President’s Letter

There are times in life when it’s appropriate to reflect on major goals both accomplished and still ahead. At Monticello, this is one of those times.

In the spring of 2000, the trustees of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation announced Jefferson Lives: A Campaign for Monticello in the Twenty-First Century. With an ambitious goal of reaching $100 million by April 2005, this campaign was initiated to raise funds to support virtually all aspects of our Jeffersonian stewardship. I am proud to announce that, thanks to the generosity of our donors, Jefferson Lives reached its goal June 30.

The success of this campaign has enabled us to undertake and complete many important projects, which are noted elsewhere in this issue of Monticello, while strengthening our day-to-day operations. We also received generous support for our endowment, including a transformational gift to endow the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies.

But as we recognize this landmark achievement, new challenges lie ahead.

The most pressing of these is Jefferson’s View, a $15 million campaign designed to safeguard the historic and scenic views from Monticello. As part of this effort, the Foundation made a bold and necessary move by purchasing Montalto, the mountain facing Monticello that was once owned by Jefferson, when it came on the market earlier this year and was threatened by development. We must repay the debt incurred while planning for the property’s use in a way consistent with our core mission of preservation and education.

Other priorities include a more authentic Monticello and a return of the mountaintop to its appearance

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.
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Letter
CONTINUED, PAGE TWO

during Jefferson’s time. Our plans call for the further restoration and interpretation of dependency spaces beneath the house and the removal of modern-day intrusions from the house and the landscape. To do this we need new facilities nearby – a visitor complex with expanded exhibits and improved amenities; the Hunter and Carl Smith History Center for our educational programs; and an administrative campus.

Supported by several leadership gifts, we have made substantial progress in these areas, but much remains to be done. We welcome your continued partnership in our efforts to advance the Jeffersonian legacy and transform these goals into accomplishments.

Samuel P. Hargrave
President