

Virginia LEADERSHIP

V.13 N.2 SUMMER.08



The Sorensen 2008 Gala
Honoring U.S. Senator John Warner
full coverage begins on Page 6



Thursday, May 1

The new PBS documentary “Across the Aisle”—which chronicles the Sorensen Institute’s Political Leaders Program Class of 2007—premiered to a private audience of board members, alumni, and supporters in Charlottesville at the University of Virginia. The reaction was very positive. As one observer remarked, “Applause, laughter and tears at all the right moments! We thoroughly enjoyed it and left wanting more.”

Long-time Sorensen supporter and State Advisory Board member Fred Scott (*at left in photo*), who

personally funded the project, was on hand to introduce the production, as was award-winning documentary director Paul Roberts (*at right*). Three other premiere parties were held during May in Richmond, northern Virginia, and Hampton Roads. “Across the Aisle” was broadcast on television on May 28 in the Charlottesville and Richmond markets (and again on June 4). Future broadcast dates in other Virginia markets and across the nation have yet to be scheduled. Stay tuned to the Sorensen Newsroom for updates.



Bob Gibson Joins Sorensen As New Executive Director

In a letter to board members and alumni on March 25, State Advisory Board Chairman Barbara Fried announced that veteran political journalist and public radio host Bob Gibson had been selected to be the Sorensen Institute’s new Executive Director. Fried wrote, “Bob is well-known at the University, in Richmond, and in political circles across Virginia. He has been a frequent guest speaker to Sorensen classes over the years, bringing with him a deep appreciation for the issues on which our programs focus. Throughout his professional career Bob has always stood for those principles which are at the heart of the Sorensen mission. As a reporter and political analyst, he has earned a strong reputation for fairness and thoughtful commentary. The members of the Search Committee unanimously agreed that the Sorensen Institute will be tremendously well served with Bob Gibson as its Director.”



Bob Gibson

Bob officially joined the Sorensen team on April 21. That week he sent a letter to our alumni which read, “I am honored and privileged to find myself following Bill Wood and Sean O’Brien as the third executive director of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia and feel a strong commitment to the soul of Sorensen. A political junkie who grew up in Arlington, I have had the good fortune the past 31 years to observe and report on Virginia’s political life as a journalist. I love the spirit so apparent at Sorensen of service to community and to the Commonwealth. This bipartisan passion—both noble and infectious—has spread across Virginia for 15 years thanks to the staff and more than 1,000 graduates of this thriving institution. I firmly believe that Virginia’s politics can be strengthened and improved through the increased participation and understanding of folks who share Sorensen’s spirit.”

Youth Programs Prepare for Record Year

The College and High School Leaders Programs are both set for exciting sessions this summer: with 30 and 32 participants, respectively, these are the largest classes each program has ever had. For the students, instructors, and speakers, as well as for the Commonwealth of Virginia, a larger class is definitely better. It means more learning and networking opportunities, more interested pupils, and, most importantly, more highly trained alumni with aspirations for civic service.

The College Leaders Program (CLP) has students from a total of 17 institutes of higher education. Four of these are schools that have never sent a participant before, including J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Lynchburg College, Duke University, and Morehouse College. Three schools had not seen applications in the past five years, including Bridgewater University, Hampden-Sydney College, and Sweet Briar College.

The CLP will also include two student body presidents, two vice presidents, and an abundance of Student Government Association members. We also have a first ever for the CLP: the editor-in-chief of a campus newspaper.

The High School Leaders Program (HSLP) will have students from 27 different high schools around the state. 2008 saw a proliferation of applications from new schools—17 that have never had a participant are sending a student this year. Regional diversity is also exceptionally strong. The HSLP also boasts three class presidents, two vice presidents, and, you guessed it, a multitude of student government wonks.

In order to more fully understand the issues facing individual regions within the Commonwealth, the CLP will be traveling five times during the month of June: to the Shenandoah Valley, Danville, Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Hampton Roads. Among the many experiences these trips will afford the students, highlights include a visit to a port, a correctional facility, and the state and U.S. capitals. The HSLP will visit Northern Virginia and Richmond during the month of July.

Our loyal instructors will be returning again this year. Tom Shields of the University of Richmond's Jepson School of Leadership will instruct the Thoughtful Citizen, which focuses on Virginia public policy, for both the CLP and the HSLP. Quentin Kidd of Christopher Newport University heads the Informed Citizen for the CLP, which covers the nuts and bolts of Virginia government and politics. Matt McGuire of the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School will handle the Informed Citizen during the HSLP.

Students will also develop their own policy proposals that will be presented to a panel of lawmakers and Virginia political figures at the end of each program. This aspect of the curriculum, known as The Active Citizen, is always one of the most hands-on parts of the program, as students tackle issues such as rising textbook prices, nonpartisan redistricting, public-private development partnerships, or any issue that merits a thorough investigation and thoughtful solution. In our next newsletter we will have class photos and bios of all the members of the High School and College Leaders Programs Classes of 2008.

Check out the Sorensen Newsroom to read the names of the 62 young Virginians who were chosen to participate in this year's High School and College Leaders Programs.

Go to April 7, 2008 in the News Archive.

www.sorenseninstitute.org/newsroom

Program Updates

Political Leaders Program Class of 2008

The 2008 Political Leaders Program has enjoyed a strong start to their year together. The 30 members of the class hail from all corners of Virginia—Lebanon to Virginia Beach, Lexington to Burke and everywhere in between. The class kicked off the year by gathering in Williamsburg the weekend of March 13. The program began with remarks from former Governor Linwood Holton, followed by a discussion of ethics and politics with State Advisory Board Member and UVA Professor Michael Smith.

The class also enjoyed a recap of the 2008 General Assembly session with Senator Ken Stolle, Delegate and Sorensen alumnus Kenny Alexander (PLP 2003), and Delegate Brenda Pogge. They discussed Virginia's modern political history with

Professor Quentin Kidd of Christopher Newport University. They also visited the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point where they met with Congressman Rob Wittman and Dr. Carl Hershner to discuss



The PLP Class of 2008 in Williamsburg with Dr. Michael J. Smith, the University of Virginia's Thomas C. Sorensen Professor of Political and Social Thought and a member of the Sorensen Institute's State Advisory Board.

public policy and the Chesapeake Bay. They also met with Bill Mims, Chief Deputy Attorney General, and Sorensen alumnus Larry Roberts (PLP 2001), Counselor to the Governor. Bill and Larry spoke candidly regarding successes their offices have had working across the aisle despite partisan and policy differences.

In April the class traveled to Richmond to tour the Virginia State Police Headquarters. They enjoyed meeting with Colonel Steven Flaherty, Superintendent of the State Police, and participating in several State Police exercises including driving training and the "shoot/don't shoot" simulation. The class also met with Delegate William Howell, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and heard from State Advisory Board Member and Sorensen graduate Jody Wagner (PLP Fall 1994), Virginia's Secretary of Finance, about the Virginia budget. Following Secretary Wagner's

presentation, the class had their own opportunity to tackle fiscal policy in the annual budget game scenario which was led by Dr. Tom Shields of the University of Richmond.

Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley welcomed the PLP Class of 2008 in May. They toured the Virginia Poultry Grower's Cooperative processing plant in Hinton, where they met with Sorensen alumnus Hobe Bauhan (PLP 2006), President of the Virginia Poultry Federation, and discussed the poultry industry in Virginia. The class also heard from a panel of experts on agricultural policy in Virginia including Dale Gardner, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Virginia State Dairymen's Association, Todd Haymore, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Gerald Heatwole, the owner of Cub Run Dairy. Other highlights from the May session included a discussion of the judicial nomination and selection process and training on how to use mediation to resolve disputes in the public policy arena with Mark Rubin, Senior Advisor to Governor Tim Kaine.

The PLP Class of 2008 will meet next in Charlottesville the weekend of June 13.



Southside Public Leadership Series

The Sorensen Institute's Southside Public Leadership Speakers Series hosted former Virginia Senator Charles Hawkins, 19th District, in Danville on April 8. The evening was a great success. Senator Hawkins shared memories of his path to leadership and encouraged others to seek out public service and make a difference in their communities. At left is Regional Board member Charley Majors of Danville, President and CEO of the American National Bank and Trust Company, Senator Hawkins, and Sorensen's Chris Wrobel (CLP 2005).

Past speakers in the series have included Governor Mark Warner, former Virginia Delegate Paul Harris, past president of the National Civic League Chris Gates, and former Attorney General Mary Sue Terry. The next event in the Public Leadership Series will be held on Tuesday, June 10 at 7pm at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville. Our speaker will be former U.S. Attorney and candidate for Attorney General, John Brownlee. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Amber Capron at (434) 982-5234.

Virginia General Assembly Honors Sorensen Institute

The Virginia General Assembly has honored the Sorensen Institute during this, the 15th anniversary of our founding. The Assembly passed a resolution this year praising the work of the Sorensen Institute and hailing it as the national model for bipartisan leadership training. Delegates, alumni, and State Advisory Board members Jennifer McClellan (PLP 2001, CTP 2005) and John Cosgrove (PLP 1998) presented a copy of the official resolution to State Advisory Board Chairman Barbara Fried at our 2008 Gala. We are proud that the resolution was co-patroned by every one of our sixteen alumni now serving in the Virginia General Assembly.



Gala 2008

The Sorensen Institute Honors U.S. Senator John Warner on Friday, April 25, Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City

The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership made history on April 25 when over 300 people gathered to honor U.S. Senator John Warner for his leadership and service to Virginia and the nation. Eight Virginia governors were present, making this the largest gathering of governors in the Commonwealth's history. Speakers at the event included former Governor Linwood Holton, former Governor and U.S. Senator Chuck Robb, former Governor Gerald Baliles, Governor Tim Kaine, Chairman of the Sorensen Institute's State Advisory Board, Barbara Fried, and of course, U.S. Senator Warner. We were also delighted to host former Virginia governors Doug Wilder, George Allen, Jim Gilmore, and Mark Warner.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors (see page 10) and all those who attended this special event, we raised over \$300,000 to support the work of the Sorensen Institute. We are tremendously grateful that ten new corporations from the region were represented at the Gala, including: The MITRE Corporation, Cox Communications, Barr Pharmaceuticals, Raytheon, Dewberry, Foxcraft Design Group, Micron, MergeGlobal, Inc., Reed Smith LLP, and Technology Management International.

The Sorensen Institute enjoyed the added benefit of being the subject of a television promotion thanks to Cox Communications, which was broadcast on the CNN Headline News Channel throughout the Washington region in April. The 2008 Gala was the first major event the Sorensen Institute has hosted in Northern Virginia. In keeping with our efforts to strengthen the Sorensen presence in that region, it will not be the last.



Left to right standing: Vince Sedwick, Leah Sedwick, Senator John Warner, Sorensen's Executive Director Bob Gibson, former Virginia Delegate and Vice Chairman of the Sorensen State Advisory Board Paul Harris. Left to right seated: Mark Fried, Chairman of the Sorensen State Advisory Board Barbara Fried, and Jeanne Warner.

See more Gala photos on pages 8-9

U.S. Senator John Warner

The American story abounds with great Virginians who have offered critical leadership and courageous public service to our country. The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia is indeed proud to honor United States Senator John Warner—a great Virginian and a man of honor who has so unselfishly served the Commonwealth and the nation. John Warner has represented Virginia in the United States Senate since January 1979. He has won five consecutive elections and in 2005 became the second-longest serving U.S. Senator from Virginia in the 218-year history of the Senate.

John Warner was born February 18, 1927. In January of 1945, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He served on active duty until the summer of 1946 when he was honorably discharged as Petty Officer, 3rd Class, electronic technician's mate. Senator Warner studied at Washington and Lee University following the war, where he earned his B.S. Degree in 1949. He then entered the University of Virginia School of Law.

At the outbreak of the Korean War in the summer of 1950, Senator Warner interrupted his law studies and commenced a second tour of active military duty, beginning in October 1950, this time as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. A year later, in October 1951, as a First Lieutenant in communications, he volunteered for duty in Korea and served as a Ground Officer with the First Marine Air Wing. Following his active service in Korea, he remained in the Marine Corps Reserve for 10 years and was promoted to the rank of Captain.

Upon his return from Korea, Senator Warner earned his law degree and was selected by the late Chief Judge E. Barrett Prettyman of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals as his law clerk. In 1956, he was appointed as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and served four years in the trial and appellate divisions. He entered private law practice in 1960 with the long-established firm of Hogan & Hartson.

In February of 1969 the U.S. Senate confirmed his Presidential appointment to be Under Secretary of Navy. For over five years during the war in Vietnam, Senator Warner served in the Department of the Navy, and led the Department as Secretary from 1972-1974. Following his work in the Navy Department, Senator Warner was appointed by the President to coordinate the celebration of the Bicentennial of the founding of the United States of America, directing the federal role at events in all fifty states and in 22 foreign countries.

In 1978 John Warner was elected to the United States Senate, where he has served since then. Senator Warner has proven to be one of the Senate's most influential and well respected leaders. He is the former Chairman, and now the second-ranking Republican, of the Senate Armed Services Committee, having begun his association with our men and women in uniform sixty years ago. In that capacity, and throughout his career, he has shown unwavering support for the men and women of the armed forces. He has also been a champion of modernizing the structure and operations of the military to ensure its effectiveness in the 21st century.



RIGHT, seated left to right: Governor Tim Kaine, Julie Sparks, Delegate and Sorensen graduate Margi Vanderhye (PLP 2006). Standing left to right: Jim Beamer; Reuben Johnson, Sorensen State Advisory Board member Phil Sparks, Deborah Johnson, and Bruce McKay.



LEFT: Former Governor and U.S. Senator George Allen and U.S. Senator Jim Webb.

RIGHT: Delegate Rob Bell, Delegate, Sorensen State Advisory Board Vice Chair, and graduate Jennifer McClellan (PLP 2001, CTP 2005), and Sorensen graduate Aimee Perron (PLP 2004).



ABOVE, seated left to right: former Governor Linwood Holton, former First Lady of Virginia Jinks Holton, Bill Couper, and Rob Lockridge. Standing left to right: Rick Kapani, Hunter Fairchild (CLP 2008), Chris Fairchild (PLP 2008), Eric Johnson, Jim Miller; Tracy Tanner Bond, and Sorensen graduate Vivek Kundra (PLP 2007).

BELOW: Brian Clancy, co-founder and Managing Director of MergeGlobal, Inc.





ABOVE: U.S. Senator John Warner, former Governor Mark Warner, former Delegate Paul Harris, Attorney General Bob McDonnell.

RIGHT TOP: Virginia Warner, Senator John Warner, and Jeanne Warner.

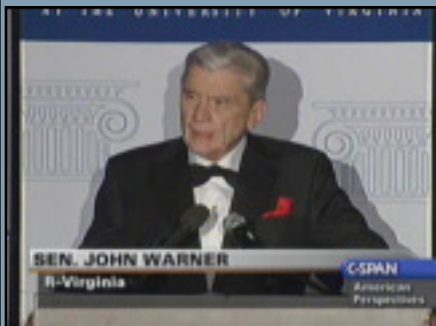
RIGHT: Delegate Brian Moran, Karyn Moran, former Governor and U.S. Senator George Allen, former First Lady of Virginia Susan Allen, and Sorensen Executive Director Bob Gibson.



LEFT, seated from left to right: Robin Stein, Jeff McClure, U.S. Senator Jim Webb, Vice Chairman of the Sorensen State Advisory Board Mindi McClure, Leigh McKee. Standing left to right: Scott Ellison, Jenny Guy, Delegate Bob Brink, Paul Reagan, and Kevin Stein.

ONLINE EXTRAS:

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See a complete slideshow of Gala photos



Watch a slideshow of photos from the life of John Warner

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Sorensen Calendar 2008

May

31: College Leaders Program Class of 2008 begins in Charlottesville.

June

10: Former U.S. Attorney and candidate for Attorney General, John Brownlee, will speak in Danville at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research as part of Sorensen's Southside Public Leadership Speakers Series.

13-14: PLP Class of 2008 meets in Charlottesville.

28: College Leaders Program Class of 2008 celebrates graduation.

July

11-12: PLP Class of 2008 meets in Northern Virginia.

12: High School Leaders Program Class of 2008 begins in Charlottesville.

26: High School Leaders Program Class of 2008 celebrates graduation.

August

8-9: PLP Class of 2008 meets in Southside.

September

5-6: PLP Class of 2008 meets in Hampton Roads.

October

4: PLP Class of 2008 meets in Richmond.

4: The Sorensen Institute celebrates the 15th anniversary of its founding at the 2008 Alumni Reunion in Richmond.

November

7-8: PLP Class of 2008 meets in Roanoke.

December

5-6: Political Leaders Program Class of 2008 celebrates its graduation in Charlottesville.

*Coming in the next Newsletter: The "Facebook Issue"
Meet the Sorensen Institute's Class of 2008:
Members of the Political Leaders, College Leaders,
and High School Leaders Programs*

Founded in 1993 to identify, educate, and train emerging leaders in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership is a non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the quality of governance at all levels of government in Virginia. The Sorensen Institute does not participate in any manner in political campaigns and does not take positions for or against issues, causes or proposals. The Sorensen Institute does not endorse, support or oppose any candidate for office, nor does the Institute mediate disputes between or among candidates or political parties. The Sorensen Institute does not review, express an opinion, or take a position with respect to the propriety of campaign literature or campaign material; and the use of the Sorensen name in campaign literature or material does not imply that the candidate, the literature, or the material has been endorsed, approved, or disapproved by the Institute. Though it is housed at the University of Virginia as part of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the Sorensen Institute relies entirely on individual, foundation, and corporate gifts to support its programs. Virginia LEADERSHIP is published quarterly. Copies are sent to alumni, donors, and friends, and made available on our website as well. For information please contact Coy Barefoot, Director of Communications and Alumni Relations at barefoot@virginia.org or (434) 243-2427.

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★ In 2008 the Virginia General Assembly hailed the Sorensen Institute as

12 Independents

18 Democrats

18 Republicans

★ 48 Sorensen graduates were elected to office in November 2007:

★ 16 alumni are now serving in the Virginia General Assembly

★ Over 1000 people have graduated from our programs

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