This quarter, Project Josh And Friends, a community organization dedicated to bringing comfort to hospitalized children, has reason to rejoice. The association, whose UCR branch is run almost exclusively by Honors students, has helped over 400 young patients acclimate to hospital life.

On October 2nd, Josh And Friends’ creator, Dr. Randy Lange, visited Loma Linda Hospital with his now-famous canine companion, Josh, to celebrate the program’s success and help raise awareness regarding its plight. The event also served as a reunion of sorts between Josh and Friends’ many subsidiaries – its UCR branch, its community affiliates, Dr. Lange, and Josh himself.

Also in attendance were some of the children that had received Josh Kits. Though the intention of their visit was undoubtedly to meet and show their gratitude to Dr. Lange, the majority of them were far more taken with Josh, his pet dog, who everyone in attendance would agree stole the show.

Arthur Chandra, the Honors photographer for the event, says of the occasion, “It was a refreshing experience to see people so energized about helping others. It was invigorating. It motivated me to be more passionate about programs like Josh And Friends.” Chandra’s reaction, while inspiring, is not altogether unexpected.

From the very beginning, Josh And Friends has been driven by the same contagious fervor and
Dear UCR Honors Students:

Welcome to another year at the UHP of UCR. I am writing you to say hello, welcome you to campus, and tell you about my role in the Honors program.

My main role in the honors program is a Faculty in Residence, or F.I.R. In this role, I have an apartment in Aberdeen and Inverness, between the D and E wings of that residence hall. My official duty is to enhance the residential experience of honors students living in A&I, by providing an intellectual dimension to life in the hall.

I offer a number of programs and activities towards that goal. First, I have my Dinner with the Faculty, a weekly event in the Residential Restaurant at A&I. At a reserved table to the left of the entrance, I am in place from 4:30 to 7:30 once a week, this quarter on Mondays (Cameron, the Honors RA for A&I, polled the residents to see which night works best; this may and probably will change next quarter). This is an informal event, and your peers drop by for a meal, dessert, a beverage, a salad, but most of all for an informal conversation with your FIR.

The topics are wide open, but the goal is to provide a safe and informal setting to interact with your faculty member. On Tuesday evenings this quarter, at 10 pm, I hold informal office hours in the staff lounge, a room off the game room in A7I, complete with pizza and pool and more conversation.

Take a study break, ask the question you really wanted to ask in class but where intimidated, get to know your fellow honors students—and do not forget the Pizza.

I also hold office hours on Wednesdays 2-3 in the honors headquarters in Olmstead, and Tuesdays 4:40 to 6 pm in the Academic Research Center (ARC, Rm 104), for those more academic and ‘what should I do with my future’ kinds of discussions. Mostly, I am here in this role to enhance your experience as an honors student at UCR. Please come and hang out, talk, ask questions—I look forward to seeing you this quarter and for the rest of the year.

Robert Nash Parker
Professor of Sociology, Co-Director of the Presley Center, and FIR at A&I

Upper Division Program: Allowing students to participate in the academic community

The Upper Division Honors program is a wonderful way to stay involved with the Honors program for students who have completed Lower Division or the Sophomore Component. There are numerous benefits to staying involved with honors because of the academic community that encourages students to keep their grades up and work hard.

Not only does the Honors program create a focused working and learning environment, but Upper Division further presents its own benefits. For one, students who complete Upper Division are recognized at graduation. Furthermore, students are able to create a relationship with faculty on campus that can help them with letters of recommendation, research, and improving their resumes to prepare for grad school.

Omar Kadri and Isabel Bartolome, two Honors students who took part in Upper Division, work with the program and encourage other students to pursue Upper Division Honors. Kadri says, “The Upper Division Honors program has been an excellent way for me to pursue an interest outside of my area of
excitement that pervaded the atmosphere during Dr. Lange’s visit.

Dr. Lange started Josh And Friends two years ago in response to a rather disenchanting experience with his own daughter’s first hospitalization. Though she had only been admitted in order to undergo a routine tonsillectomy, she wound up finding the tests and procedures she was put through in the processes thereof very upsetting.

Many kids, Dr. Lange predicted, struggled with the painful and often confusing impositions of hospital-life.

So Dr. Lange wrote a children’s book in which his golden retriever, Josh, must travel through the various realms of a typical hospital stay, discovering a little about each one along the way.

Paige Stevens, director of the UCR branch of Josh And Friends, writes, “By following Josh through his hospital visit, children learn about diagnostic procedures, surgery, and recovery all while being affirmed by Josh’s favorite phrase: ‘I’ll be O.K.’” The book is meant to provide children with comfort and confidence in the staff and administrators with whom their health has been entrusted.

Josh And Friends, the organization that sprung from Dr. Lange’s vision, dispenses copies of Josh’s story, I’ll Be OK, along with plush puppies to children in order to help them better cope with their hospital environs.

Since its establishment 2 years ago, Project Josh And Friends has helped hundreds of children admitted to local hospitals do just that; but it hasn’t been easy. Josh kits aren’t free, and donations can only go so far.

Fundraising is an essential component of Josh and Friends’ mission. Luckily for Dr. Lange, Stevens and her team of dedicated Honors students were up to the task.

“I’m very excited to be here, and I look forward to working with all the students - freshman or otherwise,” said Cardenas. “My door is always open.”

Meet the newest member of our Honors community: Christine Cardenas

In order to better facilitate the changes taking place within the Honors Program, the UHP office has hired new staff member: Christine Cardenas.

Cardenas considered such a job “an adventure, every day,” the arrival of her two children prompted her to consider a less dangerous occupation.

Her search led her to the UCR Honors Program. Her job responsibilities focus on the first year component of Honors. In addition to helping freshman honors students adjust to college life, Cardenas will eventually take part in organizing Honors 9 and 10 classes. One of her goals is to “help the honors program create a meaningful experience” for students.

“I’m very excited to be here, and I look forward to working with all the students - freshman or otherwise,” said Cardenas. “My door is always open.”

In large part due to their dedication and hard work in tirelessly promoting Josh And Friends on and off campus, the program has positively impacted 400 hospitalized children to date.

If the project’s success thus far is any sign of things to come, that number can only be expected to grow from here on out.
Upper Division, from page 2

addition, it helped me get closer with the UDH Coordinator, and my research professor, Dr. Howard Friedman, who wrote me a letter of recommendation.” Both Kadri and Bartolme feel that the Upper Division Honors program has helped them in pursuing their future goals.

Students in Upper Division must maintain a GPA of 3.5 or above, be in Junior or Senior standing, and must be enrolled in UDH for at least three quarters before their graduation date. During their time in Upper Division, students must complete an annotated bibliography, attend Intellectual Growth Workshops, submit quarterly progress reports, a thesis draft, and a final thesis. At the conclusion of one’s research, students will give an oral presentation of their thesis or project at either the UCR Symposium for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity or at some other discipline specific conference.

Students that are interested can get more information about the Upper Division Honors program at information sessions in the Honors office. These will take place on Friday, November 5th at 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM and Friday, November 19th at 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Honors Calendar

Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful:
Clean up litter and graffiti abatement in Riverside.
Saturday, November 13, 2010
8am-11am
7109 Dufferin Ave. Riverside, CA 92506

Contact Julia Lee at jlee155@ucr.edu (phone: 310-972-9257) for any questions or if you’d like to RSVP, please email ucrsaa@ucr.edu.

Students interested in joining the Upper Division Honors Program are encouraged to attend an information session. Information sessions are scheduled as follows:

Audeamus open for submissions:
Work submissions for Audeamus are open now until January 7th, 2011. Go to: ucrhonors.wufoo.com/forms/aud to submit!

Honors committee applications open:
Apply by November 5th to serve on a committee and obtain a leadership role within the UHP. Go to: https://ucrhonors.wufoo.com/forms/uhp-committee-application/ to apply!