

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**NAYSSAN S. SAFAVIAN**

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### **EDUCATION**

**University of California, Irvine**

**Graduate Student, Concentration: Learning, Cognition, and Development, August 2007-Present**

**University of California, Los Angeles, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, June 2004**

**Orange Coast College, Associates in Arts, June 2002**

Graduated with Psi Beta Honors

### **LANGUAGES**

Fluent in conversational Farsi

Semi-fluent in conversational Spanish

### **HONORS**

Recipient, Robert B. Moore Distinguished Leadership Award, Orange Coast College, 2002

Recipient, Gold Certificate of Exceptional Service Award, Orange Coast College, 2002

Recipient, Psi Beta Scholarship Award, Orange Coast College 2001, 2002

Recipient, Recognition of Exceptional Service: Dance Repertoire, Irvine Valley College, 2002

Dean's List, Orange Coast College, 2002

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Undergraduate Senior Research Thesis**

**University of California, Los Angeles, April 2004- August 2004**

Explored the salience of ethnic identity to mental health and psychological well being; investigated associations between parental ethnic identification and adolescent ethnic identity, family communication, and depressive symptomology; hypothesized that adolescent and parent ethnic identities are positively correlated, adolescent- parent ethnic identity mismatch is inversely correlated with affirmative family communication, and correlation exists between adolescent-parent ethnic identity mismatch and depression; founded significant findings for adolescent ethnic identity and parental ethnic identification; and an inverse relationship between affirmative communication and participant-mother ethnic identity mismatch.

Safavian, N. (2004). *Adolescent-Parent Ethnic Identification and its Association with Affirmative Family Communication and Depression*.

*Supervisor: Constance Hammen, Ph.D.*

**Research Assistant, School Mental Health Project/ Center for Mental Health in Schools,**

**University of California, Los Angeles, September 2002- August 2004**

Participated and collaborated with faculty directors in the pursuit of research and training related to addressing mental health and psychosocial concerns through school-based interventions; worked with school districts, state agencies, and organizations to provide support, school based intervention program materials and technical assistance to address barriers to learning and teaching. Contacted clients, conducted follow-up interviews, updated and revised center materials, created and managed web materials, answered phones and general questions about the program.

*Supervisor: Perry Nelson, Ed.D.*

**Research Assistant, Daily Life Study,**

**University of California, Los Angeles, January 2003- August 2004**

Conducted battery administration, initial consultations, and reviewed consensual agreement with participants; monitored self documented daily diary entries of student daily stressors and responses. Collected, evaluated, scored, and maintained daily life submissions of recorded thoughts, emotions, and events experienced, tracked participant progress, participated in weekly research meetings.

*Supervisor: Tara Gruenewald, Ph.D.*

## **LEADERSHIP SERVICE**

### **Alumni Mentor**

**UCLA Alumni Association, December 2006-Present**

### **Chair of the Board of Directors**

**UCLA Club of Orange County, January 2006-Present**

### **District Chair**

**UCLA Alumni Association Freshman Scholarship, October 2005-Present**

### **Chairperson/Founder, Undergraduate Psychology Society**

**University of California, Los Angeles, October 2002-August 2003**

### **Vice Chairperson, Undergraduate Psychology Society**

**University of California, Los Angeles, September 2003-August 2004**

### **President, Psi Beta: National Honors Society**

**Orange Coast College, September 2001-August 2002**

### **President, Psychology Society**

**Orange Coast College, September 2001- August 2002**

### **Vice President, Psychology Society**

**Orange Coast College, September 2000- August 2001**

## **FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE**

### **American Ballet Theater, Summer Intensive Resident Counselor, Irvine, CA July-August 2004, 2008**

Assumed responsibility and supervision of 140 adolescent girls, and acted as a liaison between faculty, staff, students, and parents. Responsibilities included accompanying dancers in their daily and weekend activities and excursions, provided appropriate supervision and instruction, emotional support and leadership. Also, participated in staff training, familiarized and implemented American Ballet Theater policies, procedures, and philosophy, reviewed medical information and behavior plans. Encouraged and facilitated participation. Implemented behavior management strategies and monitored and reported health and/or medical concerns, kept supervisory staff informed.

*Supervisor: Heidi Hoffman Gunter*

### **Peer Counseling**

**Orange Coast College and University of California, Los Angeles, 2000-2004**

Served as role a model, companion and educator, and committed to on going education of student peers. Assisted students in exploring their options given their available resources, implement problem solving strategies, serve as informal counselor: offering students opportunities to discuss educational and career goals, aspirations, and concerns. Directed students to appropriate personnel, academic advisors, or faculty for additional assistance and guidance with the goal to promote personal, professional and academic growth by encouraging individual involvement in extra curricular activities and campus functions, cultivate independence, competence, self-confidence and self-esteem. Additionally, the objective is to enhance student faculty communication and collaboration on a professional level.

### **Academic Counseling and Tutoring, 1999-Present**

Provided academic support and advice, assisted the individual to identify academic learning needs, develop appropriate strategies, and identified resources to meet those needs. Specific topics include geometry, algebra, beginning calculus, and English composition. Act as mentor to student and encourage them to optimize their learning opportunities, and refer students to appropriate agency or trained staff for support of issues outside of training.

### **EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

#### **Team Manager**

**Pomecs Financial Services, Laguna Niguel, CA August 2004- Present**

#### **Director of Client Services**

**Dollarstore Corporation, Costa Mesa, CA October 1999-August 2002**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

#### **College Fair Representative**

**UCLA Alumni Association, 2004-Present**

Attend various high school district college fairs and represent UCLA as a liaison between prospective high school and transfer applicants, parents, and the UCLA student affairs office, undergraduate admissions, and Alumni Association. Train thoroughly by the UCLA admissions office in the topics of the admissions process, relevant details, UCLA facts and fair logistics. Help engage and inform prospective applicants of UC eligibility requirements, UCLA selection statistics and procedures, and factors that affect the application review process. Distribute materials prepared by the office of undergraduate admissions, answer questions pertaining to selection of majors, grade point average, test scores, extracurricular activities, housing, fees and tuitions, and admission policies, and direct specific questions to the appropriate department.

#### **UC Irvine Department of Pediatric, Child Life Clinic**

**Orange Coast College, Psi Beta/ Psychology Society, 1999-2002**

Implemented annual teddy bear and developmental toy drive, assisted with preparation of holiday dinner and gala for visiting patients and their financially disadvantaged families, and organized games, activities and festivities. Organized a committee of volunteers, collected, wrapped and managed the distribution of toys as holiday gifts to patients and parents.

#### **Operation "Starbucks Serves", June 2001- August 2002**

Outreach program created to assist in feeding the homeless community of Orange and Los Angeles counties. Three hours a week consisted of driving to various participating Starbucks store locations, collected marked out pastries, and delivered the pastries to operation headquarters. Sorted, wrapped, and inventoried for shipment to various homeless facilities.

### **LECTURES, CONFERENCES, COMMITTEES**

Center for Culture, Brain, and Development Lecture Series

**Participant**, University of California, Los Angeles, 2004

Psi Chi, University of California, Los Angeles, 2004

**Participant**, Stanford University Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference, Stanford, CA

Undergraduate Psychology Society, University of California Los Angeles, 2003, 2004

**Coordinator**, Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference, Los Angeles, CA

Undergraduate Psychology Society, University of California Los Angeles, 2003

**Coordinator**, Undergraduate Research Fair

University of California, Los Angeles, 2003

**Coordinator**, Pre-Health Conference, Los Angeles, CA

Psychology Society, Orange Coast College, 2000, 2001, 2002

**Coordinator/Lecturer**, *Transferring as a Psychology Major, Getting Involved in Undergraduate Research*

Undergraduate Psychology Society, University of California Los Angeles, 2003

**Coordinator/Lecturer, *Getting Involved in Undergraduate Research***

Psi Beta, Orange Coast College, 2000, 2002

**Co-Coordinator, Annual Psi Beta Conference, Irvine, CA**

Psychology Society, Orange Coast College, 2001

**Participant, Student Leadership Conference, Lake Arrowhead, CA**

**SPECIAL INTEREST: PROFESSIONAL DANCE TRAINING AND PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE:**

**Jimmie DeFore Dance Center, Costa Mesa, CA 2003-Present**

Professional training includes: ballet and jazz

**Irvine Valley College, Irvine, CA 2000-2002**

**Dance Ensemble**

Professional training includes: ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, and lyrical

Co-choreographed 2002 Irvine Valley College jazz production, auditioned and performed in various modern, jazz, and hip hop pieces, co-organized fundraising activities, coordinated rehearsal schedules, assembled and disassembled dance production set, assisted in backstage lighting, costumes, hair and makeup

**Spring Dance Tour- Dance Ensemble, 2002**

"*Numb*"- Jazz piece, toured six colleges, participated in dance workshops coordinated by the hosting college, invited to participate in classes offered by guest master artists.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Psi Beta, National Honors Society in Psychology for Community & Junior Colleges, 2001 to Present

American Psychological Association, 2002 to Present

UCLA Alumni Association, 2004 to Present

**RELEVANT SKILLS**

**Statistical Packages:** SPSS, Excel

**Computer:** Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop