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Biographer of Condoleezza Rice to speak at Dole Institute

LAWRENCE – Lawrence author Antonia Felix, biographer of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, will appear March 31 at the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas for a public lecture and book signing.

Felix, the author of “Condi: The Condoleezza Rice Story,” will speak at 7:30 p.m. in the institute’s Hansen Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Felix is the author of 13 nonfiction books, including the national bestseller, "Laura: America's First Lady, First Mother," "Andrea Bocelli: A Celebration," and biographies on Gen. Wesley Clark, singer Harry Connick, Jr. and former EPA administrator Christie Todd Whitman. She has also edited a number of movie books including "Windtalkers: The Making of the Film About the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II" and "Pearl Harbor: The Movie and the Moment."

“As Secretary of State and in her previous position as National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice is perhaps the most powerful and influential woman in the U.S. government today,” said Dole Institute Director Bill Lacy. “She has even begun to show up in polls for leading presidential contenders in 2008. It is fitting that she be the subject of one of our programs during Women’s History Month. It’s equally fitting that her biographer is a woman.”

Rice’s role as one of President Bush’s top cabinet secretaries and closest advisors follows a distinguished career as scholar, professor, provost and foreign policy advisor, all accomplished before her 50th birthday. “She has become a complex mix of artist and academic, corporate executive and university manager, mentor and political insider, and close friend of two presidents,” Felix said of Rice, who visited Lawrence in 2002 to speak at the Dole Institute’s dedication ceremony.

In addition to her writing career, Felix is an operatic soprano who performs throughout the United States and Europe. Her husband, Stanford, is a doctoral student in KU’s Department of Music and Dance.