

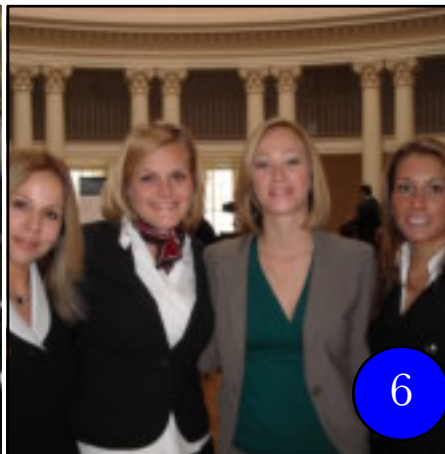
Virginia LEADERSHIP

V.13 N.4 WINTER.08



Celebrating 15 Years of Sorensen at the 2008 Alumni Reunion

photos begin on page 3



Friday, Oct. 3

The Fall 2008 meeting of the Sorensen Institute's State Advisory Board was graciously hosted by the Virginia Automobile Dealers Association at its beautiful state headquarters in Richmond.

We were honored to welcome new Board members John Hager, former Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Education and former Chair of the Republican Party of Virginia (John rejoins the



Sorensen Board after having been a long-time member and early supporter of Sorensen and a past Chair of the State Advisory Board); Delegate Shannon Valentine of Lynchburg, a graduate of the Political Leaders Program Class of 2005; State Senator Robert Hurt of Chatham, a graduate of the Political Leaders Program Class of 2000; Chelsea Rock of Woodbridge, a graduate of the College Leaders Program Class of 2006—the first graduate of a Sorensen youth program to serve on the State Advisory Board; Rip Sullivan of McLean; a partner at Reed Smith LLP; and Brenda Skidmore, a Senior Vice President of Suntrust.

Sorensen Launches New Memorial Scholarship



The Southwest Region of our Alumni Association is raising funds for a new scholarship to honor the memory of Fred W. Hutchins, a graduate of the College Leaders Program Class of 2002. Active in politics since his youth, Fred served as the legislative assistant to Virginia Delegate Onzlee Ware during his first term in the General Assembly, helped guide Jim Webb's Senate campaign in Southwest Virginia, and later ran Senator Webb's Roanoke office. Hutchins was a native of Botetourt County and a rising star on the political scene. The Sorensen Institute, in conjunction with its Southwest region, will remember Fred with a scholarship that will support a qualified student to our College Leaders Program. A candidate

from the Southwest region who needs financial assistance will be given priority. In the event there is no candidate from that area, funds will be made available to another College Leaders Program candidate elsewhere in Virginia who would otherwise not be able to have the Sorensen experience because of economic challenges. The funds will first be expended in 2009 and in subsequent years, provided scholarship funds are available. To participate in the Fred W. Hutchins Scholarship Fund:

- * Click **Support Sorensen** on our website
- * In the special instructions section, write **Fred W. Hutchins Scholarship**.
- * It can be charged to your preferred credit card, or you can send a check to:

The Sorensen Institute, P. O. Box.400206
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4206

Alumni Reunion '08

2008 Celebration Marks 15th Anniversary of Sorensen

On Saturday evening October 4 in Richmond, the Sorensen Institute celebrated the continued achievements of its graduates at the 2008 Alumni Reunion. It was also an occasion to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Sorensen Institute. We would like to thank everyone who joined us in the celebration, especially those who donated or purchased items in the Silent Auction, which raised \$2,000 to support Sorensen programs.



Top photo on the cover: Members of the Political Leaders Program Class of 2008 ■ CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER RIGHT: Sarah Godlewski (PLP 2008), Anna Godlewski (CLP 2008), and Jaime Areizaga ■ Jennifer McClellan (PLP 2001, CTP 2005) and Jen Little (PLP 2008) ■ Members of the College Leaders Program Class of 2008 ■ Chris Peace (PLP 2004) and Leonard Cooke (PLP 2004) ■ Mike Farruggio (PLP 2006), Jennifer McKeever (PLP 2008), and Executive Director Bob Gibson ■ Patricia Jones, Thad Jones (PLP 2005), and Vickie Williams (PLP 2005).

BELOW: Lacey Howard and Ben Heath (CLP 2008) ■
RIGHT: Mike Salster and Jean Jensen (PLP 1996).



LEFT: Members of the PLP Class of 2007. ■ LOWER LEFT: Members of the HSLP Class of 2008 ■ BELOW: Soulmaz Taghavi (CLP 2008) and Emad Maghsoudi (CLP 2006) ■ BOTTOM LEFT: Peppy Linden (PLP 1999) and Vickie Johnson-Scott (PLP 1996) ■ BOTTOM RIGHT: Tony Dale (CTP 2008, PLP 2008) and Kimberly Bowers (CLP 2003)





LEFT: Roy McAfee, a graduate of the first Political Leaders Program class, Spring 1994.

■ RIGHT: Bryan Rhode (PLP 2008) and Eric Gregory (PLP 2007).



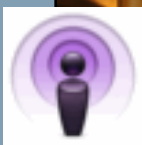
LEFT: Members of the College Leaders Program Class of 2008.

■ BELOW LEFT: Rebekah Blackwell, Ara Friedman, and Amy Richardson (all CLP 2007) with Martin Mash (CLP 2005) ■ Bob Barnette (PLP 2008) and Jesse Ferguson (PLP 2004).



*****ONLINE EXTRAS*****

In the Sorensen Newsroom



PODCASTS
Of the complete Alumni Reunion 2008 program



SLIDESHOW
Of dozens of photos from the Alumni Reunion 2008 program

PLP 2008

Graduation Weekend December 5-6 in Charlottesville

The Political Leaders Program Class of 2008 gathered in Charlottesville the first weekend in December to celebrate its graduation from the Sorensen Institute. Friday evening the class enjoyed a reception and dinner at the University of Virginia Rotunda. Following dinner, the class had the distinct pleasure to hear from former Virginia Governor Gerald Baliles, who now serves as the Director of the Miller Center of Public Affairs. (you can hear a podcast of Governor's Baliles inspiring remarks on our website). That same night the PLP Class of 2008 presented an amazing gift to the Sorensen Institute: a pledge of over \$35,000 that included 100% participation. On Saturday morning the class met in the historic Dome Room of the Rotunda to receive their graduation certificates and to share a few final words with their class members. The Sorensen State Advisory Board members, alumni and staff would like to extend our heart-felt congratulations to a very memorable class. Welcome to the Sorensen family.



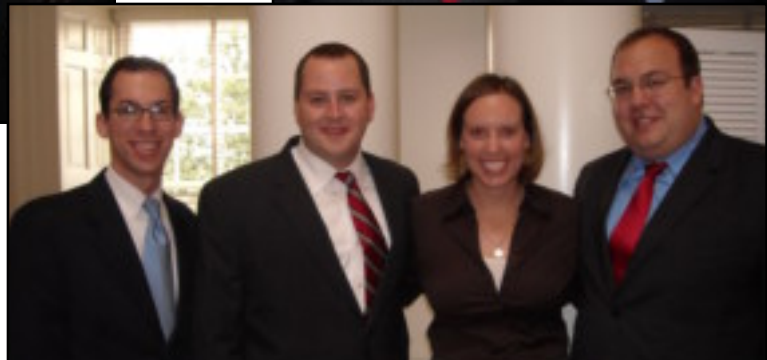
LEFT: Members of the Political Leaders Program Class of 2008 assemble for one last group photo on the steps of the UVa Rotunda, the morning of their graduation.

BEOW: Former Virginia Governor Gerald Baliles with Sorensen's Bob Gibson,



ABOVE: PLP 08 members Sherry Foti, Sarah Godlewski, Helen O'Beirne, and Ana Lucia Buckman.

RIGHT: Class members Will Frank, Morgan Guthridge, Missy Bell, and Dominic Gabello.

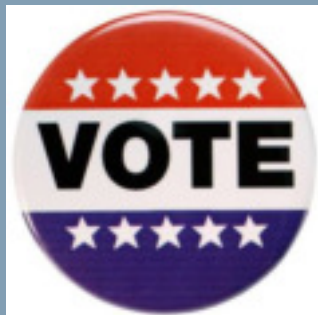


RECORD NUMBER OF PLP APPS FOR 2009

The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership received a record 112 applications to its 2009 Political Leaders Program. Executive Director Bob Gibson released the following statement to board members and alumni:

“I am delighted to announce that the Sorensen Institute received a record 112 applications for the 2009 Political Leaders Program. This is an almost 25% increase over our previous high number. We were also thrilled to have record numbers of applicants from the Fredericksburg, Southside, and Roanoke and Southwest regions of the state. We are excited to see such high interest in our flagship program and the desire of so many Virginians to come forward and improve their skills as political leaders to better serve their communities and the Commonwealth. We owe great thanks to our alumni and board members who have helped us spread the word and recruit candidates for this program. We are very excited to have such an outstanding applicant pool and look forward to announcing a stellar PLP Class of 2009 following the interview process of the next six weeks. Thanks again to our alumni for being such excellent ambassadors for these programs and for all of your hard work recruiting applicants.”

Sorensen staff and board members will be conducting personal interviews with the 112 applicants across the state in November and December. The 2009 PLP class—which will include approximately 35 individuals from communities throughout Virginia and representing the full spectrum of political affiliations—will be announced publicly on the Sorensen website after the holidays. The 2009 Political Leaders Program will be Sorensen's 15th anniversary year of classes.



ELECTION 2008 RECAP:

Six Sorensen Grads Won Office on Nov. 4

We are proud to report that TWELVE Sorensen graduates stepped forward as candidates in the elections this year— and SIX of them were victorious at the polls. Three of our alumni won election for the first time and three were re-elected to office:

- ✓ **DAVID COX**, a member of the Political Leaders Program Class of 2008 and a graduate of the Candidate Training Program Class of 2005, won a seat on the Lexington City Council.
- ✓ **GLENN DAVIS** a graduate of the Political Leaders Program Class of 2007, won a seat on the Virginia Beach City Council.
- ✓ **EMMA VIOLAND-SANCHEZ**, a graduate of the Candidate Training Program Class of 2008, was elected to the Arlington County School Board.
- ✓ **DAN EDWARDS**, a graduate of the Political Leaders Program Class of 1999, won re-election to the Virginia Beach School Board.
- ✓ **CHRIS HILBERT**, a graduate of the Candidate Training Program Class of 2004, won re-election to the Richmond City Council.
- ✓ **ROSEMARY WILSON**, a graduate of the Political Leaders Program Class of 1997 and a member of our Hampton Roads Regional Board, won re-election to the Virginia Beach City Council.

Alumni News 2008

Highlights from the Online Sorensen Newsroom



Dudley Ripley and Shonda Copeland Ripley (CLP 2006)

JANUARY ■ Dave Norris (CTP 2006) was elected Mayor of Charlottesville. ■ Shonda Copeland (CLP 2006) was engaged to Dudley Ridley (they later eloped). ■ Sorensen staff member Marc Johnson (CLP 2003), earned his Master's Degree in Education from the University of Virginia's Curry School. Later in the year, Marc was promoted to Assistant to the Director and Director of Programs. ■ Ara Freidman (CLP 2007) interned at Senator Jim Webb's office in Washington during her spring semester ■ Diane Kaufman (PLP 2007) was elected to her first term as Chair of the Norfolk Democratic Committee. ■ Jen Little (PLP 2007), was re-elected Chair of the Mathews County Democratic Committee. ■ Evan Davis (HSLP 2006) received the Harry F. Byrd Jr.

Leadership Award. ■ Andrew Lamar (CLP 2006) joined the professional staff at Rhumb Line, a full-service state government affairs firm in Richmond. ■ Andy Block (PLP 2006) of Charlottesville authored an op-ed in the Richmond *Times-Dispatch* that urged Virginia to create stronger schools or face more prisons. ■ In January Governor Tim Kaine appointed a number of Sorensen alumni to boards and commissions including Delegate David Bulova (PLP 1997), Senator Ralph Northam (CTP 2007), Carlos Soles (PLP 2006), Bill Hastings (PLP 1998, CTP 1999), Edda Collins Coleman (PLP 2005), and Charniele Herring (PLP 2006). State Advisory Board member Michel Zajur was reappointed to the Latino Advisory Board as well. ■ Chris Wrobel (CLP 2005) joined the Sorensen staff temporarily this year to assist with recruiting for and managing the youth programs. ■ Jeff McKay (PLP 1998) was sworn in to serve on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's Board of Directors. ■ Maurice Jones (PLP 2002) was named Assistant City Manager for the City of Charlottesville. ■ **FEBRUARY** ■ Angelia Yancey (PLP 2007) was named the new Budget Director for the City of Chesapeake. ■ Jamie Lockhart (CLP 2007) and Madison Busch (CLP 2008) were selected as Program Managers for the 2008 Youth Programs season. ■ The Sorensen Institute hosted its second annual Alumni Reception during the General Assembly at the Bull and Bear Club in Richmond. More than 100 graduates and guests turned out to honor the sixteen alumni now serving in the Virginia General Assembly. ■ Shawn Utt of Pulaski (PLP 2006) and his wife Ann-Margaret welcomed a new baby boy, Owen, on February 29th. ■ **MARCH** ■ Tom Fox (PLP 2005) launched the Annenberg Leadership Institute as its Director. ■ Members of the PLP Class of 2005 held a mini reunion in Richmond. ■ Jarrett Ray (CLP 2006) was a guest on Charlottesville radio to discuss his work as Chairman Emeritus of the College Republican Federation of Virginia. In 2007 the College Republican National Committee named Jarrett its Best State Chairman. ■ Kimberly Bowers (CLP 2003) was profiled by the online newsletter of the Jepson School of Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond. Kimberly serves in the Kaine administration as Director of Gubernatorial Appointments. ■ **APRIL** ■ Ara Friedman (CLP 2007) was elected Student Government President at Randolph College. ■ Sean Holihan (PLP 2007) was elected



PLP 2005 Mini Reunion—from left to right: Kenny Golden, Cathie France, Casey Peters, Vickie Williams, Lou Arnatt Kadiri, and Chuck Smith.

Executive Vice-President of the Virginia Young Democrats. ■ Amy Richardson (CLP 2007) and Marc Johnson (CLP 2003) were guests on “HearSay with Cathy Lewis” on WHRO in Hampton Roads to discuss Sorensen’s



Ara Friedman
(CLP 2007)

Youth Programs. ■ Sean Connaughton (PLP Fall 1995), Director of the U.S. Maritime Agency, appeared with Barbara Fried, Chairman of the State Advisory Board, on CNN Headline News Channel on Cox Communications in the D.C. metro area to discuss Sorensen’s 2008 Gala. ■ Jennifer Pitts (PLP 2003) and Ken McKenna, were married in Asheville on April 19. ■ Brett Coffee (PLP 2008, CTP 2008) was honored with the Community Champion Award by Volunteer Fairfax. ■ Robert Barnette (PLP 2008) was elected 1st Vice President of the Virginia National Guard Enlisted Association. ■ Vance Ayres (PLP 2007, CTP 2008) was promoted to Executive-Secretary Treasurer of the Washington, D.C. Building and Construction Trades Council.

■ **MAY** ■ Elizabeth Hooper (CLP 2006) earned her Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Center for Public Administration and Policy at Virginia Tech. ■ Delegate David Bulova (PLP 1997) and his wife Gretchen welcomed a new baby boy, Grayson, on May 3. ■ Grant Tate (PLP 2007) was named the Small Businessperson of 2008 by the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce.

■ Elizabeth Fortune (PLP 1997) was appointed Chairman of the Fluvanna County Planning Commission. ■ Jeff Britt (PLP 2007) and his wife January celebrated the birth of son Benjamin on May 19. ■ Steven DeLuca (PLP 2008) and Kristin Walinski were married on May 31 at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens in Richmond. ■ **JUNE** ■ Mark Armstrong (HSLP 2006) received his Eagle Scout Award. ■ Matt Erskine (PLP 2002) was named Executive Director of the Greater Washington Initiative. ■ Governor Kaine appointed Tony Dale (PLP 2008, CTP 2008) to the Virginia Commission on Youth. ■ Mark Harris (HSLP 2007) was elected Attorney General at Virginia Boys State in Lynchburg. In April Mark also became the repeat Virginia High School League Division AAA Lincoln Douglas Debate State Champion



Steven DeLuca (PLP 2008)
and *Kristin Walinski*

■ **JULY** ■ Jamie Lockhart (CLP 2007) accepted a position as Legislative Correspondent with Congresswoman Diana DeGette's (Denver, CO) office in Washington. ■ Stella Edwards (PLP 2008) was elected a Member Representative to the National Parent Teacher Association Board of Directors. ■ Vivek Kundra (PLP 2007), Chief Technology Officer for the City of Washington, D.C., and formerly an Assistant Secretary for Commerce and Trade in the Kaine administration, was honored with two major national information technology awards. ■ Bryan Rhode (PLP 2008) was named to the Virginia Grassroots Leadership Team for the McCain campaign in Richmond. ■ Whitney Duff (PLP 2007) was named Executive Director of a new advocacy organization, School Choice Virginia



Jody Wagner (PLP Fall 1994)

■ Governor Kaine appointed Lynda Sharp Anderson (PLP 2005) Director of the Virginia Department of Business Assistance. ■ Steven Jones (CLP 2004) became the new Executive Director of Virginia21. Emily Webb (CLP 2007) replaced Steven as Deputy Director. ■ **AUGUST** ■ Former Secretary of Finance and State Advisory Board member, Jody Wagner (PLP Fall 1994), announced her candidacy for Lieutenant Governor of Virginia. ■ Delegate and State Advisory Board member Jennifer McClellan (PLP 2001, CTP 2005) was the subject of a *Newsweek Magazine* online video profile during the Democratic National Convention. ■ Rita Aguilar (PLP 2007) joined the Campaign for Change efforts in VA as the Voter Protection Coordinator. ■ Captain Terron Sims (PLP 2007) was featured in a film about military service that was shown at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Terron serves as the Co-Director of Virginia Veterans for Obama. ■ Former Sorensen intern Madison Busch (CLP

2008) accepted a position at the Washington, D.C. office of McGuireWoods Consulting. ■ Delegate Chris Peace (PLP 2004) and wife Ashley welcomed a baby girl, Nina, on August 2. ■ **SEPTEMBER** ■ Michelle Kinzer (HSLP 2008) was selected to serve as a page for U.S. Senator Jim Webb. ■ Katherine Ely (CLP 2006) was accepted to the London School of Economics and Political Science where she will earn a Master's Degree in Social Policy and Development. ■ Governor Kaine appointed more Sorensen graduates to boards and commissions: Georgia Allen (CTP 2005), Holly Hatcher (PLP 2004), and Lucy Hutchinson (CLP 2005). ■ Governor Kaine also appointed Victoria Cochran (PLP 2007) to serve as the State Coordinator for Criminal Justice and Mental Health Initiatives. ■ Ben Heath (CLP 2008) was selected to represent Christopher Newport University on the Student Advisory Committee for the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. ■ Rachel Casebolt (CLP 2005) joined the Sorensen staff as the new Development and Events Coordinator. ■ Marc Johnson (CLP 2003) and Dreama Montrief (HSLP



*Captain Terron Sims
(PLP 2007)*

2004) were married on September 20. ■ Susan Spears (PLP 2008) was honored in Fredericksburg with the 2008 Women of Distinction Community Service Award. In July Susan was named to the Fredericksburg Planning Commission ■ David Ledbetter and Jen Little (PLP 2007) joined Bob Gibson as guests on WVPT's "Consider This" talk show to discuss their Sorensen experience. ■ David Ledbetter (PLP 2007) also joined Jennifer McKeever (PLP 2008) to discuss Sorensen for a WVTF public radio story. ■ Jordan Miles (CLP 2008) was appointed to the Longwood University Faculty Senate as the Student Representative. ■ **OCTOBER** ■ Sarah Godlewski (PLP 2008) won the 2008 Outstanding Alumni of the Year Award from George Mason University. ■ Delegates and alumni Jennifer McClellan and Chris Peace joined Bob Gibson as guests on WCVE's Perspective with Barbara Berlin to talk about Sorensen. The program was broadcast on November 7 in Richmond and Charlottesville. ■ Governor Kaine appointed Greg Schuckman (PLP 1998) to serve as a commissioner from Virginia on the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Greg serves as Chair of the Northern Virginia Community College Board. ■ Vickie Williams (PLP 2005) was married on Sunday October 12 to Terry Cullins. Vickie and Terry "jumped the broom" to celebrate their love as well as Vickie's victory over breast cancer. ■ Adisa Muse (PLP 2003) and Joe Walton (PLP 2008) were named to Richmond *Style Weekly's* annual Top Forty Under 40 list. ■ Nancy Funkhouser (CLP 2006) made the Law Review at the University of Miami Law School where she is studying securities and corporate law. ■ Delegate Margi Vanderhuy (PLP 2006, CTP 2005) joined State Advisory Board member and former Delegate Paul Harris, along with Bob Gibson, as guests on WAMU's Kojo Nnamdi Show in the Washington area. ■ Bryan Rhode (PLP 2008) and his wife Lynne welcomed a new baby boy on October 20. ■ Joyce Waugh (PLP 2006) was named president and CEO of the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce ■ **NOVEMBER** ■ Casey Peters, (PLP 2005) was married to Chad Emery on November 7. ■ Jennifer McClellan (State Advisory Board member, PLP 2001, CTP 2005) and Dave Mills were married on November 15. ■ Sean Holihan (PLP 2007) went to work as the Legislative Assistant for Delegate Lynwood Lewis (CTP) 1999. ■ Vivek Kundra (PLP 2007), Chief Technology Officer for the city of Washington, D.C., joined President-elect Obama's transition team. ■ **DECEMBER** ■ The Political Leaders Program Class of 2008 graduated from the Sorensen Institute in Charlottesville the weekend of December 5 (*see photos on page 6; podcasts and video in the Newsroom*).



*Sarah Godlewski
(PLP 2008)*

Sorensen Calendar 2009

January

22-25: Candidate Training Program (at James Madison's Montpelier).

March

2: Deadline for applications to the CLP and HSLP 2009 classes.

5-7: Political Leaders Program Class of 2009 meets for its first session in Williamsburg.

20: Gala 2009 at Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City in Arlington.

April

3-4: PLP 2009 meets in Roanoke.

May

28: PLP 2009 meets in Staunton.

30: College Leaders Program Class of 2009 begins in Cville.

June

12-13: PLP 2009 meets in Cville

27: CLP 2009 Graduation

July

11: High School Leaders Program Class of 2009 begins in Cville.

17-18: PLP 2009 meets in Northern Virginia.

25: HSLP 2009 Graduation.

August

7-8: PLP 2009 meets in Martinsville.

September

11-12: PLP 2009 meets in Southwest Virginia.

October

9-10: PLP 2009 meets in Hampton Roads.

November

14: PLP 2009 meets Richmond.

14: 2009 Alumni Reunion in Richmond.

December

11-12: Political Leaders Program Class of 2009 celebrates its graduation in Charlottesville.



Sorensen Welcomes New Staff Member

April Auger has joined the Sorensen Institute as an Assistant to the Director of Programs. She has the primary responsibility for coordinating and executing recruitment and outreach efforts for the College and High School Leaders Programs. She also provides other program support, including recruitment efforts for the Political Leaders Program and Candidate Training Program. April is a graduate of Lee University where she earned a degree in public relations. While at Lee she studied Spanish in Chile, served on the Greek Council Board, coordinated community service events for her sorority and mentored teenage girls through various programs. April recognizes the importance of strong, value-driven leadership, and that is what has drawn her to Sorensen.

UPDATE YOUR ONLINE BIO NOW!

Visit the **ALUMNI** section of the Sorensen website and you will find the online bios of all our graduates. You will note that each bio is accurate as of the time of application to the program. You can now **UPDATE** that bio with your most current information. Email your updated bio to **Coy Barefoot: barefoot@virginia.edu.** (please note program and class year in subject line)

From the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership

Happy Holidays



Photo by Katherine E. Outland



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for Political Leadership
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Bob Gibson, Executive Director
P.O. Box 400206, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4206
PH: (434) 982-4943 FX: (434) 982-5536
www.sorenseninstitute.org