

# Virginia LEADERSHIP

V.13 N.1 SPRING.08



*The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership  
is proud to congratulate  
the Political Leaders Program Class of 2007*

**\*\*Graduation Photos Inside!\*\***

**\*Also in this Issue: CTP '08, Alumni News, and PBS Update\***

# PLP '07 Graduation

**December 7-8, 2007**

One of the Sorensen Institute's most memorable classes of the Political Leaders Program gathered for its final meeting in Charlottesville the weekend of December 7 to celebrate its graduation. The subject of a PBS documentary that will premiere in May, the PLP Class of 2007 was truly a special group. The board members, alumni, and staff would like to welcome each of our newest graduates to the Sorensen family.

The Sorensen Institute's flagship Political Leaders Program is a leadership development program for residents of Virginia interested in becoming more active in public service, whether as community leaders or as elected officials. Participation in this program has become a traditional "first step" for future political leaders in the Commonwealth. The class meets in various locations across Virginia, once a month for 10 months from March through December. The curriculum of the program focuses on ethics in public service, public policy, and campaign and advocacy skills. Competition to participate in the program is particularly rigorous.



LEFT: PLP 2007 graduates James Alcorn, Glenn Davis, Brenda Haegley, Eric Gregory, and Rob Hamilton.

RIGHT: Ancolien Tate with PLP 2007 graduates Grant Tate and James Alcorn, and Sorensen State Advisory Board member Jacquelyn Stone.



LEFT: Paul Harris, Sorensen State Advisory Board member and former Virginia Delegate with Carrie Shaeffer (PLP 2007) and Paul Risberg.



ABOVE: Gary McGee, Sorensen State Advisory Board member with Leigh Middleditch, fellow Board member and Sorensen co-founder.



ABOVE: Vera Abbott-Young with PLP 2007 graduates Valarie Jones and Diane Kaufman.



LEFT: Delegate John Cosgrove (PLP 1998), Sorensen State Advisory Board member with Barbara Fried, Chairman of the State Advisory Board, and Tim Garson, Provost of the University of Virginia.

## *Announcing The Political Leaders Program Class of 2008*

The Sorensen Institute's Political Leaders Program Class of 2008 gathered for its first session in Williamsburg in March. As in years past, there were more than twice as many applicants as there are available spaces in the class. With help from our State and Regional Board members and alumni, the Sorensen Institute conducted interviews across the Commonwealth during December. This year's class includes some of the most impressive emerging leaders Virginia has to offer. Members of the PLP Class of 2008 include:

Robert Barnette, Mechanicsville  
Missy Bell, Alexandria  
Kenneth Bernstein, Arlington  
Ana Lucia Buckman, Arlington  
Michael Chapman, Charlottesville  
Brett Coffee, Burke  
R. David Cox, Lexington  
Anthony Dale, Alexandria  
Steven DeLuca, Richmond  
Bob Dorton, Lebanon

Patricia Edmonson, Virginia Beach  
Stella Edwards, Chesterfield County  
Chris Fairchild, Palmyra  
Sherry Foti, Roanoke  
William Frank, Richmond  
Dominic Gabello, Arlington  
Sarah Godlewski, Arlington  
Morgan Guthridge, Richmond  
Kristie Helmick, Mechanicsville  
Aryana Khalid, Stafford

Arthur Lichtenberger, Charlottesville  
Jennifer McKeever, Charlottesville  
Helen O'Beirne, Richmond  
Kala Quintana, Burke  
Bryan Rhode, Richmond  
Jacob Rooksby, Richmond  
Liane Rozzell, Arlington  
Susan Spears, Fredericksburg  
Joseph Walton, Powhatan  
Claire Wulf Winiarek, Chesapeake

# CTP 2008

**January 25-27**

For the first time in its nearly ten-year history, the Sorensen Institute's three-day Candidate Training Program was held at Montpelier, the home of James Madison in Orange County. The historic setting added much to the impact of the program. Carol Whitney, Co-Program Director of the Campaign Management Institute at American University, moderated this year's class. Fourteen Virginians from across the Commonwealth graduated from the program this year. Some of them have already announced for office and are busy running campaigns. We congratulate all the members of the Candidate Training Program Class of 2008 and proudly welcome them to the Sorensen family.

The Sorensen Institute's Candidate Training Program (CTP) is an intensive, three-day program focused on the fundamentals of a winning campaign for office. Participants explore the nuts and bolts of building a strong campaign from the ground up—all within the context of ethics and principled public service. The curriculum does not prescribe a particular set of campaign guidelines or rules, but does provide candidates with a framework for developing their own code of conduct to run a winning and ethical campaign. Participants in the program represent a broad range of ideologies and a diversity of communities from throughout Virginia. The CTP was first offered in 1999 with support from a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts.



*Front Row, left to right: Shawn Greene, Chesterfield; Adam Tolbert, Saltville; Cyndra VanClief, Charlottesville; Brett Coffee, Burke; Anthony Dale, Alexandria. Back Row, left to right: Emma Violand-Sanchez, Arlington; Brandon Hudson (PLP 2006), Virgilina; Lawrence Campbell (Danville 2005), Danville; Charniele Herring (PLP 2006), Alexandria; Lisa Miller, Alexandria; Catherine Clossin, Troy; Scott Robinson, Fort Belvoir; Vance Ayres (PLP 2007), King George; Terron Sims (PLP 2007), Arlington.*



ABOVE: Former Secretary of the Virginia State Board of Elections, Jean Jensen (PLP 1996) speaks to the class about fundraising.



RIGHT: Class members discuss personal campaign codes of conduct.

BELOW: Campaign consultant Liz Chadderdon discusses message development.



BELOW LEFT: Mike Salster, former Director of Communications for Lieutenant Governor John Hager, shares his experience working in the media.

BELOW: Tony Dale and Cyndra VanClief enjoy a lively in-class discussion.



# Programs Update

## **Carnegie Foundation Recognizes the Work of the Sorensen Institute**

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has released a new book—*Educating for Democracy: Preparing Undergraduates for Responsible Political Engagement*—which will be of great interest to Sorensen alumni and friends. This publication reports the results of a national study of "educational practices at the college level that prepare students for responsible democratic participation."

The Sorensen Institute's Youth Programs are featured quite prominently in the report and described as among the most effective in the nation. In its search for best practices in the education of young people about democracy, the Carnegie Foundation has identified the Sorensen Institute as demonstrating an exemplary approach worthy of emulation. When it comes to giving young people the skills and motivation to become politically engaged, the Sorensen Institute has become a national model.

"This is truly exciting news," said Marc Johnson, Director of Sorensen's Youth Programs and a graduate of the College Leaders Program Class of 2003. "It is a tremendous honor to have this recognition and validation from the Carnegie Foundation. At its core, the results of the study confirm what we already know: Sorensen alumni are some of the most politically engaged and active citizens in the Commonwealth. They understand and take very seriously the responsibilities of citizenship in a free society. Graduates of the Sorensen Institute are not content to sit on the sidelines. These are people that step forward and demonstrate great commitment and leadership when it comes to civic life."

## **Youth Programs 2008**

The Sorensen Institute received a record 127 applications for our 2008 High School and College Leaders Programs. Throughout the month of March, staff and Regional Board members will conduct personal interviews with applicants. Classes will be announced in April. The College Leaders Program will run from May 31 to June 28. The High School Leaders Program runs from July 12 to July 26. Both groups will live and study on the grounds of the University of Virginia.

## **Sorensen Hosts Former Attorney General Mary Sue Terry in Danville**

On February 20 the Sorensen Institute's Danville-Southside-Public Leadership Seminar Series was proud to host former Virginia Attorney General Mary Sue Terry. Ms. Terry discussed her path to leadership and urged others to seek opportunities for public service. This is the fourth in a six-part series of lectures that focuses on the opportunities for public service across southside Virginia for emerging and potential leaders in the region. All events are free and open to the public and are held in Danville. The Southside Public Leadership Seminar Series is funded by the E. Stuart James Grant Charitable Trust.



# Events Update

## Richmond Reception 2008

On February 21 the Sorensen Institute hosted its annual luncheon for legislative staff and interns to say thank you for all of their hard work during the General Assembly session. Later that evening we hosted our second annual reception in honor of the 16 Sorensen graduates who currently serve in the General Assembly. Over 100 Sorensen alumni and friends attended the reception, which was held at the Bull & Bear Club in Richmond.



CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: Terri Cofer Beirne (PLP 1997), McCandlish Holton, Jo Viglione, LA for Delegate Rob Bell, and former Delegate Paul Harris, Sorensen State Advisory Board and a Partner at Shook, Hardy, & Bacon ■ Delegate Bobby Mathieson (PLP 1999) and Sandra Ryals (PLP 1999), Director of the Virginia Department of Health Professions ■ Rosanna Benchoach (PLP 1998), Virginia State Board of Elections, and Katherine Hanley, Secretary of the Commonwealth and a member of the Sorensen NoVa Regional Board ■ Steven Jones (CLP 2004), Virginia21, and Elizabeth Hooper (CLP 2006), Virginia Tech Office of Government Relations.

**We Appreciate Our Sponsors**  
 who supported the Sorensen Institute's  
 annual Legislative Luncheon and Alumni Reception



# Development Update



## Thank You, PLP 07

The Sorensen Institute would like to extend our great appreciation to the members of the Political Leaders Program Class of 2007 for their generous gift which they presented at their graduation weekend. The Class of 2007 presented the Sorensen Institute with a three-year pledge of more than \$40,000 — making this the largest class gift in Sorensen history. In the photo at left, State Advisory Board Chairman Barbara Fried expresses thanks to the Class of 2007 for their historic pledge of support.

## Northern Virginia Initiative

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> Mindi and Jeff McClure hosted an evening of political conversation at their home in Arlington featuring the Honorable Tom Davis, Congressman for Virginia's 11<sup>th</sup> District. The event was the first project of the Sorensen Institute's Northern Virginia Steering Committee, established to strengthen relationships with the business community in that region. Introduced by Barbara Fried, Chairman of the Sorensen Institute's State Advisory Board, Congressman Davis remarked on his position on the national political scene and fielded questions from guests about issues critical to the region. The Congressman also shared his thoughts regarding the type of leader to succeed him as the representative for Virginia's 11<sup>th</sup> District.

Over 40 people attended the event, including Sorensen Institute board members, alumni and friends, in addition to many new Sorensen supporters from Northern Virginia. Organizations represented at the event included Friedman Billings & Ramsey, FTI Consulting, Reed Smith LLP, Nixon Vanderhye, the City of Alexandria, Northrop Grumman, MergeGlobal, Foxcraft, the Bear Companies, the U.S. Department of Justice, and many more. The Sorensen Institute would like to extend its thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a great success, especially Mindi and Jeff McClure and of course, Congressman Tom Davis.

## In Other Development News

**Scholarships:** The Sorensen Institute has received \$37,000 to date from four foundations for student scholarships. These scholarships will provide support for students in the 2008 High School Leaders Program as well as the 2008 Political Leaders Program. Sorensen thanks BAMA Works, Reynolds Foundation, The Camp Foundation and an anonymous donor for their investments in these wonderful programs.

**Make Your Donation Online:** You can now make donations online through the Sorensen website. Just click on INVEST and scroll down to How to Invest in the Sorensen Mission. It is quick, easy, and secure.

# Alumni News

## PBS to Broadcast Sorensen

### Documentary in May:

### Join us for the Premiere Party

WHTJ-PBS in Charlottesville is now in post-production on its one-hour documentary about the Sorensen Institute and our PLP Class of 2007. The program is tentatively scheduled to be broadcast the week of May 19. But before then, Sorensen will host a number of private premiere parties across Virginia so that our alumni and friends may get the first look at this exciting feature. We will host



premiere parties in Charlottesville on Thursday, May 1, in Richmond on Friday, May 2, in Northern Virginia on Thursday, May 15, and a final screening will be scheduled for the Hampton Roads region. Please plan on joining us to celebrate the Sorensen documentary. We will post details about the premiere parties in the online Sorensen Newsroom as well as send out information by email.

## In Other Alumni News

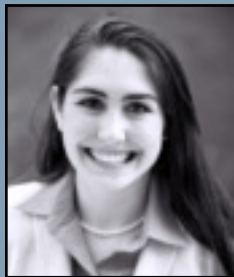
Maurice Jones (PLP 2002) has been named Assistant City Manager for Charlottesville. ■ Jeff McKay (PLP 1998) has been sworn in to serve on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Board of Directors. ■ The *Washington Post* named Waldo Jaquith (PLP 2005) "Blogger of the Month" for the website, Richmond Sunlight. ■ Sarah Abubaker (CLP 2007) has been promoted in the Governor's Office to Executive Assistant to the Senior Advisor for Workforce. ■ The work of Vivek Kundra (PLP 2007) as Chief Technology Officer for D.C. was profiled by *The Economist* magazine. ■ Joyce Waugh (PLP 2006) has been named interim president of the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce. ■ Angelia Yancey (PLP 2007) has been named the new Budget Director for the City of Chesapeake. ■ Marc Johnson (CLP 2003), and Director of Youth Programs for Sorensen, earned his Masters' Degree in Education from the Curry School at UVA where he studied education policy. ■

## Youth Program Managers for 2008



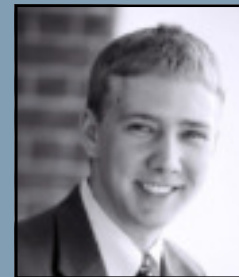
**CURTIS WALTON**

Old Dominion University 2008  
College Leaders Program 2006



**JAMIE LOCKHART**

James Madison University 2008  
College Leaders Program 2007



**CHRIS WROBEL**

University of Virginia 2007  
College Leaders Program 2005

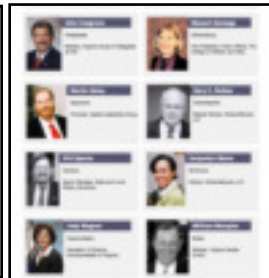
# New Website

The Sorensen Institute's new website launched on Monday, February 11.

The ALUMNI section includes pages for every Sorensen class—and alumni can now update their online bios!



An all-new BOARD MEMBERS page features photos and bios for each state board member.



Click here to access the INVEST page which includes embedded videos and a secure online giving portal.

A different quote or alumni testimonial is featured on each page.



Most pages have slideshows that play automatically.

A featured video from our archive is available in the lower left corner of every page.

A graduate is featured in the lower right corner of every page.

The ABOUT US section includes an all-new HISTORY page which features video of Sorensen co-founders and an answer to the question: Who is Sorensen?



The most recent posts to the Sorensen NEWSROOM (formerly a stand-alone blog) will automatically appear at the bottom of each page in the site. The Newsroom includes updates on alumni, programs, and events, in addition to the latest videos and podcasts.

Click this symbol to subscribe to the Sorensen news feed, as a whole or by subject category.

# Sorensen Calendar 2008

## March

**13-15:** Political Leaders Program Class of 2008 meets for the first time in Williamsburg.

## April

**11-12:** PLP Class of 2008 meets in Richmond.

**25:** The Sorensen Institute's 2008 Gala. We will honor U.S. Senator John Warner at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Pentagon City.

## May

**1:** Private Screening of the PBS Documentary about Sorensen in Charlottesville—6pm at UVA Special Collections Library. Alumni and friends are invited to attend.

**2:** Private Screening of the PBS Documentary in Richmond—6pm at Library of Virginia.

**9-10:** PLP Class of 2008 meets in Staunton.

**15:** Private Screening of the PBS Documentary about Sorensen in Northern Virginia—Arlington Cinema N' Drafthouse, time TBA.

**TBA:** Private Screening of the PBS Documentary about Sorensen in Hampton Roads.

**31:** College Leaders Program Class of 2008 begins in Charlottesville and runs through June 28.

## June

**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.

**12-26:** High School Leaders Program Class of 2008 meets in Charlottesville.

## 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.

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 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 at our website as well. For information please contact Coy Barefoot, Director of Communications and Alumni Relations at [barefoot@virginia.org](mailto:barefoot@virginia.org) or (434) 243-2427.

For more information visit [www.sorensengala.com](http://www.sorensengala.com)

6:00PM Reception  
7:00PM Dinner  
Black Tie

The Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City  
Arlington, Virginia

Friday, April 25th, 2008

*U.S. Senator John Warner*

to honor

*the 2008 Gala*

invites you to

THE SORENSEN INSTITUTE  
FOR POLITICAL LEADERSHIP



Sorensen Institute  
for Political Leadership  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

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