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Press Release

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Dole Institute names Steven Jacques, Adam Taff as inaugural '05 Dole fellows

NOTE: Jacques is pronounced "Jakes."

LAWRENCE -- The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas today named nationally recognized Democratic political operative Steven Jacques and former Republican Congressional nominee Adam Taff as the institute's first Dole fellows for 2005. Each will be in residence at the institute during the spring semester and will lead public, weekly, not-for-credit study groups on a range of political topics beginning in March.

Students, faculty and members of the community are invited to meet Jacques and Taff at a reception at 5 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, at the Dole Institute.

"Fellows will also interact with students, participate in the intellectual life of the community and pursue individual studies or projects," said Dole Institute Director Bill Lacy. "We are lucky to have two such exciting political practitioners for our inaugural fellows -- each has the hands-on experience and enthusiasm for public service that will greatly benefit our students and the wider community."

Jacques served in both the Carter and Clinton administrations on the White House staff, and in senior staff positions in the State Department and Commerce Department. He has served on national staff in eight presidential campaigns, most recently as senior advance consultant for Sen. John Kerry.

During the past two decades Jacques has created and implemented successful strategic communications plans for a diverse spectrum of corporate clients, nonprofit organizations, and municipal and federal government initiatives including the Kansas City Police Department, the expansion of NATO and the demining of Kosovo. Jacques is married to KU graduate Christine Colby, an actress and Broadway dancer.

Taff is a Naval Reserves commander with 16 years of experience as a tactical aviator. He has served two tours of duty to the Middle East and Mediterranean and one tour in Europe. Currently, he is an instructor pilot flying the FA-18 from Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach and recently was selected for command of an aviation unit. He also works for BGI, LLC, as a tactical aviation consultant to companies such as Northrup Grumman and Lockheed Martin, and was a commercial jet pilot for United Airlines for four years.

He was the Republican nominee for Kansas' Third Congressional District in 2002, garnering more than 101,000 votes in a narrow loss to incumbent Dennis Moore. He ran again in 2004 but lost in the GOP primary. Taff resides in Overland Park with his wife, Beth, and is a member of the board of the Johnson County United Way.

The Dole Institute, dedicated in 2002 on KU's West Campus, emphasizes civic education as an alternative to popular apathy and promotes politics as an honorable profession. Fellows are selected for their energy, originality and potential to invigorate political life at KU.

