

# Th: Jefferson

# MONTICELLO

WINTER 2011

[www.monticello.org](http://www.monticello.org)

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2

## U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan speaks at first public conference at Montalto

Ryan Crocker, Ambassador to Afghanistan, was a featured speaker at the inaugural public conference held at the Robert H. Smith Center at Montalto in June. The United States Senate approved Crocker as Ambassador to Afghanistan shortly after he participated in a panel discussion at the "Diplomacy & Education: Discovering and Teaching Reality" conference held jointly by the Robert H. Smith International Center

for Jefferson Studies and the American Academy of Diplomacy.

The principal objective of the conference was to explore the connection between education and diplomacy as envisaged by Thomas Jefferson in the context of the contemporary world. Ambassador Crocker, who has held five previous ambassadorships to Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait and Lebanon, noted during the conference, "Our first

military expedition was authorized by Thomas Jefferson, who commissioned ships in the Mediterranean."

Crocker sat on a panel with Dr. James Sofka from the Federal Executive Institute and American Military University and Professor

Frank Cogliano, a professor of American History at the University of Edinburgh. The panel discussed the importance of diplomacy amid 21st century national security challenges and how current and future U.S. diplomats are prepared, educated and trained for their careers.

Leslie Greene Bowman, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, welcomed the scholars and conference attendees. Dr. Ruhi Ramazani, Edward R. Stettinius Professor Emeritus of Government and Foreign Affairs, University of Virginia, gave the opening remarks. Other speakers included Ambassador Anthony C.E. Quainton (ret.), Diplomat in Residence, American University School of International Service, and Ambassador Teresita C. Schaffer (ret.), Senior Advisor to McLarty Associates.



**Ryan Crocker, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan; Professor Frank Cogliano, Professor of American History at the University of Edinburgh; Dr. James Sofka, Lecturer, Federal Executive Institute and American Military University** TJF