Thanks to the Department and to Dale for finding the money for this stipend.

**Brief Summary of what you proposed to do**

I proposed that I would use the stipend money to fund a one-month residence (July 2005) at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington D.C. The time at the Folger gave me access to the Folger’s collection of primary and secondary material on Shakespeare and early modern culture. Most importantly, I had access to the Folger’s extensive holdings in the history of Shakespeare performance. The Folger is also a nexus for early modern scholars from around the world and I was able to renew old friendships with early modern scholars and build new ones.

I was also able to use the holdings of the Library of Congress.

**How this activity was supposed to contribute to your research agenda**

My work at the Folger this summer was devoted to the second stream of my research, which proceeds out of my teaching of Shakespeare and British Literature. This research works to answer the question of how public access to Shakespeare has been mediated by academic and theater professionals and how that mediation has changed since the Renaissance. The first part of this project focuses on Shakespeare and film and has resulted in the article “Star Power: Al Pacino, Looking for Richard and the Cultural Capital of Shakespeare on Film,” which will be published in the Quarterly Review of Film and Video next year. The second and third parts have lead to two articles. “From Robert Cecil to Richard Nixon: The Use of Richard III as Political Critique,” which compares the political use of the image of Richard III in Renaissance London with its use in post-war Britain and the U.S. The second article, “Shakespearean Biography, Celebrity and the Popular Culture/Academic Culture Divide,” was inspired by discussions in my Shakespeare seminar about Stephen Greenblatt’s new biography of Shakespeare. Extending my work in the article on Pacino, this essay looks at how the reputation of an influential scholar affects the reception of a popular biography in order to expose high culture/low culture divisions in American culture. I presented an early version of this work to the faculty on the 1 April 2005 faculty forum. I have begun work on two further extensions of this last research stream, an article on the persistence of the myth of the Mermaid Tavern, for submission to the Shakespeare Newsletter and a review article on productions of Hamlet at the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, for submission to the journal Shakespeare.

**What you received in support**

I received $1,750, which I used for travel, lodging, food, photocopies and other research-related expenses.
**How you expended the support**

I used the stipend for return airfare, Fargo to Washington D.C. It also paid for rent of a room in the Folger guesthouse for the month of July and about half my victuals.

**What you did - accomplished**

I was able to complete the research on “Shakespearean Biography, Celebrity and the Popular Culture/Academic Culture Divide,” and submit it to Borrowers and Lenders: A Journal of Shakespeare and Appropriation, where it is still under consideration. I began and completed research and writing on the third essay in my Shakespeare research stream, “From Robert Cecil to Richard Nixon: The Use of Richard III as Political Critique.” The article is currently under consideration at Shakespeare Bulletin. I submitted a short version of this article for the Shakespeare Association of America conference in March of 2006 and will present a version of it during a Cosgrove Seminar in October.

I was also able to meet and talk to colleagues participating in an NEH Summer Institute at the Folger. The Institute was devoted to manuscript and print culture in early modern England and was conducted by Dr. Steven May, a close friend of my dissertation chair. The conversations with Professor May, Dr. Heather Wolfe, Curator of Manuscripts at the Folger, and numerous other scholars of manuscript culture helped me finish primary research on a book chapter, which I completed once I returned to Fargo. The chapter, “Miscellanies in the Classroom: Exploring the Ephemeral in Early Modern Literary Culture” has been accepted for collection entitled, Rethinking Ephemera in the Classroom.

Through colleagues at the Folger and its resources, I was able to assemble a panel proposal for this year’s Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies conference. The panel, entitled, “Conflict at the Borders: Shakespeare, Nationalism, and Nature” was accepted by the conference committee. My paper, “British Shakespeare and American Shakespeare: Stage Beauty and the Formalist/Realist Transition,” is the beginning of the fourth Part of my Shakespeare research stream and investigates tensions between British and American appropriations of Shakespeare through the lens of post-colonial thought.

I was able to check primary documents and complete the writing of my review essay “Early Modern European Travel Writing After Orientalism” which is forthcoming in the Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies, 5.2 (Fall 2005).

I was able to begin primary research on the two next projects in the Shakespeare research stream, an article on the popularity of the myth of the Mermaid Tavern in biographies of Shakespeare and an article on the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis and its stagings of Hamlet.

**Any unexpected progress or discoveries**

I found that having spent time at the Folger the two previous summers, I was able to be much more efficient with my time and resources. I had hoped to complete one article and make a start on a second, as well as the conference paper.

I also met Jim Siemon from Boston University who is the editor of the Arden Richard III. The Arden Shakespeare series is generally considered to produce the most authoritative and scholarly editions of Shakespeare’s plays. Jim is almost finished with his edition and very generously shared some of his unpublished research with me for my
paper on Richard III. As it turns out, he was also a student of my dissertation chair and is a runner.

On July 5th, with the Washington Shakespeare Company I took the role of Albany and second servant in their staged reading of King Lear.

I discovered a recently published anthology of Shakespeare criticism broken down by theoretical approach. Had I discovered it earlier, I might have used it in English 271 Literary Analysis. It may also prove useful for an upper-level Shakespeare or theory course in the future.

How you now think this activity has contributed to your research agenda and work toward tenure.
Most directly, I was able to complete three projects, submit them to journals, and lay the groundwork for the next two projects in my Shakespeare research stream. Although I do not think my Shakespeare research will result in a book manuscript, I hope that it will put me in a good position for tenure and enable me to pursue my work on early modern travel writing, which I believe could result in a book.

Second, I hope that with the publication of these articles and the momentum generated by this work I will be in a strong position for a grant or fellowship for next summer or next fall when I am scheduled for research leave. Support of this nature would allow me to return to the Folger or perhaps conduct research on my travel writing project in Great Britain.

Last, my research into Shakespeare and Anglo-American reception has resulted in an especially productive link with my teaching of Shakespeare. I am finding that I am easily able to incorporate my work into the classroom and in turn, that student discussions have helped me to rethink and revise my ideas.