



2350 Petefish Drive Lawrence, Kansas 66045 785-864-4900

Press Release

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Contact: Bill Lacy, Director
Dole Institute of Politics
(785) 864-4900.

Dole Institute announces first summer series, features authors

LAWRENCE -- The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas today announced its Summer Series, consisting of three programs on consecutive Thursday nights beginning July 21. The programs feature authors of new books on Presidents Ronald Reagan and Herbert Hoover and the homefront lives of military families who lived at a special base in Salina.

"We are very pleased with the high quality, variety and unique appeal of these programs," said Dole Institute Director Bill Lacy.

All three programs will begin at 7:30 p.m. and feature a lecture, Q&A and a book signing afterward. They are free and open to the public. For reservations, call (785) 864-4900 or e-mail doleinstitute@ku.edu.

The Thursday programs are:

July 21: Hal Wert will speak on his recent book, "**Hoover, The Fishing President.**" An intensely private and shy man, Herbert Hoover the person was largely unknown to the American public. In Wert's biography devoted to the angling side of Hoover, Wert examines the often overlooked life of the 31st president. Wert received his Ph.D. from KU and is a professor of history at the Kansas City Art Institute.

July 28: Political strategist Craig Shirley will lecture on his recent book, "**Reagan's Revolution,**" which argues that President Reagan's only losing campaign, waged for the GOP nomination against incumbent President Gerald Ford in 1976, was actually the spark that led to Reagan's election in 1980 and the huge subsequent changes his presidency brought.

Aug. 4: Donna Moreau will discuss "**Waiting Wives: The Story of Schilling Manor, Homefront to the Vietnam War.**" It's an important story of the other side of war, how it affects soldiers' families. An old Air Force base on the plains of Kansas became Schilling Manor, the only base to be set aside for the wives and children of soldiers assigned to Vietnam. Moreau is the daughter of one such waiting wife and describes how the women and children of Schilling Manor in Salina fought on the emotional front of the war.

"Our hope is that the public will receive these programs well and we can establish the Summer Series as a regular component of our program schedule," Lacy said.

For more information, call (785) 864-4900 or e-mail doleinstitute@ku.edu.