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Institute opens month long exhibit about Dole's daily life as Senate majority leader

LAWRENCE -- For a new perspective into the life of Kansas' favorite son, the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas announces the opening of a temporary exhibit focusing on Dole's day-to-day business at the pinnacle of his legislative career as Senate Republican Party leader from 1985 to 1996.

The "Leader of the Pack: Life as a Senate Leader" exhibit is open through Sept. 1 in the institute's Hansen Hall. The institute, at 2350 Petefish Drive on KU's West Campus, is free and open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

An anthropological exploration of sorts, this exhibit will display photographs and objects, including items removed from Dole's desk upon his retirement in 1996 that relate to Dole's duties as a Senate leader, his obligations as a top member of his party, and various aspects of his personal life. His commitment to fair leadership and his dedication to public service are emphasized. The exhibit also includes publications of his daily schedules, never before viewed by the general public.

"Leader of the Pack" is a unique look behind the scenes of a major personality within recent American political history, and it builds a rounded picture not just of the Senate leader but also of the man himself, said Jean Bischoff, senior archivist.

The exhibit was designed and constructed by two institute summer archival interns, Martina Smith and Emily Lowrance-Floyd, both KU graduate students.

"Our 2005 student interns have done an outstanding job of using images and artifacts to construct an innovative visual representation of the many facets of Senator Dole's career as majority and minority leader," Bischoff said. "Their creativity and fresh approach to exhibit design will appeal to everyone."

Online: www.doleinstitute.org