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Former Dean campaign chief Trippi, Nixon Center Russia expert to give lectures at KU

LAWRENCE — The former national campaign manager for Howard Dean’s 2004 presidential campaign and the executive director of the Nixon Center will give separate public lectures this month at the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas, the institute announced today.

Dean campaign chief Joe Trippi will speak on “Catching Lightning in a Bottle: The Rise and Fall of the Dean Campaign” at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, in the institute’s Hansen Hall. He will also sign copies of his 2004 book, *The Revolution Will Not Be Televised: Democracy, the Internet, and the Overthrow of Everything*. Trippi will also address Dole Institute Fellow John Toohey’s not-for-credit study group at 4 p.m. March 28.

Paul J. Saunders, who leads the Nixon Center in Washington, D.C., will speak on “Time to Give Up on Russia?” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 30, in Hansen Hall.

As Dean’s campaign chief, Trippi pioneered the use of online technology to organize what became the largest grassroots movement in presidential politics. Through Trippi’s innovative use of the Internet for small-donor fundraising, Dean for America ended up raising more money than any Democratic presidential campaign in history, all with donations averaging less than \$100 each.

He was largely responsible for the creation of an official campaign Weblog and the use of innovative social networking technologies to connect supporters, both innovations widely utilized today by other social and political campaigns. Under Trippi’s leadership, Dean was vaulted from a secondary candidate to Democratic frontrunner. Dean is now chair of the Democratic National Committee.

In addition to being the Nixon Center’s chief operating officer, Saunders is director of its U.S.-Russian Relations Program and is establishing new projects on energy and climate change, U.S.-European relations and the role of democracy in U.S. foreign policy. He is also associate publisher of the foreign policy magazine *The National Interest*, published quarterly by the Nixon Center.

From 2003 to 2005, Saunders served as senior adviser to the under secretary of state for global affairs for President Bush. In that capacity, he worked on a broad range of transnational issues, especially those with respect to Russia, Ukraine and the former Soviet Union as well as Iraq, China and India.

The Nixon Center is a nonpartisan public policy institution that operates as a substantively and programmatically independent division of The Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace Foundation in Yorba Linda, Calif. The center is funded through a combination of corporate and individual donations in addition to foundation grants.