



AT HIS DESK in Senator Pat Roberts' office, Brett Moore talked on the phone. Mr. Moore is a 1999 graduate of Decatur Community High School.

## Oberlin young man spends time in capital

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Getting to spend four months in the U.S. Senate is heady stuff for a boy from Oberlin.

Brett Moore, 1999 Decatur Community High graduate, who is graduating this month from the University of Kansas, had a chance to spend a semester in Washington working for Sen. Pat Roberts.

The internship is part of a program sponsored by the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics to allow students to work in Washington while still getting class credits.

"Simply being involved with the most powerful legislative body in the world, the U.S. Senate, is amazing," Mr. Moore said, "let alone the fact that I get to play some small part in helping Sen. Roberts represent the state of Kansas."

Getting to Washington wasn't quite as hard as running for the Senate, but Mr. Moore had to make it through a selection process, with only 15 students getting into the program.

Each was responsible for securing his own internship, he said, although most of the information they needed was on the web. Each student needed three letters of reference, a resume and a cover letter.

Mr. Moore thinks that it helped him to have spent the spring of last year interning for Rep. Joann Free-

born of Concordia in Topeka.

Once in Washington, the students settled in and started enjoying the drama.

"Upon arriving in D.C., I had two days to settle in before President George W. Bush's second inauguration ceremony," Mr. Moore said. "I was able to get a good ticket, but was still half a mile away. The crowds were simply huge, in the hundreds of thousands. It was great being around town at the time of that wonderful celebration."

Mr. Moore was housed in Silver Spring, in Maryland, north of the District of Columbia with two other students in the program, both from Wichita State University.

His duties included giving tours of the capital, including a tour to students from Oberlin; attending hearings, taking notes, collecting correspondence, answering the telephone, doing research, writing letters to constituents and generally assisting the senator's staff of 25 people.

A highlight was being able to attend one of the few open meetings of the Special Committee on Intelligence, Mr. Moore said.

"Sen. Roberts chairs the committee," he said, "and handled the hearing flawlessly, taking testimony from the heads of the major intelligence agencies, including CIA, FBI,

and military intelligence. It is impressive to see these powerful men all working together to come up with solutions to the problems our nation faces.

"I have been able to attend a couple major press conferences, including the announcement of McCain-Feingold 2, which is an attempt to limit the "527" (political action) groups that were so prominent in the last election, and the announcement of the Agriculture Facilitation Act, which allows for free and fair trade of U.S. agricultural exports to Cuba, with the eventual goal of bringing democracy to that nation by making our ag products available to their citizens. Our KU intern group also got to see a live taping of CNN's Crossfire."

The internship began Jan. 17 and lasted until April 29.

Now that he is no longer an intern and graduation is just around the corner, Mr. Moore has moved to Arlington, Va., and is looking for a job as a congressional staffer. Jobs are scarce in the summer, he said, as hundreds of interns flood the capital. However, come fall, his contacts tell him, he should be able to get a full-time job that will put his double major of political science and communication studies to work.

He is the son of Brendan and Kathi Moore of Cedar Bluffs.



IN THE CAPITAL, Brett Moore (above) stood next to the statue of Dwight D. Eisenhower, former president and Army general. While in Washington, Mr. Moore (left) gave around 50 tours.

