

Updates for the week of  
October 19, 2009

Jesse M. Unruh  
Institute of Politics

usc College  
OF LETTERS, ARTS & SCIENCES

# THE UNRUH UPDATE

## STUDENTS TALK BACK Brown Bag Lunch Series California's Prison Crisis

Wed., Oct. 21st, 11:30am-1:00pm in Doheny 240  
(Program begins at 12:00 noon)  
**FREE lunch will be served.**

California's prisons are overcrowded - more than 150,000 prisoners are crammed into space designed to hold only one half that many inmates. State and federal courts have demanded that the state find a way to reduce its prison population, but Democratic and Republican elected officials argue that doing so could risk an increase in violent crime and have instead advocated less dramatic measures.

Does reducing the prison population put dangerous criminals back on the street? Or does overcrowding make those criminals even more dangerous when they are released? Does the state have an obligation to provide adequate medical care to inmates? Or is it unfair to provide that care to inmates when other Californians are having health care services reduced or eliminated?



At the core, the question to consider is the role of incarceration of those who violate the law. Prisons are designed both to protect the people of California from criminals and to help those criminals become productive members of society on their release. Can a state with a \$10 billion budget deficit accomplish both goals?

Featuring **Pat Nolan**, Vice President, Prison Fellowship Ministries; **Nina Salarno-Ashford**, National Administrator, Corrections USA; **Kirsten Rice**, USC CALPIRG representative; and a student representative from the USC College Republicans. Moderated by **Dan Loeterman**, Managing Editor, 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 lunches are co-sponsored by the Unruh Institute, the Department of Political Science, The Daily Trojan, Political Student Assembly, College Democrats and College Republicans.

**The Unruh Institute of Politics and the Academic Culture Assembly present**  
**The Role of the First Lady**  
Tuesday, October 20th  
7:00–9:00pm in THH 102



We scrutinize Michelle Obama's hair and clothes, but does anyone know what she does? What does the First Lady accomplish, and by what means? Is the role obsolete or extraneous in this day and age? Does the first lady's somewhat "domestic" responsibilities (i.e. planning parties, entertaining important guests, etc.) send a positive or negative message to today's women about their potential?

Featuring **Dan Schnur**, Director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics; **Alison Renteln**, USC Political Science Professor; and moderated by **Parker Hevron**, POIR Ph.D. candidate.



## **Crime, Punishment & Rehabilitation:** **The Politics & Policy of California Prisons**

Friday, Oct. 23rd, 12:30pm  
in the Musick Law Building, Rm. 7  
**FREE lunch will be served.**

Panelists will be considering the question: "What are responsible policies, and are they effective?"

Featuring L.A. District Attorney **Steve Cooley**; Vice President of Prison Fellowship Ministries, **Pat Nolan**; USC Law Professor, **Jody Armour**, and student representatives.

## **Thinking about an internship for Spring or Summer?**

Participating in a political internship helps gain a competitive edge in today's job market, provides practical real-world experience, helps build invaluable relationships with potential employers, and can even help you earn college credit by taking POSC 395. **Stop by the Unruh Institute or Email [yutani@usc.edu](mailto:yutani@usc.edu) for internship opportunities and application information.**

For more information about Unruh Institute Events and Programs, visit us on the web at [www.usc.edu/unruh](http://www.usc.edu/unruh).

For questions/comments, please Email [unruhins@usc.edu](mailto:unruhins@usc.edu) or call 213-740-8964.