

Updates for the week of
February 1, 2010

Jesse M. Unruh
Institute of Politics



usc College
OF LETTERS, ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNRUH UPDATE

STUDENTS TALK BACK Brown Bag Lunch Series

The Legalization of Marijuana: What Will California Voters Say?

Wednesday, February 3rd

11:30am-1:00pm

(Program begins at 12:00 noon)

in Doheny 233, Intellectual Commons

FREE lunch will be served.



As the Obama administration has signaled it will not use federal authority to supersede states rights on the issue of medical marijuana, the legalization debate is gaining ground in California. With 14 states already approving the use of medical marijuana, it looks as though California may be the first to legalize the use of the drug without a prescription. With a near certain ballot initiative this November, the choice is now in the hands of voters. In a recent state-wide poll, 56% of Californians approved the measure. But with widespread opposition from law enforcement and family values groups, the public could still be swayed.

Featuring off-campus experts and student representatives from the USC College Democrats and USC College Republicans. Moderated by a staff member from The Daily Trojan; and **Dan Schnur**, Director of the USC Unruh Institute of Politics.

STUDENTS TALK BACK is a weekly lunch series giving USC students the opportunity to discuss national and state politics with professional experts from the worlds of campaigns, government, policy and journalism. Every Wednesday, we'll discuss one issue that dominates political debate in Washington and Sacramento. Students will participate as panelists and analysts, and our guest experts will answer questions and respond to comments from those in attendance. The Brown Bag lunch series is co-sponsored by the Unruh Institute, the Department of Political Science, The Daily Trojan, Political Student Assembly, College Democrats and College Republicans.

**The USC Department of Political Science
invites you to a talk by**

Martha Joynt Kumar

**"White House Communications Obama Style:
What's New, What's Not"**

Friday, Feb. 5th at 12:00noon in the VKC Library

A light lunch will be served.

Professor Kumar's talk is based on her current research comparing the Obama, Bush and Clinton administrations. The comparisons tell us something important about the rhythms of the presidency and presidential communications; what is constant and where flexibility lies.

Dr. Martha Joynt Kumar is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at Towson University. As a scholar with a research focus on the White House, she is inter-

ested in presidential-press relations, White House communications operations, and presidential transitions. Her most recent book, *Managing the President's Message: The White House Communication Operation*, won the 2008 Richard E. Neustadt Award of the presidency section of the American Political Science Association

2010 Sacramento Legislative Seminar

Sunday, Feb. 28th –

Tuesday, March 2nd

Application deadline

Friday, February 5th

The Jesse M. Unruh Institute invites undergraduates to apply for the 2010 Sacramento Legislative Seminar. Sponsored by the Unruh Institute in conjunction with several other California colleges and universities, the Sacramento Seminar is designed to provide students with the opportunity to meet the executive and legislative leaders who shape the laws and policies of the state. Seminar panels include members of the Senate and the Assembly, lobbyists, reporters, and legislative and executive branch staff.

Open to undergraduates with a GPA of 3.0 or higher who have a demonstrated interest in politics, government or public service. For those chosen to attend, transportation and lodging are provided.



presidency section of the American Political Science Association. Her previous books include *White House World: Transitions, Organization, and Office Operations* with Terry Sullivan. She is director of the White House Transition Project which is a nonpartisan effort by presidency scholars to provide information on presidential transitions and White House operations to those who come into the White House in January 2009. Last month, she testified on effective practices for presidential transitions before the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement hearing: "Passing the Baton: Preparing for the Presidential Transition." She was recently elected to serve as a fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration.

Co-Sponsored by the Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism and the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics.

**Please RSVP to the Department of Political Science at
213-740-6998 or posc@usc.edu**

tation from Los Angeles to Sacramento, as well as accommodations in Sacramento and most meals, will be provided.

[Click here for the 2010 application form.](#)



For more information about **Unruh Institute Events and Programs**,

visit us on the web at www.usc.edu/unruh.

For questions/comments, please Email unruhins@usc.edu or call 213-740-8964.