



WVU students participate in national conference

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. – Brian Foster and Heather Harman, students in the West Virginia University School of Medicine’s Pathologists’ Assistant Program, recently participated in a national conference.

The pair presented their poster, “Anencephalic Conjoined Twins,” at the 35th Annual Continuing Education and Business Conference of the American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants, Aug. 31 through Sept. 4 in Baltimore. The association hosted students from various programs and provided them with room and board during their stay.

“The meeting was a great opportunity to meet the leadership and members of the governing agency for their profession,” Cheryl Germain, Pathologists’ Assistant Program director, said. “They also had the opportunity to meet with keynote speaker Vinay Kumar, M.D., one of the authors of ‘Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease,’ which was a very valuable experience.”

Foster and Harman are the first students from WVU to present at the conference.

WVU’s Pathologists’ Assistant program began in January 2008 and is one of nine accredited training programs in the country. It is a two-year master’s degree program.

Germain said pathologists’ assistants work under the direction of surgical and autopsy pathologists. They are generally employed by hospitals but can also work in research laboratories, academic medical centers and tissue banks.

For information on the American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants see www.pathologistsassistants.org.

For information on the Pathologists’ Assistant Program at WVU see www.hsc.wvu.edu/som/pa.

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