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Press Release

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Noted Reagan biographer to kick off Dole Institute's Presidential Lecture Series

LAWRENCE -- Lou Cannon, President Ronald Reagan's definitive biographer, will kick off the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics' Presidential Lecture Series 2005, "The Reagan Presidency," at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at the Lied Center at the University of Kansas.

Other Reagan-focused events, to take place in the Dole Institute's Hansen Hall, will feature prominent Reagan campaign strategists, officials and close associates.

"Lou Cannon will set the stage for a month dedicated to programs on the Reagan presidency," said Bill Lacy, director of the Dole Institute. Cannon is the author of five Reagan books, most recently, "President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime."

"We will have a spectacular lineup for February, including Ed Rollins, who managed President Reagan's 1984 re-election campaign, and longtime Reagan pollster Richard Wirthlin, among others," Lacy said. "It will be a blend of history and the strategists involved in the key events of the Reagan years."

Wirthlin wrote "The Greatest Communicator: What Ronald Reagan Taught Me about Politics, Leadership and Life," which was published in 2004.

The Presidential Lecture Series also will include career diplomat and former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union Jack Matlock, author of "Reagan and Gorbachev: How the Cold War Ended"; Craig Shirley, author of the forthcoming book "Reagan's Revolution: The Untold Story of the Campaign that Started It All"; former White House political director Frank Donatelli; and former Director of Presidential Advance Jim Hooley and Lead Advance Andrew Littlefair. Both Hooley and Littlefair were instrumental in planning Reagan's funeral.

The schedule for the four programs:

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at the Lied Center
"President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime"
Lou Cannon

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, in Hansen Hall at the Dole Institute
"Stagecraft Stories: How Advance Work Builds Presidential Image"
Jim Hooley and Andrew Littlefair

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, in Hansen Hall at the Dole Institute
"Reagan and Gorbachev: How the Cold War Ended"
Jack Matlock

7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28, in Hansen Hall at the Dole Institute
"Electing Reagan: The Presidential Campaigns"
Frank Donatelli, Ed Rollins, Craig Shirley and Richard Wirthlin

Authors will sign books immediately after each event. The KU Bookstore will sell a selection of each author's books before and during the book signings.

The Dole Institute's Presidential Lecture Series is free and open to the public, but tickets will be required for all events. Tickets to see Lou Cannon on Feb. 3 will be available beginning Jan. 20 through the Lied Center box office, (785) 864-2787. Tickets for the three events in Hansen Hall will be available through the Dole Institute, (785) 864-4900, beginning Jan. 20. The Dole Institute is located at 2350 Petefish Drive, adjacent to the Lied Center, on KU's West Campus.

The institute's signature program, the Presidential Lecture Series, began in 2002. Previously a November event, the series will take place in February, nationally known as Presidents' Month. The series involves the nation's leading presidential scholars, historians and journalists, as well as others including former presidents, cabinet officers, White House staff members and campaign practitioners who will discuss the nation's highest office.

The Dole Institute, established at KU in 1997 to honor the former Kansas senator and presidential nominee, is designed to foster new thinking on major policy issues and encourage student participation and citizen involvement in public service.

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