



**Working on Capitol Hill** 

Brendan Francis O'Connor, Senior (Political Science) Congressional Intern Senator Richard Durbin – Assistant Majority Leader

"I am very proud to represent Fredonia in our nation's capital."

Through my internship working for the Majority Whip of the United States Senate, I have been thrown into the processes that run the country "behind the scenes." I fulfill daily duties of answering constituent inquiries regarding the Senator's agenda, stand points, or with any regard to U.S. politics. I have been honored the task of managing the Senator's Majority Whip Leadership Office in the Capitol building. When I'm not tied up with administrative tasks, it has been my duty to fulfill legislative duties, supporting legislative staff with research through the various Senate databases. I attend briefings on their behalf, and then produce policy memos related to these hearings and to our staffers' fields for use of legislative purposes. I have witnessed history being made as it happens, and continue to play a role through the end of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. This invaluable experience has been the most exciting and prideful semester of my life.