

Saint Mary's University

Convocation

Tuesday

16 February 1999



FOR THE GAMBIA OUR HOMELAND

For The Gambia, our homeland
We strive and work and pray
That all may live in unity
Freedom and peace each day
Let justice guide our actions
Towards the common good
And join our diverse peoples
To prove man's brotherhood.

We pledge our firm allegiance
Our promise we renew
Keep us, great God of nations
To The Gambia ever true.

O CANADA

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide, O Canada,
We stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land, glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Convocation is a joyous yet solemn event, bound by traditions which have evolved over centuries. It is a continuum with a formal beginning and an end. By being present here today, you have indicated your interest in being part of this academic tradition. Graduating students and their guests are therefore expected to remain in their seats until this formal ceremony has been completed in its entirety - the Chancellor of the University has officially closed Convocation and the stage party and graduates have recessed.

Order of Academic Procession

Marshal of Convocation

Graduates

Guests

Faculty

Dean of Faculty

Honorary Degree Recipient

President and Chancellor (Pro Tem)

The audience is requested to stand when the Academic Procession arrives, to remain standing until the close of the Prayer of Invocation, and at the close of Convocation, to remain standing until all the Academic Procession has recessed.

Please note that names of graduates listed in this program are subject to revision.

Order of Proceedings

Processional

National Anthems

The Gambia

O Canada

Invocations

Valedictory Address

Momodou Sabally

Presentation of Medals and Awards

- University Gold Medal
- Associate Alumni Membership
- Community Service Award

Conferring of Honorary Degree

To be Doctor of Civil Law:

Yahya A. J. J. Jameh

Symbolic Congratulations

Rachel G. Nicol

Convocation Address

Dr. Yahya A. J. J. Jameh

President of The Gambia

Conferring of Undergraduate Degrees

Arts and Science

Remarks

Kenneth L. Ozmon, O.C.

President, Saint Mary's University

Closing of Convocation

Recessional

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Pro Tem Chancellor of Saint Mary's University

Kenneth L. Ozmon, O.C., B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Chairperson of Convocation

Michael J. Larsen, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Dean of Arts, Acting Dean of Education, and Director of the Saint Mary's
University's Extension Program in The Gambia

Marshal of Convocation

Bridglal Pachai, B.A., Hon.B.A., M.A., PhD., D.C.L.(Hon.)

Marshal of Students

Keith Hotchkiss, B.A.

Director of Student Services

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BACHELOR OF ARTS

Ajaja, Babasanmi Oluseyi	Lagos, Nigeria
Badji, Haddy	Banjul
Bah, Momodou	Wellingara
Bah, Sulayman (magna cum laude)	Latri-Kunda Sabeji
Barry, Sulayman	Lamin
Camara, Abu	Jakaba
Camara, Alasan	Basse-Santa-Su
Ceesay, Demba (cum laude)	Sare Yerro Gulori
Ceesay, Hassoum	Panchang
Ceesay, Musukebba	Banjul
Ceesay, Saffie Lowe	Banjul
Cham, Tamsir	Albreda
Conteh, Musa B. B.	Boraba
Darboe, Yankuba	Banjul
Demba, Joseph	Darsilami
Dibba, Isatou	Kanifing
Fye, Ida	Serrekunda
Gai, Ousainou	Soma
Jallow, Demba	Karantaba Tukolor
Jallow, Ebou	Kaur Wharftown
Jallow, Ebou (cum laude)	Njawara
Jallow, Momodou Gallow	Laliya
Jallow, Omar K.	Gisseh Amadou Fayol
Jammeh, Benedict	Kanalie
Jarjou, Sarjo	Darsilami
Jarju, Matthew A.	Kartong
Jarju, Saikou B.	Sukuta
Jarjue, Momodou Lamin	Sanyang
Jarra, Habib Tamasa Baba	Banjul
Jasseh, Badou	Kerr Jarga
Jeng, Abdou M.	Farafenni
Jobe, Bai	Kerr Jarga
Juwara, Nani	Nyakoi Taibatou
Kamaso, Mansanding	Kerewan
Kanteh, Buba	Salikenni
Marenah, Foday	Kudang
Mbowe, Omar B. (magna cum laude)	Banjul
Mbye, Bintou Mass	Banjul
Mendy, Francis Dominic	Serrekunda
Mendy, Francis J.	Serrekunda
Mendy, Paul Kariuka	Sanyang
Mendy, Paul T.	Tujereng
Moore, Ellen Yama	Banjul
Ndure, Ebou A.	Banjul
Nicol, Rachel Grace	Lamin
Njie, Aminata	Serrekunda
Njie, Ousman Momodou	Banjul
Nyabally, Kawsu	Misera
Nyassi, Bakary	Bwiam

Sabally, Momodou
Saho, Alieu
Sallah, Abdoulie
Sallah, Samba
Samateh, Mustapha
Sanneh, Alhajie
Sanneh, Famara
Sanyang, Nyakassi M. B.
Sisay, Lamin B.
Sisay, Matarr
Sowe, Ousman
Trawally, Brima K.

Kataba
Banjul
Serrekunda
Misera
Salikenni
Arankon Kunda
Kwinella
Ndemban
Niamina Sotokoi
Panchang
Bulock
The Gambia

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Jallow, Demba

Karantaba Tukulor

Honorary Degree Recipient

At this Convocation, Saint Mary's University will award an honorary degree to Colonel (Retired) Yahya A. J. J. Jameh.

Colonel (Retired) Yahya A. J. J. Jameh
Doctor of Civil Law (honoris causa)

Born on 25 May 1965 in Kanilai Village, Foni Kansala District in the Western Division of The Gambia, Colonel Jameh was educated at Kanilai Primary School (formerly Saint Anthony's School), Saint Edwards Primary School Bwiam, and Gambia High School after passing the Common Entrance Examinations and attaining a Government Scholarship.

In 1984, he joined what was then the Gambia National Gendarmerie and later transferred to The Gambia National Army and was commissioned in 1989. He attended the Military Police Officers Basic Course (MPOBC) at Fort McClellan, Alabama in the United States of America and obtained a diploma in Military Science in 1994.

President Jameh served under various units in The Gambia National Army. From 1984-1986 he was in the Special Intervention Unit; 1986-89, the Gendarmerie Training School (Escort Training Instructor); 1989-1990, Presidential Guards (in charge of Presidential Escort); 1991 served as Officer commanding in the Mobile Gendarmerie and in 1992 was Officer Command The Gambia National Army Military police, until 22 July 1994 when the Gambia National Army toppled Sir Dawda Jawara and his PPP administration in a bloodless coup.

In 1990, during the Summit of the Economic Community of West African States held in The Gambia, President Jameh was given a special assignment as Special Security Officer for the visiting heads of State attending the ECOWAS Summit. Two years later, during the Papal visit to The Gambia, Lieutenant Jameh was made officer in charge responsible for the security of Pope John Paul II; he was also officer in charge of VIP Security at State House functions (including visiting Heads of State).

At the time the Jawara regime was toppled, President Jameh was a Lieutenant; in 1994, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and two years later, to the rank of Colonel. He retired from the army in 1996.

President Jameh saw The Gambia through the two year transitional period leading to the restoration of Constitutional and Civilian Government. The APRC Party and the majority of Gambians elected Colonel Yahya A. J. J. Jameh as the Chief Executive of the Second Republic on 27 September 1996 at the tender age of 30 years, making him the world's youngest President.

In 1993, President Jameh (then a student officer on an approved course of study in the State of Georgia, USA) was made an Honorary Citizen of the State of Georgia. The next year, whilst still in the army, he was appointed honorary Lt. Col. ADC of the Alabama State Militia.

In 1995, President Jameh was decorated by the Libyan Leader, Colonel Muammar Gadaffi with his country's highest insignia, the Grand Commander of the Order of Al-Fatah. Again, during the state visit to the Republic of China, Taiwan in 1996, President Jameh was decorated by the Chinese President with the insignia of the Order of the Brilliant Jade with Grand Cordon of the Republic of China.

In 1997, during the 12th Conference of Heads of State and Government of CILSS held in Banjul, The Gambia, President Jameh was elected Chairman, CILSS Heads of State. That same year, he was awarded "The 1997 Pan-African Humanitarian Award" by the Pan-African Foundation and the World Council of Culture based in London, UK.

President Jameh is a man of the people and enjoys meeting individuals from all walks of life. He enjoys reading, playing tennis, soccer, driving, hunting, riding motor-bikes, watching movies, listening to music, and is a keen lover of animals.

Valedictorian

Momodou Sabally

In September 1987, Mr. Sabally entered St. Peter's Technical High School, Lamin, The Gambia where he successfully completed C.G.E. "O" level courses in eight subjects. In 1992 he entered Gambia High School, Banjul, The Gambia, where two years later he was examined successfully by the West African Examinations Council in Mathematics, Statistics, Physics and Economics. During these high school years, he was regarded as an extremely conscientious student whose participation was noteworthy and being helpful and generous in sharing ideas with his peers. This led logically to his appointment as a school councillor and prefect in his graduating year. Enjoying sports and games, he was also a member of the Literacy Society; the Science Club as well as the Islamic Cultural Club.

Mr. Sabally enrolled in Saint Mary's University's Extension Programme (the U.E.P.) in The Gambia in the autumn of 1995 and will graduate later in this Convocation with a Bachelor of Arts degree (with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Economics).

He is currently the President of the Saint Mary's University's Extension Program (U.E.P.) in The Gambia's Student Union and in this role, has demonstrated his considerable leadership expertise.

Symbolic Congratulations

Immediately following the conferring of the honorary degree, official and symbolic congratulations will be extended to Dr. Jameh by **Rachel Grace Nicol** on behalf of all graduating students.

After being an assistant teacher for two years, Ms. Nicol entered the Saint Mary's University's Extension Program (U.E.P.) in The Gambia in September 1995 and will graduate today with a double major in Economics and International Development Studies.

In 1987, she entered St. Peter's Technical High School, Lamin, where she earned passes in six G.C.E. "O" level subjects. This was followed by studies at the "A" level at St. Augustine's High School, Banjul. Further study at Gambia College qualified her for a Higher Teacher Certificate with the main subject being English and the minor one Mathematics, issued in co-operation with the University of Bristol.

In addition to her own studies, she has assisted the Nova Scotia Gambia Association with its summer school programme.

The Alumni's Associate Honorary Member Award

The Saint Mary's University Alumni Association exists to unite the Alumni of the University and to perpetuate the close and warm ties of friendship formed during attendance at the University. Although members are normally persons who have graduated from Saint Mary's, the Association may also confer the status of associate member on a person who has rendered such significant service to the University as to merit special recognition. This marks the first time that such an award has been presented internationally.

The Honourable Satang Jow

In acquainting Mrs. Jow with her award, Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, President of Saint Mary's University observed that it was being presented in recognition of her generous contribution to Saint Mary's University and the leadership that she exhibited in the partnership between the Department of State for Education and the University. Her personal interest and involvement in many joint projects has supported the internationalization of our campus and, of course, has contributed to furthering educational opportunities for young women and men in The Gambia.

A former high-school history teacher and principal, Mrs. Jow has a real interest and commitment to educational development. She became Minister of Education in the mid-1990's, and, after parliamentary elections in early 1997, was named Secretary of State for Education. She resigned late in 1998 due to ill health.

She has made significant contributions to education, particularly for girls, in The Gambia. The relationship between her government and Saint Mary's University was initiated and has been developed during her time in office. The Gambians took a considerable leap of faith in joining with Saint Mary's University to start Saint Mary's University's Extension Programme (the U.E.P.) in The Gambia. In brief, a small developing country put all of its limited financial resources available for tertiary education - like eggs - into one basket. Mrs. Jow convinced her government to trust a small relatively unfamiliar Canadian university to deliver education to an international standard in their country.

Based on that early groundwork and the clear evidence that both the University and The Gambians had made the relationship work, the Canadian International Development Agency granted funding for a second project in The Gambia. "Capacity Building for Higher Education in The Gambia." Mrs. Jow has taken a very personal interest and involvement in this project, as shown in the following examples:

- in May 1997 she led a five-person delegation from The Gambia to Saint Mary's University during which long-range plans were laid for the five years of the project. During that visit she addressed one of the Spring Convocation ceremonies;
- in December 1997 she spoke at the opening sessions of a workshop being conducted by Dr. Ozmon and Dr. Larsen on university governance;
- in August 1998 she officiated at the opening ceremonies of the first-ever "mini-university" program in The Gambia.

In all three cases, her presence led to higher visibility, more media coverage, and most importantly, the clear message to members of her own staff and to other government officials of the importance of this project and of Saint Mary's University to The Gambia.

To a very significant extent, this very proud day in The Gambia - 16 February 1999 - has been made possible through the personal efforts and commitment of Mrs. Satang Jow.

Distinguished Community Service Award

In 1984, the Alumni Association of the University created this award to be presented, only when merited, to a member of the Alumni Association, or a former member of the University. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding achievement and/or contribution in one of the following areas:

- (a) in his/her community;
- (b) to Saint Mary's University; or
- (c) in his/her own discipline.

Recognition takes the form of a plaque displayed in the Alumni House on campus engraved with the name of the recipient and year of presentation. In addition, a gift is presented to each recipient. A standing committee of the Alumni Association presents the name(s) of potential recipient(s) to the Executive of the Alumni Association for final decision. Since its inception, 15 years ago, twelve individuals have been honoured with the Community Service Award.

Burris Devanney

After graduating from Saint Mary's University in 1959 with a Bachelor of Arts ("magna cum laude") with an English/Philosophy major, Mr. Devanney received a Bachelor of Education degree from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia and embarked upon a most successful career in the public school system of Nova Scotia. His career began as a teacher of English at Saint Patrick's High School, Halifax (1960-65; 1967-70) followed by eight years as Head of the English Department at Halifax West High School, during which he earned a Master of Arts (in English Literature) from the University of Ottawa. In 1978, he assumed the vice-principalship of this same school and held it until 1982; then again from 1984 to 1987. In between these duties, on two separate occasions, he served overseas, first in 1965 to 1967 in Zimbabwe and Nigeria as a "teacher advisor" with the Canadian External Aid Office (the predecessor of the Canadian International Development Agency); the second, 1982 to 1984, as the Co-ordinator of the team of Canadian department heads sent to The Gambia to assist in the establishment of The Gambia Technical Training Institute (under contract with the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and the University College of Cape Breton). He also completed all course requirements for a Doctor of Philosophy in English Literature from the University of Ottawa (1972-77). In 1987-88, he served as Principal of Halifax West before assuming, for five years, the same position at J. L. Ilsley High School. From 1994-6, he was Project Director for the Nova Scotia Gambia Association's Youth Health Education Programme in The Gambia.

Since 1989, he has been the Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Gambia Association and the Co-ordinator of the Saint Mary's University's Extension Programme (U.E.P.) in The Gambia since its inception almost four years ago.

With respect to professional activities, he has been an active member of the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union. In terms of curriculum development, from 1975 to 1977, he was one of five English teachers comprising the Atlantic Provinces Workgroup of a nation-wide curriculum development project sponsored by the Writers Union of Canada for the purpose of developing comprehensive resource guides in Canadian literature for use by teachers in elementary and secondary schools. These resource books were published in 1977 and put into use throughout Canada.

Between 1975 and 1993, he was an invited speaker or resource person at approximately thirty-five local, provincial or national conferences or in-service programmes for educators.

From 1986 to 1991, he served as a member of the organizing committee of the annual Global Education for Teachers Conference, sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency and Saint Mary's University.

Mr. Devanney played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Nova Scotia Gambia Association, incorporated in 1989 with a 15 member Board of Directors. This is a "voluntary non-profit development education and assistance organization dedicated to establishing linkages between Nova Scotia and The Gambia and creating opportunities for professional, educational and cultural exchanges between Nova Scotians and Gambians for mutual benefit." Approximately 450 Canadians have had the opportunity of visiting and working in The Gambia in one or more of the 24 projects which have taken place since the Association was established.

He also has an impressive record of volunteer work in a variety of community activities in addition to the Nova Scotia Gambia Association including being the President of the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party, 1968-70 and a Member of the National Council of the NDP, 1968-74 and the founding President (1986-8) of Group 108 (Halifax West, Bedford, Sackville) of Amnesty International.

In 1965, he married Louanne Webb of Halifax. A few weeks after the wedding, they left to work in Africa on a two year contract with the Canadian External Aid Office. After their return to Canada and the birth of their two children, Louanne attended Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia on a part-time basis graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree (Psychology) and a Bachelor of Education. She has also been instrumental in the establishment of The Nova Scotia Gambia Association, over the past twelve years directing or co-directing eight Nova Scotia Gambia Association projects in The Gambia and is currently a part-time Field Officer with the Association.

Their two children, Sara and Matthew, both have degrees from Saint Mary's University. Sara also has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons. English) from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia and a Master of Arts in English from McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. She received a Bachelor of Education from Saint Mary's University in 1994, then taught high school English in Toronto for three years. She is married to Rory Leitch; both taught English in Pusan, South Korea. Currently she is working in the English as a Second Language Program at Saint Mary's University.

Matthew graduated from Saint Mary's in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons. History), followed by a Master of Arts in History from the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario and a Bachelor of Education from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. He taught English in Chon-ju, South Korea in 1995-96; worked as a Teaching Assistant in the Saint Mary's Extension Programme in The Gambia in 1996-97; and then returned to teach English in Iksan, South Korea for the last two years.

History of Saint Mary's University

Saint Mary's University was founded in 1802 to provide opportunities for higher learning to young Catholic men. Its founder, the Reverend Edmund Burke, had meagre resources to work with, but on later being named Bishop with responsibility for Nova Scotia, he continued to support the college as essential to the development of the Catholic community. In 1841, the Nova Scotia House of Assembly gave formal recognition of its academic role; with legal status being confirmed in perpetuity by enactment in 1852.

In 1913, the Christian Brothers of Ireland, a teaching order, were invited by the Archdiocese of Halifax to direct the college and its academic program. During the ensuing years, Saint Mary's University became more widely known for the quality of its undergraduate teaching and continued to develop new instructional programs, most notably within its Faculty of Commerce. In 1940 the Upper Canada Province of The Society of Jesus was invited to succeed the Christian Brothers as administrators and teachers in the University, and for thirty years until the enactment in 1970 of the new act of incorporation, the college remained under Jesuit supervision. The long-standing emphasis on liberal arts and commerce was extended to include new programs in science, engineering, and teacher education. Extension courses became an important part of the University's commitment to an active educational role in the community.

An Explanation for our Guests: The Convocation Ceremony

(a) The Procession

The ceremony starts with the procession – the entering of the members of Convocation, beginning with the Marshal of Convocation and the students who will be presented with degrees, diplomas, and certificates during the service. As the students fill up the chairs in the Hall, they will give the impression that today's ceremony really is, as convocations traditionally were, a meeting of the whole University. (The word "convocation" means "calling-together".) Indeed, a point in the institution's history was reached when the Hall could not hold all the individuals who are part of Saint Mary's – the students, the professors, the administration, the staff, and a large number of alumni around the world – not to mention their families and friends.

Next in the procession are special guests, the Members of Faculty, the Board of Governors, and the Deans of the Faculties.

Next is our honorary degree recipient. In addition to "earned" degrees awarded to students who have studied and met the usual requirements, annually the University confers "honorary" degrees on individuals who have been designated by the University's Board of Governors and Senate as deserving special honor. To symbolize the degrees, they receive hoods trimmed with specially designated colours. Those receiving this honour are introduced during the Convocation

ceremonies and a brief text is read to explain why they merit the awards. Details are found in the earlier portion in this program.

The final members of the academic procession are the Vice-President, Academic and Research, (or his designate) (who presides over Convocation), the President of the University, and the Chancellor.

(b) The Ceremonial Mace

The ceremonial mace, which is carried by the Marshal of Convocation at the head of the academic procession, was presented to Saint Mary's in April 1980 and used for the first time at the Spring Convocation of that same year. It symbolizes the University's authority to grant degrees. It was made and presented to the University by Maritime Command in recognition of Saint Mary's alumni killed in both world wars and also serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces who have been students at the University.

The mace is made of oak with a cast brass crown and brass plates carrying traditional ceremonial engravings. The plates represent the contribution to Saint Mary's by the Jesuit Fathers, the Christian Brothers of Ireland, the Archdiocese of Halifax, the LaSalle Christian Brothers, the Lay Teachers, and the Armed Forces.

(c) Degrees and Diplomas Awarded with Distinctions

Senate has passed the following basic guidelines for determining distinctions with respect to degrees awarded by the University. These notations appear on the students' official academic transcripts and also on the degree parchments. These distinctions are awarded on the basis of the following quality point averages in respect of the courses specified below.

B.A. and B.Sc.	Quality Point Average
summa cum laude	4.00 - 4.30
magna cum laude	3.85 - 3.99
cum laude	3.70 - 3.84

These quality point averages will be calculated on the basis of all courses taken at Saint Mary's University. Students must have taken 75% of their courses and no fewer than twelve (12.0) credits at Saint Mary's to qualify for a distinction.

Traditions

Traditions form a very important component of a University. A number of these are associated with Convocation, including the two described in the following paragraphs.

(a) University Crest

The University crest was designed in the 1940's by the Reverend Daniel Fogarty, S.J., then Dean of Education. Each symbol in the crest has a significance relevant to the various phases and history of the University.

On the outer portion of the crest, the name and location of the University are inscribed in Latin and, in Roman numerals (1841), the date the University received its charter authorizing it to grant degrees.

The book shown above the shield represents learning and knowledge. The inscription on the page of the book is in Latin – "Age Quod Agis". This is the motto of the University which exhorts all those connected with the University to strive to do their best in everything that they do. This quotation is from the Irish Christian Brothers and symbolizes their contribution to the development of the institution.

The upper part of the shield has the official seal of the Jesuits with I.H.S. being the Latin initials for Christ's name. Below these initials are the three nails which represent the Crucifixion, and surrounding these is the Crown of Thorns.

The two crowns represent a dual loyalty – to the then Dominion of Canada and to the British Commonwealth. Below these crowns is the thistle, which stands for Nova Scotia's Scottish heritage.

(b) Graduation Alumni Pins

The Alumni Association of Saint Mary's University has generously provided an Alumni Pin to each graduating student. This is a tradition which started with the 1992 Spring Convocation. Graduates are encouraged to wear theirs with pride and to consider becoming an active member of the Association.

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The University's symbols and traditions reflect its roots as well as looking to its future, and the ritual of Convocation looks to the roots of the University as well as being a beginning for the students who now enter a new stage in their lives. Indeed, both the symbols and the Convocation look back far beyond the beginning of this University to the centuries of academic life in western civilization. Today members of the University community dress in clothes which are symbolic, not functional, and go through the 600-year-old ritual of a convocation for the conferment of degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

We thank you for being present at this special event.

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