

IN THE EARLY DAYS of the American Revolution, Virginia's governor, Thomas Jefferson, presented to the House of Delegates a remarkable document, *A Bill for the More General Diffusion of Knowledge*. With the outcome of the war far from certain and the future of our fledgling republic in doubt, Jefferson nonetheless proceeded as if victory were certain, focusing on measures necessary to prevent democracy from being "perverted . . . into tyranny." The foremost of these was a system of public education.

In this legislation, Jefferson proposed a graduated system of public schools designed to ensure that "those persons, whom nature hath endowed with genius and virtue, should be rendered by liberal education worthy to receive, and able to guard the sacred deposit of the rights and liberties of their fellow citizens." And he insisted that "they should be called to that charge without regard to wealth, birth or other accidental condition or circumstance . . . and educated at the common expense."

This vision of education is at the heart of the Jefferson Scholars Program and the Jefferson Fellows Program, and distinguishes the work of the Jefferson Scholars Founda-

tion from every other organization that distributes merit-based scholarships to worthy young university students.

The Foundation's goal is to ensure that the University community benefits from the presence of these exceptional individuals who, as stated in the Foundation's mission, are "of extraordinary intellectual range and depth [and] who possess the highest concomitant qualities of leadership, scholarship, and citizenship." The Jefferson Scholars Foundation takes seriously its responsibility to ensure that the nation's most deserving students, regardless of background, have the opportunity to take advantage of all the University has to offer.

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Ultimately, however, the purpose of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation is to strengthen our democracy by preparing those with “genius and virtue” to lead wisely and act decisively for the public good. Since the fall of 1981, when the first class of twelve Jefferson Scholars matriculated, 675 undergraduates and 66 graduate students have entered the program. They have gone on to earn Rhodes, Marshall, Mitchell, Luce, Truman, Fulbright, Udall, and Goldwater scholarships and to serve on the Board of Visitors of the University. Three-quarters have pursued advanced degrees and virtually all have gone on to the work that Jefferson envisioned for them: leading charitable

organizations and congregations, establishing health clinics in rural areas, creating innovative businesses, and teaching at our most prestigious academic institutions.

IDENTIFYING EXEMPLARS OF LEADERSHIP, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CITIZENSHIP

Without exception, the students who compete to be Jefferson Scholars or Fellows are at the head of their class. The Foundation’s challenge is find just those outstanding few who represent the best hope for the future. Thanks to the generosity of University alumni and friends, the annual undergraduate competition is able



Chris Heywood, the Terrence D. Daniels Family Scholar, Class of 2009, pictured with a group of midshipmen in the Western Pacific during a summer tour of duty through U.Va.’s Naval ROTC program.

“Because of the Jefferson Scholars Foundation, I was able not only to attend U.Va., but to attend with a wide variety of experiences not readily available to other college undergraduates. The leadership development program, summer study experience in Europe, special lectures, my fellow Scholars, and other programs provided by the Foundation all contributed to my academic and social education. In an engineering curriculum, it is easy to lose sight of anything not math and science related. However, with the sheer breadth of opportunities available to me at the University, many through the Foundation, I first became engrossed in the wide-ranging effects of science and engineering not just on technology, but on our society as a whole.”

—Shan Wu, Class of 2004

Meg Raymond, the Randolph P. Barton Family Scholar, Class of 2012, on an Alternative Spring Break service trip to Jamaica.





to cast a wider net with each passing year. More than 50 regions around the country, with more than 3,100 high schools, can now nominate potential Scholars.

Selecting each class of Scholars involves untold hours of concentrated effort on the part of thousands of high school principals and guidance counselors, the 750 alumni, faculty, and friends who serve on regional and national selection committees, and the Foundation's staff.

In 2008-09, the Foundation received 1067 nominations from participating secondary schools. After regional reviews and additional analysis of possible candidates from schools not geographically eligible to nominate, as well as international students and qualified applicants to the University's Engineering and Nursing schools, 105 finalists were brought to Charlottesville for an introduction to the University and a series of exercises and interviews. Of these, 24 new Jefferson Scholars will make up the Class of 2013.

Candidates for Jefferson Fellowships undergo a slightly different selection process. The Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, the Darden School of Business, the School of Law, and the School of Engineering and Applied Science all nominate their most outstanding applicants. The Jefferson Scholars Foundation then invites selected

Christopher Richins, the John L. Colley Jr. Fellow, at the Danaher factory in Brno, Czech Republic.



candidates to Charlottesville to meet with prospective faculty mentors and University graduate students. Because special emphasis is placed on students' eagerness to share important ideas with a wide audience, all are asked to give a presentation or participate in a group exercise.

In 2008-09, 53 candidates accepted invitations to compete and 10 will enroll in the University as Jefferson Fellows.

ATTRACTING THE BEST TO MR. JEFFERSON'S UNIVERSITY

At a time when many household budgets are under strain, the Foundation's role in ensuring that outstanding young people

David McGinley, the St. Elmo Hall (Delta Phi) Scholar, and Will Cozean, the Jeffrey Rockwell Cudlip Memorial Scholar, both Class of 2011, on an Alternative Spring Break service trip in Peru.





benefit from a University education in leadership and service is more critical than ever and the funding it provides is substantial. In 2008-09, the Foundation supported 132 undergraduate Jefferson Scholars and 33 graduate Jefferson Fellows at a direct cost of \$6,134,693 million. Four-year support of a single out-of-state Jefferson Scholar and five-

year support of a Jefferson Fellow are now \$180,000 and \$250,000, respectively.

While the funding they receive undoubtedly plays a large role in the decision of the Scholars and Fellows to attend the University, it is by no means the sole determinant. The University has a well-established educational culture defined by four core values: academic rigor, honor, student self-governance, and public service. The role of the Foundation is to convey the advantages of attending a university with this distinctive set of values, and then make it possible for exceptional students who find this vision compelling to join the University community.

NURTURING OUR NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

The Foundation's obligation to its Scholars and Fellows goes far beyond financial support. Over the years, the Foundation has established a series of programs that enhance their leadership skills and deepen their understanding of the requirements of responsible citizenship.

In their first semester, the newest Scholars take part in a Challenge Discovery weekend, which launches their careers at the University by giving them the opportunity to learn more about themselves and each other. The two-week Institute for Leadership and Citizenship, a program for



Members of the Class of 2010 travel through China with U.Va. Professor Brantly Womack.

“What I love about being a Jefferson Scholar is the flexibility that comes along with the scholarship. The Jefferson Scholarship certainly emphasizes certain characteristics, but within its guidelines of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship, we have room, as scholars, to incorporate these attributes into our lives in our own unique ways. Through my experience as a Jefferson Scholar, I have appreciated the type of diverse community this has formed, bringing together students of varying backgrounds, strengths, and passions. As a group of scholars, we are all very different, but our differences serve to strengthen our community as a whole. I feel truly [fortunate] to be part of a program that encourages creativity and self-direction, and I believe that the Foundation has done a phenomenal job of providing all Jefferson Scholars with the resources and support we need to come into our own, not only as scholars but as unique and contributing members of the community.”

—Ally Baxter, the Westend Foundation Scholar, Class of 2010



Anna Bond Estes (alumna), Paul Tudor Jones II Fellow, conducting elephant research in Tanzania.



the rising second-year class each summer, promotes a deeper understanding of these topics through study and service learning. The following summer, Scholars choose from among three five-week Foreign Travel/Study Programs and then pursue a research project that requires additional travel. In addition, the Foundation offers a series of seminars, dinners, and other events designed to bring Scholars and Fellows together regularly during their stay at the University.

Although the Fellows are older and have each mapped out an individual course of study, the Foundation nonetheless strives to foster their engagement with the University community. During the annual selection weekend, each second-year Fellow presents his or her research, an experience intended to give Fellows the opportunity to present original work for critical feedback in a public setting. In September 2008, the Fellows themselves added to these opportunities by organizing our inaugural Forum for Interdisciplinary Dialogue, entitled “The Art of Science, The Science of Art.” The Jefferson Fellows Center, scheduled for

completion in 2010, will reinforce and expand such exchanges by providing a place for Fellows to meet with colleagues from around the University.

A PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Since its inception, public-private partnerships have provided the University with its margin of excellence and ensured that it continues to foster the “informed citizenry” that Jefferson considered “the bulwark of democracy.” The Jefferson Scholars Foundation is an excellent example of this partnership. Thanks to the foresight and commitment of generous benefactors, the Foundation has steadily enhanced its undergraduate program and launched a flourishing fellowship program. As the Foundation approaches its 30th year of service, Jefferson Scholar and Fellow alumni are strengthening our democracy by applying not only their talents, but also the lessons of leadership and citizenship they gained while at the University, to the benefit of the nation and the world. Our current and future Scholars and Fellows will be well prepared to join them in their turn.

“As a Jefferson Scholar, you feel motivated to give as much as you can to the University.”

—Jim Haley, Class of 2000

Scholars in the Class of 2010 in Greece during their foreign travel study summer.

