President’s Letter

This year marks the beginning of many consequential changes to the Monticello landscape, both physical and intellectual. In 1997, the Foundation prepared a comprehensive Master Plan to advance Monticello’s stewardship in the 21st century. The New York firm of Cooper, Robertson & Partners then began a two-year site and facilities study to research the ways our goals could best be achieved. The firm’s report, *Assuring the Jefferson Legacy*, was published earlier this year.

The first two of these landscape initiatives are now under construction. Saunders Bridge – the new entrance to Monticello and the capstone of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway – and the Jefferson Library at Kenwood – the first freestanding presidential library dedicated to a Founding Father – are on schedule for completion late this year or early in 2002.

To complement these physical improvements, colleagues here are currently creating the Foundation’s first-ever information technology master plan. Bolstered by the expertise and support of new Board of Trustees member Jeffrey C. Walker, as well as the hiring of Chief Technology Officer Kate Bakich and Foundation Librarian Jack Robertson, Monticello is striving to put in place state-of-the-art technology that will make us more efficient and, more importantly, open up new, exciting avenues for scholarship and research.

In the spirit of looking ahead, we’ve recently changed our corporate name to Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. This new name, without the word “memorial,” more
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accurately reflects our numerous and varied activities.

But while we look to the future, we have not forgotten the essentials that make Monticello a truly exciting stewardship. Ambitious projects such as the Digital Archaeological Archive of Chesapeake Slavery, the Archaeology Department’s Monticello Plantation Survey, and The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series are moving forward. In a new initiative, Martha Hill, our Mulberry Row Fellow, has begun gathering, organizing, and evaluating all available research on Mulberry Row for a planning report on the interpretation and possible restoration of the “street” that was once the center of African-American life on the mountaintop. Our focus remains, and will remain, on our dual mission of preservation and education.

None of these consequential projects, or the many others also under way, would be possible without the dedicated support of our numerous contributors. Their gifts are a testament to the enduring legacy of Thomas Jefferson. We are deeply appreciative.

Daniel J. Jordan
President

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org