News and Notes About Monticello

**Special exhibition.** An exhibition of 18 new paintings by Nathaniel Gibbs depicting African-American life at Monticello during Jefferson’s lifetime was a highlight of Monticello’s African-American History Month activities. Included in the exhibition, which was open from Jan. 27 through Feb. 25 at Kenwood, were a speculative portrait of Sally Hemings and an artistic interpretation of the slave auction held at Monticello after Jefferson’s death. The African-American History Month program also included Enslaved Domestic Workers Tours of the house and dependencies, Plantation Community Tours of Mulberry Row, a lecture by Stephanie J. Shaw of Ohio State University, and an archaeology workshop for children.

**Numbers down and up.** Monticello’s total visitation in 2004 was 458,865, a decrease of 5,927, or 1.28 percent, from 2003, and the lowest annual figure since 1979. Conversely, Monticello’s Web site attracted 951,195 individual users during the past year, an increase of 14 percent. These virtual visitors viewed more than 8 million pages on the site, and their average stay was nearly 13 minutes.

**Medal recipients.** The 2005 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals have been awarded to Japanese architect Shigeru Ban and American jurist Patricia M. Wald. The prizes, sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and the University of Virginia, recognize lasting contributions in architecture and law, two fields that deeply interested Jefferson. They are the highest outside awards bestowed by UVa. The medal recipients are honored by the Foundation and the university.

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each year on April 13, the anniversary of Jefferson’s birth in 1743 and Founder’s Day at UVa.

New terms. Jeffrey C. Walker of Wilton, Conn., and John A. Griffin of New York have begun their second four-year terms on the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Board of Trustees. Walker is the board’s vice chairman and treasurer, a position he assumed in 2004 after serving two years as treasurer.