

South Pas Resident Supports Psych Internship at Hospital

For students in psychology programs, one of the most popular majors among U.S. colleges and universities, finding a reputable and educational internship can be a difficult task.

While many organizations have been forced to put internships on hold because of economic restraints, BHC Alhambra Hospital continues to open its doors to more and more doctoral students seeking firsthand experience in the field of psychology.

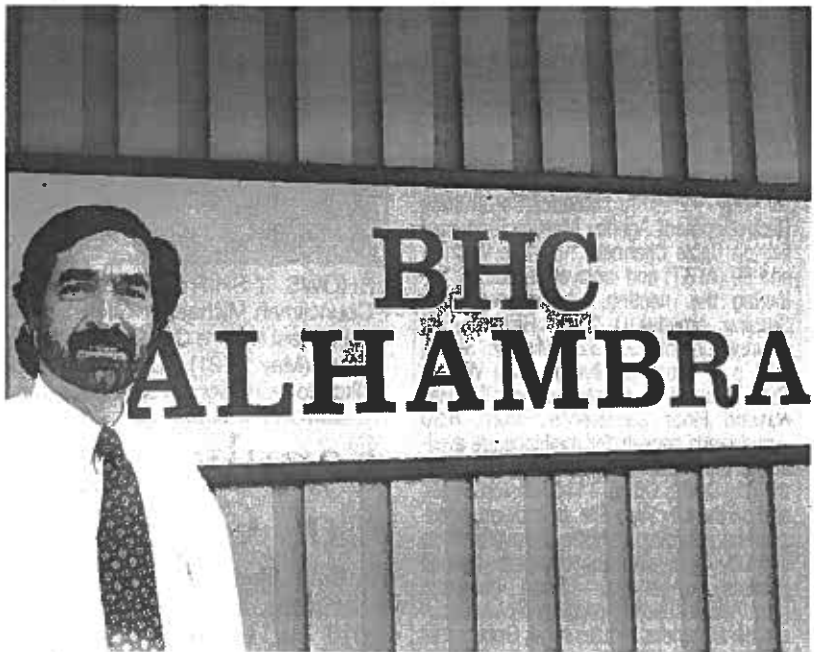
For the past 15 years, the internship program at Alhambra, a full-service behavioral health facility and member of the Psychiatric Solutions, Inc. (PSI) family of hospitals, has been committed to providing interns with relevant and hands-on exposure to the levels of distress and acuity that are typical in a psychiatric facility.

Historically, Alhambra would take no more than five doctoral psychology interns of the 15 applying for an internship each academic year.

When CEO Peggy Minnick and South Pasadena's Dr. Joseph Dadourian, the director of psychology and training, decided to enhance the internship by becoming a member of the California Psychology Internship Council (CAPIC), the program began receiving 50 applications for 12 positions, including international candidates from Denmark, India, Hong Kong and Singapore.

By providing interns with one-on-one attention and supervision by an experienced clinical staff, Alhambra is able to provide the students with valuable field exposure while offering a greater level of care to its patients.

Per CAPIC requirements, the



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internship is 1,000 hours. As most interns in this program are pre-doctorate candidates, they work an average of 20-24 hours each week while taking classes. Based on this work schedule, the internship program lasts approximately one year.

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His professional experiences, coupled with working with patients in a hospital setting, takes interns from an academic perspective of clinical psychology to a real-life application.

Dadourian is available as a resource to the interns 24 hours a day, allowing them to receive ample expert advice during their internship.

"The internship program at BHC Alhambra receives the most qualified applicants, and we do our best to provide them with the highest quality education possible through close encounters in an actual psychiatric setting," said Dadourian. "While we wish we could accept all applicants, the competitive nature and small size of the program ensures that our interns receive the most hands-on experience possible to help them further their education while at the same time providing our patients with high quality care they deserve in a setting and from people they can trust."