"We wish to establish in the upper and healthier country, and more centrally for the state, a University on a plan so broad and liberal and modern, as to be worth patronizing with the public support."

Thomas Jefferson

The University of Virginia, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, is a vigorous, modern institution, animated by the forward-looking spirit of its founder, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson’s powerful convictions—the idea that the university exists to train young people for public affairs and the belief that the liberal arts constitute the foundation for any education—continue to inspire its students and faculty and guide the development of its programs.

Jefferson was a man of many talents, and he expressed them fully in founding the University of Virginia in 1819; he outlined the institution’s purpose, designed its buildings, supervised construction, and planned its curriculum. He also directed the recruitment of its initial faculty.

When classes began in 1825, with 68 students and a faculty of eight, the University of Virginia embodied dramatic new ideas in American higher education. In an era when colleges trained scholars for the clergy and academia, Jefferson dedicated his University to the education of citizens in practical affairs and public service. The innovative curriculum permitted the student a broader range of study than was available at other colleges and universities of the day, and Jefferson implemented novel ideas concerning student self-government and religious freedom.

Jefferson chose an undeveloped plot of land on the edge of Charlottesville on which to locate the University of Virginia. Jefferson was a skillful architect, a consummate
The University of Virginia was chartered by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1819. It is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees. (Commission on Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, telephone 404-679-4500, web site: www.sacscoc.org.) The University is one of a select group of 62 American and Canadian universities chosen for membership in the prestigious Association of American Universities.

The Master of Landscape Architecture is accredited by the American Society of Landscape Architecture, Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board. The Master of Architecture is accredited by the National Architectural Accreditation Board. The Urban and Environmental Planning degree program is accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. The Curry School of Education and all of its programs to prepare school personnel are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. In addition, individual program specializations within the Curry School are accredited by such organizations as the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association, the National Athletic Trainers’ Association and the Council for Exceptional Children. The McIntire School of Commerce and the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration are accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business. The School of Law is accredited by the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Schools. Degree programs in the School of Engineering and Applied Science are accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology. The School of Nursing is accredited by the National League for Nursing and the Virginia State Board of Nursing. The chemistry and music programs in the College of Arts and Sciences are accredited by the American Chemical Society and the National Association of Schools of Music respectively. The M.D. degree in the School of Medicine is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (representing the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association and the Executive Council of the Association of American Medical Colleges).

University Professors

Terry Belanger, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Arts and Sciences, Honorary Curator of Special Collections

Donald Black, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Arts and Sciences

David W. Breneman, B.A., Ph.D., Education, Dean of the Curry School of Education, Newton and Rita Meyers Professor of Economics in Education

Peter P. Brooks, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Arts and Sciences and Law

Robert M. Carey, B.S., M.D., M.A.C.P., Medicine, Harrison Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Dean Emeritus of the School of Medicine

K. Ian Grandison, B.S., M.L.A., Architecture and Arts and Sciences

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