The Bankard Fund for Political Economy was established by gifts from Merrill H. Bankard and his wife, Georgia S. Bankard. The donors specified that income from the Fund should supplement state appropriations and be used only for scholarly enrichment. Income from the Fund is to be used exclusively to support research programs at the University of Virginia that will have the greatest possible influence upon the development and continuation of the public policy necessary for a healthy private business system and a healthy national economy.

The Bankard Committee invites proposals for doctoral $15,000 student research awards during the period 2009-2010. The focus of research projects must be consistent with the objective of the Bankard Fund as stated above.

Fellowship Restrictions include:

1. Students may receive only one fellowship; previous recipients may not apply.
2. Recipients are expected to devote most of their energy to their research during the period of the award. Hence, recipients may not accept employment during the summer of 2009 and during at least one semester of the 2009-10 academic year.
3. Recipients must inform the Bankard committee of other sources of funding. The Committee will allow the Bankard fellowship to be deferred to allow students to accept other funding, but the fellowship funds may not be received simultaneously with other research funding.
4. Any publications arising from the research project should acknowledge the support of the Bankard Fund.
5. To be eligible for a Bankard Fellowship, a student must formally be of “all but dissertation” (ABD) status and have a dissertation topic that has been approved by his/her Department by Friday, November 14, 2008.

Academic Departments or Schools should submit proposals on behalf of their doctoral students. Six copies of a proposal should be submitted to the Bankard Committee by noon Friday, November 14, 2008. Submissions will include a cover letter from the Department or Schools’ Director of Graduate Studies evaluating/ ranking proposals as well as confirming each student’s ABD status with an approved dissertation topic.

For each student applicant, submissions should include:

a. a letter of support from the student’s dissertation advisor;
b. the student’s transcript or PACE form;
c. the student’s curriculum vitae;
d. the student’s project proposal (format described below);

Student project proposals should be limited to two pages and should include:

a. a statement of the research problem;
b. a discussion of its background, significance, and its relation to the Bankard Fund’s objective;
c. a description of the research design or methodology, and a timetable.

Questions should be referred to Ms. Mollie Iseli (924-3606 or mjm8k@virginia.edu).