



President's Letter

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past," wrote Jefferson to John Adams in 1816. While we at Monticello respect Jefferson's forward-looking attitude, we commit ourselves equally to making possible our dreams for tomorrow as well as to protecting the legacy of yesterday.

The staff of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation is proud of its record in preservation, a stewardship regularly recognized on a national level. Several articles in this issue highlight our commitment to "the history of the past," as our curatorial department welcomes four original chairs back to Monticello, our restoration department catalogues and researches architectural artifacts, and the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants celebrates two decades of preserving, propagating, and studying our botanical history.

Of course, our appreciation for Monticello's past leads us to dream big about its future. Staff members proactively implement new programs to expand our educational mission. Recent initiatives include a children's brochure, a program reaching out to Charlottesville public schools, the dedication of an outdoor theatre within the Thomas Jefferson Parkway, the addition of a garden tour to Monticello's acclaimed Web site, and the development of an in-depth continuing education class. Perhaps our biggest and boldest initiative is the announcement of plans for a new visitors center, a 40,000 square-foot facility that will serve as the new gateway to Monticello. The center will orient and educate our guests both in ways that we have long desired and

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in ways that we have only recently imagined, thanks to continually developing technology.

Neither of these endeavors – preserving the past or bringing new projects to fruition – is possible without the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations. As a private, nonprofit organization with no regular funding from state or federal government, Monticello depends on the gracious support we receive from so many. With gratitude and pleasure we recognize our donors in this issue of our newsletter, not only in the formal listing of names, but also in the articles that describe the accomplishments made possible by their gifts. We offer our thanks for safeguarding both our dreams of the future and the history of the past.

President

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org