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Dole Institute to offer behind-the-scenes look at archives and collections

LAWRENCE -- The Robert J. Dole Institute at the University of Kansas will conduct public, behind-the-scenes tours of the former Senator's personal and political archives Friday, March 25 and Saturday, April 23. Due to space limitations reservations are required for the free tours.

"A lot of history will be discovered in our archives, in time," said Bill Lacy, institute director. "We feel it's important to give citizens and students the opportunity to see this key portion of the Dole Institute."

"Guests who've received the "behind-the-scenes" tour during the past two years have rated it as one of the high points of their visit to the Institute," said Senior Archivist Jean Bischoff. "We're very pleased that this tour will be a monthly event open to everyone."

The monthly tour will include a visit to the reading room on the upper floor of the Institute, where local and out-of-state visitors research information contained in the Dole Collection. Guests also will tour the archival storage area in the lower level. The storage area holds more than 4,000 boxes of Bob Dole's personal and political papers and more than 25,000 photographs related to Dole's personal life and political career. The final leg of the tour will take guests into the archival processing room where staff and volunteers sift through the papers, photographs and artifacts that make up the Dole Collection.

The 30-minute tour will be led by Dole Institute archivists.

Reservations can be made by phone at 864-1420 or 864-1405, or by e-mail at bischoff@ku.edu or asweets@ku.edu.

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