

University Student Leaves to Study Archaeology in US

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By Bill Roberts

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Assan Sarr, history major at the University of The Gambia from Niimi district, North Bank Division, was invited to attend the historic archaeology field school at Historic St. Mary's City, Maryland.

Sarr is the fourth Gambian, but the first university student, to attend the summer archaeology field school since 1998. The National Council for Arts and Culture contributed to the price of his roundtrip airfare to Baltimore via Ghana Airways. Sarr is the first Gambian student to be sponsored by St. Mary's College of Maryland's educational exchange programme with the University of The Gambia. In February earlier this year, Dr. Boro Suso, coordinator of the International Development Studies program, traveled to St. Mary's College with a colleague from the Université Cheikh Anta Diop. While at the college, they contributed to the development of a proposal that will be submitted for funding to support a university exchange programme through St. Mary's College's Center for the Study of Democracy.

Assan Sarr will meet and work with students from colleges and universities around the United States who have enrolled in the 10-week historic archaeology field school. After one week in the classroom, students roll up their sleeves and spend 9 weeks excavating the St.

John's site, where the remains of a house dating from the 17th century are located. Students learn excavation techniques, artifact classification and conservation, how to map and photograph features, as well as how to cope with the heat of southern Maryland.

After completing his course at St. Mary's College this summer, Assan will return and complete his degree requirements at the University of The Gambia. He plans to help out on a number of projects at the National Museum and be ready to assist American archaeologist Amy Lawson with her work in the Central River Division. Next summer, when the St.

Mary's College 2004 field school is in session, Assan will be a resource person for the archaeology excavations planned for Juffure, Albreda, and San Domingo.