Dear Donor,

At the end of my Junior Year I was contemplating pursuing field work that could possibly turn into a Senior honor’s thesis. I was lucky enough to use the FREES funding to finance a trip to Ghana. I intended to conduct field research in relation to the National Climate Smart Agriculture Action Plan (2016-2020) that Ghana had published in 2015. While I was in Ghana I conducted a few semi-structured interviews with members of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Additionally, I was able to connect with some faculty members of the University of Ghana Legon. The information that I gathered while in Ghana has significantly impacted my senior thesis. Initially, I hoped to research a question relating to the ability of Ghana’s political institutions to implement the policy. However, while I was in Ghana I realized that the scope of the project was beyond me. The experience allowed me to step back and recalibrate and make an informed decision in regards to the direction my thesis should take. The thesis itself is designed to link a technical analysis of the Ghanaian National Climate Smart Agriculture Action Plan and a comprehensive critique of the cultural competency of the policy determining if the plan aligns itself with the endemic idea of agricultural development. The FREES funding enabled me to conduct field research and gain experiences that the classroom doesn’t offer and for that I am immeasurably grateful.

Warm Regards,
Tim