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Dear Friends,

I had a long talk the other day with Ananda Burra, the McCurdy Fellow for the 2016-17 academic year. He has a law degree from Michigan and is ABD in History from Michigan as well. He works with Bill Novak. His subject is the remaking of public international law in the context of anticolonialism and antiracist movements after the Second World War. Ananda is full of promise. I enjoyed his company and expect great things from him.

Sarah Seo, the first McCurdy Fellow, has decamped to Iowa City where she begins her probationary period as Associate Professor of Law. I miss her already. Sarah defended her Princeton Ph.D. dissertation--"The Fourth Amendment, Cars, and Freedom in Twentieth-Century America"--in April, published a piece in the Yale Law Journal in May, and stayed in Charlottesville just long enough to attend the book party for Risa Goluboff. Sarah's manuscript needs a bit more work at the edges. But it is new, thoughtful, and engaging all the way through. It is going to be a terrific book.

Having fellows like Sarah and Ananda around helps me remember what I loved doing once upon a time. This is a great gift. I am grateful to the Miller Center, the Law School, the History Department, and the scores of donors who made the McCurdy Fellowship happen. I am also grateful that so many former students and colleagues were able to attend the McCurdy Legacy conference last November, or to write letters or emails giving me news about achievements and lives well lived since completing an undergraduate thesis, a MA project, or a Ph.D. dissertation in Charlottesville. The conference was the highlight of my career. I thank each of you for doing your part. I urge each of you to drop me a postcard or email once in a while. And I hope each of you will consider joining me in providing continuing support of the McCurdy Fellowship program this year and in the years to come.

Managerial and fund-raising jurisdiction over the McCurdy Fellowship has changed. As you may recall, the McCurdy Fellowship was initially part of the larger National Fellowship Program that was founded by the Miller Center in 2000 and that has funded more than 150 dissertation completion fellowships in history and the social sciences. Recognizing the unique scholarly value of the program and its deep connection to the University of Virginia, the Jefferson Scholars Foundation Board has voted to assume responsibility for the National Fellowship Program beginning in fiscal year 2017-18. This is a good thing. The terms of the McCurdy Fellowship, including residency at the University of Virginia School of Law, will remain unchanged.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "CW McCurdy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and "W".

Charles W. McCurdy  
Professor of History & Law, Emeritus