The University of Virginia and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation presented their highest honors, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals in Architecture, Law, Citizen Leadership and Global Innovation, during their joint Founder’s Day activities on April 13. Each award represents a subject area in which Jefferson himself excelled.

Marian Wright Edelman was named the keynote speaker for the 2016 Founder’s Day ceremony. From her early work advancing the civil rights movement to more than 40 years lobbying for children’s rights as founder and president of the Children’s Defense Fund, Edelman has been a lifelong advocate for disadvantaged Americans.

She is the 2016 recipient of the Medal in Citizen Leadership. Edelman was previously awarded the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law in 1992. Watch Edelman’s full speech at monticello.org/MarianEdelman.

“If you don’t like the way the world is, you change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time.”
—Marian Wright Edelman

The Inaugural Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Global Innovation

This year, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and the University of Virginia inaugurated a new award, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Global Innovation. The medal, hosted by the UVA Darden School of Business, recognizes an individual for his or her role in guiding a significant global innovation that creates value for humanity. It recognizes leaders who embody Jefferson’s principle that the creation and dissemination of knowledge and ideas will improve our world.

Gordon Moore, recipient of the inaugural Medal in Global Innovation, is a legend and founder of the digital age. He predicted the exponential growth of computing power with “Moore’s Law” and co-founded Intel.

Monticello Welcomes New Trustees

Dr. L.D. Britt (left) and Mr. Peter J. Coolidge were elected on Jan. 1, 2016 to the board of trustees of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation.

L.D. Britt, M.D., M.P.H., is the Henry Ford Professor and Edward J. Brickhouse Chairman of Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk. A practicing surgeon, Dr. Britt is the first African American in the U.S. to hold an endowed chair in surgery and is the past president of almost every major surgical organization in the country, including the American College of Surgeons (the world’s largest organization of surgeons) and the American Surgical Association.

Peter Jefferson Coolidge is a portfolio manager focused on special situations strategies at Delphi Special Situations Partners, LP. He is also one of the founders of Angie’s List, a provider of Internet information and content, and was on its board of managers for 35 years. For nine years, Coolidge was a member of the board of trustees of the Holderness School, a private college-preparatory school in New Hampshire. Mr. Coolidge and his wife, Faith, served as co-chairs of the Monticello Cabinet for two years. Mr. Coolidge is a descendant of Thomas Jefferson.

Learn more about our new board members at monticello.org/NewTrustees.