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**Internship at Verdugo Hills Hospital Offers Insight into Nursing**

(GLENDALE, CA – January 10, 2008) – Besides providing quality patient care to the Foothill communities, Verdugo Hills Hospital (VHH) also serves as a place for invaluable learning experiences for dedicated nursing students.

For 20-year-old Allison Terry of La Cañada, working with the VHH nursing staff has been one of the most enjoyable aspects of her recent nursing internship at the 35-year-old community hospital.

Allison’s inspiration for the field of nursing has been her mother, Andrea Terry, RN, BSN, who is a MedSurg specialist at VHH. “I really like that Verdugo Hills is a small, community hospital where there is a lot of interaction between nurses and their patients as well as doctors and their patients,” said Allison, who is a sophomore at Santa Clara University (SCU) with a double major in biology and French.

Allison said two of her favorite clinical areas are emergency and maternity. “I like that in the emergency room you get to see a little of everything,” she said. “And, the Ob unit is always a happy place to be.”

Sara Harkness, Director of Perinatal Services at VHH, said she facilitated a learning experience for Allison so that she can get exposed to a variety of nursing roles and to observe the scope of nursing practices.

VHH Labor & Delivery nurse Angineh Kalaby, RN, BSN, said Allison was very enthusiastic and caring with patients. “During the two weeks that I was orienting Allison, I witnessed how she developed a passion for Labor and Delivery,” Kalaby said. “She was very smart, and already she was thinking about her career goals. I am sure she will be an asset to any unit she decides to work in.”

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“Her attitude toward patients was very supportive and her presence in the Labor and Delivery room was always very heart-warming for the patient,” Kalaby said.

“Allison wanted to experience as much as she could ... It is nice to expose our family members to what we do,” Harkness said.

Allison looks forward to a four-week summer internship in El Salvador as part of SCU’s study-abroad program, where she will work at a rural hospital providing care to the poor.

Upon graduation from SCU, Allison plans to attend graduate school for a Master of Science degree in Nursing. She will also return to VHH in the summertime to complete additional internship hours.

Since nurses play an important role for the future of healthcare, Harkness added that it is important to recruit interested and caring professionals to VHH. “By shadowing a nurse, students interested in the profession get an opportunity to see professionals in action delivering patient care,” she said. “Students who have first-hand experience are much better prepared for the realities of nursing school and the roles of the professional practice.”

**About the Hospital:**

Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothill’s Best Hospital” for 2007 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff also received recognition as the best in the community, including: Dr. Scott W. Beeve, Foothills Best Ophthalmologist; Dr. Allan W. Perry, Jr., Foothills Best Plastic Surgeon; Dr. Richard L. Rupp, Foothills Best Podiatrist; Dr. William F. Schubert, Foothills Best Family Physician; Dr. Jane S. Wada, Foothills Best Dermatologist; and Dr. Ronald D. Woodard, Foothills Best Obstetrician/Gynecologist. For more information, please visit [www.vhhospital.org](http://www.vhhospital.org).

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