The International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) North America Branch held the 2012 ILSI Student Summit in Washington DC on May 21-22nd, and four graduate students from Purdue Nutrition Science attended, Rebecca Replogle, Mary Brauchla, Emily Arentson, and Alyssa Phillips. Prof. Gletsu-Miller accompanied them on the trip. Students and faculty from Cornell University, Virginia Tech, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and University of Iowa attended the conference as well. The aim of the conference was to expose graduate students in nutrition to careers in policy (both governmental and non-governmental) and in industry. Students heard talks from high level persons involved in the Congressional Research Service, law firms, FDA, Cargill Incorporated, Food Marketing Institute, Feeding America, USDA, and Grocery Manufactures Association. There were also tours of the National Academy Institute of Medicine, and the National Institute of Health. Speakers, students and faculty took part in networking opportunities that allowed for friendly and useful interactions. The students reported having a great experience - full of learning and fun.