

Th: Jefferson

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Jefferson's influence is addressed at two-day symposium in Australia

MONTICELLO'S Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies has extended its global outreach to the Southern Hemisphere for the first time through a symposium in Sydney, Australia.

Thomas Jefferson's relevance to contemporary discussions of issues such as politics, race, religion, and democracy was the theme of the academic gathering sponsored by the Smith ICJS and University of Sydney's School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry and United States Studies Centre.

The symposium, "Conversations about Thomas Jefferson in the 21st Century," was held April 17-18 at the MLC Centre in downtown Sydney and the Macleay Museum on the university campus.

Monticello was represented by Andrew O'Shaughnessy, Saunders Director of the Smith ICJS, and Lucia (Cinder) Stanton, Shannon Senior Historian, both of whom moderated discussion sessions.

Also participating from the United States were Jack Greene, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the



Monticello's Andrew O'Shaughnessy with Sydney radio host Margaret Throsby during his appearance on her nationally broadcast show.

Humanities Emeritus at Johns Hopkins University, and Annette Gordon-Reed, professor of history at Rutgers University-Newark and professor of law at New York Law School. (Gordon-Reed, who won a 2008 National Book Award for *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family*, was informed that she had won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for History for the same book while in Sydney for the symposium.)

The attendees from Australia included 16 members of the University of Sydney faculty and professors from nine other universities.

"The talks were wide-ranging and

absorbing," said Cassandra Pybus, a professor at the University of Sydney and a former visiting fellow at the Smith ICJS. "They reflected the breadth of knowledge that the academy shares for Jefferson, his contradictions and his legacy. The style of the symposium was also refreshing, with free-form discussions around core issues rather than set papers."

While the Smith International Center has organized and conducted more than 20 conferences and other scholarly meetings over the last 15 years, the Sydney symposium was its first to be held outside North America or Europe.

While in Australia, O'Shaughnessy and Stanton also presented screenings of Monticello's new introductory film, *Thomas Jefferson's World*, at the U.S. Consulate in Sydney and Melbourne University, respectively.

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