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Glickman, 'West Wing' producer to talk about Hollywood, politics at Dole Institute

LAWRENCE -- Two well-connected Kansans -- the movie industry's top advocate in Washington and an Emmy-award winning executive producer and writer of TV's "The West Wing" -- will highlight the Dole Institute of Politics' "Hollywood & Politics" lecture series Nov. 9 and 10 at the University of Kansas.

Dan Glickman, president of the Motion Picture Association of America and former Kansas congressman, will speak Nov. 9, followed by KU alum Alex Graves on Nov. 10. Both programs will begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. The Graves program will be co-sponsored by the KU Department of Theatre and Film.

Hollywood and politics are intertwined in many ways," said Dole Institute Director Bill Lacy. "We are delighted to have two outstanding guests to talk about this topic."

Glickman, a former secretary of Agriculture, has been the movie industry's chief lobbyist since September 2004.

"Dan is uniquely qualified to discuss this issue given his current role and very significant political experience," Lacy said.

A Wichita native, Glickman served nine terms in the U.S. House of Representatives representing Kansas' 4th District. In Congress, Glickman was a member of the House Judiciary Committee, where he also sat on the Copyright and Intellectual Property Subcommittee, and was chair of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Glickman was the U.S. Agriculture secretary from 1995 to 2001 before becoming director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard University.

His son Jonathan is president and partner in Hollywood's Spyglass Entertainment and has produced such films as "While You Were Sleeping," "Grosse Pointe Blank," "Inspector Gadget" and the "Rush Hour" movies.

Graves, an El Dorado native who attended KU before graduating from the University of Southern California's film school, has been with the television show "The West Wing" since 1999. He has directed episodes of other TV shows including "Ally McBeal," "The Practice," "Leap of Faith" and "Boston Public." He was the writer, producer, director and editor of the 1995 movie set in Kansas, "The Crude Oasis."

"Alex is a native Kansan who attended KU, so we are proud to be able to showcase his talent," said Chuck Berg, chairman and professor of theatre and film. "We are delighted to have him return to campus."

Graves, who serves on the KU theatre and film professional advisory board, will speak with Berg about various aspects of filmmaking and will illustrate them with excerpts from "The West Wing."