Mathews, Moneo and Mitchell receive 2012 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals

JESSICA TUCHARN MATHEWS gave a poignant and powerful speech on the steps of Monticello on Friday, April 13, marking the 269th anniversary of Jefferson’s birth.

Her sobering remarks, titled “Saving America,” outlined a need for bipartisan politics and government change to secure the future of the United States. (Visit monticello.org to read her remarks.)

Mathews, President of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, was the sixth recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Citizen Leadership.

The University of Virginia and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation presented the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals in architecture, law, and citizen leadership, during Founder’s Day activities on April 13.

Spanish architect Rafael Moneo received the 2012 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture and former U.S. senator and statesman George Mitchell received the 2012 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law.

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals are the highest external honors bestowed by the University, which grants no honorary degrees. The medals recognize achievements of those who embrace endeavors in which Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and third U.S. president, excelled and held in high regard.

“This year’s medal recipients have each in their own way made the world more beautiful, secure, and environmentally safe through their hard work and scholarship,” U.Va. President Teresa A. Sullivan said. “The Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals, now in their 46th year, celebrate these leaders, all of whom have dedicated their talents to the public good.”

“Thomas Jefferson’s continuous quest for knowledge inspired a young nation,” said Leslie Greene Bowman, President and CEO of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. “The Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals honor those who, like Jefferson, have the courage to aspire to greatness, the conviction to encourage change, and the ability to inspire future generations.”

The medals, struck for the occasion, were presented by Bowman and Sullivan at a luncheon in the Dome Room of the Rotunda. The recipients were honored at a dinner at Monticello the night before.

George Mitchell, recipient the TJF Medal in Law; Jessica Tuchman Mathews, recipient of the TJF Medal in Citizen Leadership; and Rafael Moneo, recipient of TJF Medal in Architecture.