

President's Letter

In 1816, Thomas Jefferson informed his good friend John Adams of his belief in benevolence and philanthropy. "I believe every human mind feels pleasure in doing good to another," he stated. At the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, we begin 2007 with this same Jeffersonian idealism. Thanks to so many of your generous donations to us and our educational cause, we were able to make progress on several exciting fronts, and we have many new visionary projects looming on our horizon.

2006 was another fruitful and productive year here on the mountaintop. Our online sale of reserved tickets has proven to be an organized and convenient way for individuals and groups to plan their visits to Monticello, and the timed ticketing system has been popular as well. We also began offering tours to Montalto – Jefferson's "high mountain" – where visitors have the chance to experience a most memorable view of our picturesque surroundings. In keeping with the theme of progress, we have also launched a Plantation Database where one can readily obtain data on the chronicled history of slavery at Monticello, and our erudite editorial staff has completed and published Volume 3 of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series*, which stands as an impressive scholarly feat.

Perhaps the most visible changes to Monticello have to do with the construction of our Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith History Center. We've made sure that the plans for the building won't compromise the rare beauty of Monticello; this new

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facility incorporates many eco-friendly architectural features and will blend in nicely with our landscape. We are confident that the new facility will provide the invaluable gift of education to school groups, families, and visitors both familiar and unfamiliar with Jefferson's home and legacy.

In 2006, great strides were made to further the Foundation's mission of Jeffersonian stewardship, and I assure you that your dollars have been put to fine and applicable use.

Thanks to each and every one of you, and please come visit Monticello soon.



Daniel P. Jordan
President

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org