am the first in the history of SSF to graduate from the medical school. Even though I am married I hope to work closely with other SSF students to help them realize their dreams in their various disciplines. I hope to work in one of the best hospitals in the world someday and be a source of inspiration to others.



A Message from the Fund Administrators

When Don and Alison May started the Salikenni Scholarship Fund (SSF) in 1996 they had a simple goal: to improve access to education for young people in the Salikenni region of The Gambia, in West Africa.

Since then, starting in the 7th grade, hundreds of students from Salikenni and the nearby villages of Dobo, Mandori, and Bani have benefitted from SSF. Some have made it just a few years before family demands have drawn them back to the farm, but the majority have moved on to secondary school. Many of our older students live in SSF's campus in Serrekunda, a suburb of Banjul, the Gambian capital, and a growing number are pursuing studies beyond secondary school. Today we have 119 active students in the program, 27 of whom are enrolled in college or other post-secondary programs. With the generosity of several anonymous donors, one SSF student is working on a master's in accounting in Rome and a second is attending college in Minnesota (see p. 6).

Our former students are now accountants, journalists, doctors, and nurses. In a "pay it forward" approach, in 2012 a group of recent graduates established a governance and operating structure to ensure that future generations can receive the same benefits that they did; with our oversight, this team now runs the program on a local basis.

There is nothing tangible that makes SSF students stand out—they don't have t-shirts, or patches, or special backpacks to distinguish them—but they all share a hunger for education and an enthusiastic appreciation for the opportunities that SSF provides them and their families.

As we read the stories of the students featured in this year's report, we can't help but notice how similar their goals are to those of kids we know—they just don't have the same chances for success. We are very appreciative of your past support, and we once again ask you to help make a difference to these young, aspiring students so they can achieve their fullest potential. Please share this report with others who may be interested in helping, and we welcome feedback on opportunities for enhancing the program's impact.

As always, we dedicate our annual report to our students' accomplishments, and we look forward to reporting them again next year!

Thank you for your support,

Anne May Hart, Dave May, Libby May

Adama Barry, Salikenni Upper Basic School, Grade 9



I am working hard toward the final exam in June. It is a pleasure to be in the 9th grade especially knowing that your days at the junior level are numbered. This gives you another feeling that you need to work extra hard so that you will be part of those going to high school. All these together makes this year an exciting one for not only me but for all the 9th graders in the Country.

I want to attend Nusrat high school, study science, and become a medical Doctor after completing the University.

Maimuna Camera, Kotu Senior Secondary School, Grade 10

I am really proud of this year because it is the year that I got into high school from Salikenni. It is always hard for a girl to cross the hurdles of grade nine from the village, which I clearly did. I am especially pleased that I am able to be in the SSF campus, which made life easier for me as I would have really struggled to have a comfortable place like the campus to stay. I am amazed to find out that the campus doesn't only have internet for research but also there are wonderful senior students around you to help and guide. I honestly would like to be a finance director after I finish university.



Omar Bah, Salikenni Upper Basic School, Grade 7, new student



My name is Omar Bah, a new SSF student. I feel really excited this year as my dream throughout my primary school has been realized. I have worked very hard during my lower grades at school to be able find a place in SSF. Now I have got it I thank God for that. I want this program to help me to achieve my biggest dream: to become a medical doctor because I love helping sick people. I promise to work hard from now until the time that I become a doctor.

I am glad to be part of SSF, and my family is proud of me as well for this milestone.

Isatou Dampha, Kotu Senior Secondary School, Grade 10

I am Isatou, 17, from Salikenni. I attended Salikenni Basic Cycle School up to grade nine, when I got second on the WAEC exam in the whole school. I am really excited that I am able to get into one of the best high schools in the country. 2018 is so special to me as I have started a new challenge in my life as far as education is concerned, but I am really looking up to it. I want to be an accountant after I complete university.



In 2014, SSF celebrated its first college graduate. Since then, our collegiate ranks have grown and SSF students are now well represented at the University of The Gambia. In many cases they are the first in their families to reach this level of education. They will have important roles to play in the future of their country.



Jainaba Faye
Accounting
2nd year



Pa Yorro Darboe
Economics
7th year



Wuyeh Keita
Medicine
5th year



Balagie Conteh
Law
3rd year



Mama Trawally
Access Program



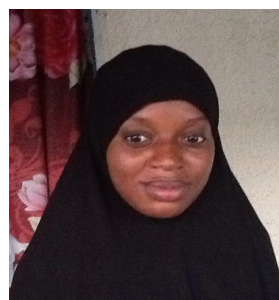
Amadou Bah
Accounting
3rd year



Aliou Darboe
Islamic Studies
2nd year



Amadou Ceesay
Political Science
2nd year



Jainaba Bah
Nursing
2nd year



Bubacarr Fatajo
Political Science
1st year



Omar Samateh
Medicine
1st year



Ansumana Kassama
Accounting
3rd year



Mustapha Ceesay
Nursing
2nd year



Mariama Ceesay
Medicine
7th year



Buba Njie
Political Science
2nd year

An Update and A Milestone

You may remember Ebrima Morong from last year's annual report—he was one of five Gambian students to participate in an international robotics competition. Ebrima is now pursuing an engineering degree at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He recently sent us this update:

Transitions in life are a great way of expanding one's horizon. I believe MSU is that institution where your thoughts become real-world solutions that in the long run can have a positive impact. In a nutshell, I am doing well in my academics. The teasing weather in Minnesota is another experience.



We are proud of Ebrima not only for his academic achievement but also for his resourcefulness, stoicism, and sense of humor.

An Excerpt from the Annual Report from SSF's Manager in The Gambia

2018 has unfolded as another successful year. We currently have 15 active university students pursuing different careers in The Gambia, as well as a few more in foreign universities. For the first time in its history, SSF will have a medical doctor in The Gambia. Mariama Ceesay, a medical student at the University of The Gambia, is expected to finish her seventh year of study at the end of 2018. In Ebrima Jallow, SSF has also produced its second nurse for The Gambia.

Also, we are very pleased to report that SSF is doing all it can to break the norm of girls lagging behind in education: in 2018 we admitted more girls than boys into high school based on their performance from the last grade 9 exam. In short, the syndrome of girls being inferior to boys is a thing of the past as far as SSF is concerned.



Ousman and his family in the SSF campus in Serrekunda

*Ousman B.Y. Jarju
SSF manager in The Gambia*

Your support goes a long way:

\$100 pays three months' salary for one of our many tutors.

\$25 pays for 11 high school literature books.

\$60 pays one month of our librarian's salary.

\$500 pays the salary for our Gambian administrator for 4 months.

\$1000 more than covers the tuition for one semester at the University of The Gambia.

What We Do

The Salikenni Scholarship Fund (SSF), established in 1996, is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing opportunity for education in the village of Salikenni and several nearby villages in the rural North Bank region of The Gambia in West Africa.

We provide:

Scholarships Starting in the seventh grade at the government school in Salikenni and continuing through high school and four years of higher education in The Gambia. Provided scholarships for one student pursuing a master's degree in accounting in Rome and another student pursuing an undergraduate engineering degree at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Tutoring For our students in the village and those attending high schools in the metropolitan area.

A Library At the Salikenni school, designed to promote a culture of reading, with many books by African authors. We pay the salary of the librarian.

Housing We rent a large compound in Serrekunda in the metropolitan area where many of our high school students live in a supervised environment, with regular meals and access to computers and tutoring.

This year we supported: 90 students in grades 7-12
27 students in university or other post-secondary programs
2 students studying outside of The Gambia
119 total

25 of these students live and are supported in our urban campus.

Selection: Each year we bring into the program an equal number of girls and boys, in seventh grade in Salikenni. We select them based on financial need and academic ability.

Management: SSF is managed within The Gambia by a volunteer board comprised entirely of our higher education students and alumni, all of whom have been educated under the program.

Administrators: Dave May, US manager; Anne May Hart, treasurer; Libby May, communications director; and Don May, founder.

Managers in The Gambia: Ousman B.Y. Jarju, manager; Abdoulie Bah, assistant manager

Contributions: The program is financed through contributions from individuals. Salikenni Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)3 organization, which means that contributions to it are tax deductible. Please see last page for contribution details.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.salikenni.org

The Salikenni Scholarship Fund
Financial Statement
November 1, 2017 through October 31, 2018

Cash available November 1, 2017 **\$36,281**

Income

Unrestricted Contributions	\$27,390
Restricted Contribution for Undergraduate Scholarship	5,000
Interest	<u>77</u>
Total Income	\$32,467

Expenses

Tuition – high school and university students in The Gambia ¹	\$12,282
Tuition and housing – university in US ²	12,664
Tutoring in The Gambia ³	2,975
Gambian salaries ⁴	3,076
Gambian campus expenses ⁵	9,937
Gambian computer expenses ⁶	715
Graduate scholarship ⁷	5,093
Bank, PayPal and international wire fees	778
Website hosting	218
Loss due to currency conversion ⁸	<u>1,874</u>
Total Expenses	\$49,612

October 31, 2018 Account Balances

US Checking Account	\$11,859
Graduate Scholarship Account	3,973
Gambian Checking Account	3,163
Gambia Petty Cash	<u>141</u>

Cash available October 31, 2018 **\$19,136**

The SSF board admitted 14 new Grade 7 students into the program for the 2018-19 school year.

Because tuition in Gambian government schools is now free through high school, the cost of adding new students is relatively small. But our costs for tuition and related campus housing will continue to rise as an increasing number of students move into higher education in The Gambia. This means your support is more appreciated than ever.

¹ Includes tuition, books, exam fees for students in Salikenni and the metropolitan campus

² Partially offset by a generous \$5,000 donation by an anonymous donor

³ Tutoring in Salikenni; weekend classes on metropolitan campus

⁴ Salaries for Gambian managers, librarian, and campus cook

⁵ Includes annual housing rent, electricity, food, fares, and supplies in metropolitan campus

⁶ Internet connection charges

⁷ Expense fully covered by a 2017 designated donation

⁸ Actual Gambian expenditures are converted from dalasis to dollars for the purpose of this report. Due to the decline of the dalasi against the dollar, Gambian expenditures are understated when expressed in US dollars. Assumes \$1 = 49 dalasis.

We are grateful to our past supporters and welcome new ones!
Your support will make it possible for SSF to continue giving financial aid to our students.

The Salikenni Scholarship Fund is a 501(c)3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible.
The Tax ID number is 03-035-3911.

Checks should be made payable to:

**Salikenni Scholarship Fund
c/o Anne May Hart
7772 Waterview Lane
Chestertown, MD 21620**

**or donate online at:
www.salikenni.org**

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