I used the support from the research grant to fund my flight to the Gambia and my stay in the Gambia for in June and July of 2008. During this stay, I lived at Gambia College and provided services supervising the dissertation (final research) projects of 43 final year environmental health students in the Gambia College School of Public Health. I also travelled to my research site and surrounding areas to conduct follow up research on data obtained during my dissertation research that examined malaria etiology, prevention, and treatment among a predominately Jola village in the Gambia. These two months provided enough time to complete my goals for the summer research.

I experienced no major difficulties concerning this follow up research. My only problem concerned transportation from the college to my research site. Transportation was often unreliable so I would have to walk and this walking occurred during the rainy season. Luckily, several of my former research participants would either visit me during my duties at the college or communicate with me via email or phone. In addition, four or five of the students were writing their final research projects on malaria related issues so they could assist with my research endeavors.

The support for this project enabled me to publish an article in the Indiana Journal of Social Sciences (IASS) on malaria associated medicinal plant usage in the Gambia. I also presented on this same topic at the annual IASS meeting and a related topic on the relationship between health issues and religion at the Mid-America Alliance of African Studies (MAAAS). Much of the data (including photographs) collected during the 2008 summer visit have also been used in my ANTH E105 Culture and Society, ANTH A385 Medical Anthropology, SOC S 268 Qualitative Research Methods, and ANTH E310 Cultures of Africa courses. All of this would not have been possible without the support from the Indiana University-South Bend Faculty Research Grant. Thanks!