The Bankard Fund for Political Economy was established with gifts by 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 $15,000 doctoral student research awards during the period 2013-2014. 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 2013 and during at least one semester of the 2013-14 academic year, and must devote the same periods full-time to their research.
3. Recipients must inform the Bankard Committee of other sources of funding. The Committee will allow the Bankard Fellowship to be deferred for one year (i.e. deferred to academic year 2014-15) 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 Wednesday, November 14, 2012.

Academic Departments or Schools should submit proposals on behalf of their doctoral students.

**** One copy of a proposal should be submitted as a single PDF file electronically to the Bankard Committee at mjm8k@virginia.edu by noon Wednesday, November 07, 2012. ***

(Update as of 11/1/2012: the deadline for submission has been extended to noon on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, in light of the disruptions caused by the storm) ***

Submissions should include a cover letter from the Department’s or School’s Director of Graduate Studies evaluating/ranking proposals as well as confirming each student’s ABD status with an approved dissertation topic. In particular, the cover letter should articulate the rationale for recommending each project proposal, including how well it meets the goals of the Bankard fund.

For each student applicant, submissions should include:

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

Student project proposals should be limited to two pages and should include:
a. Statement of the research problem;
b. Discussion of its background, significance, and its relation to the Bankard Fund’s objective;
c. Description of the research design or methodology;
d. Expected research outcome(s);
e. Timetable for the research.

Questions should be referred to Ms. Mollie Iseli at 924-3606 or mjmsk@virginia.edu.