2012-2013 Annual Report
Faculty Research Awards Committee
Christiane Zehl Romero, FRAC chair

During the 2012-2013 academic year, the Faculty Research Awards Committee met seven times to discuss criteria for funding and to determine which applications from the faculty would be funded. The committee also decided on more transparency and will record funding history and the names of recipients on its website.

The committee has a budget of 120,000 at its disposal + 10,000 from the Marshall Fund to be spent on projects in the "biological sciences.” To cover an unforeseen shortfall, the committee also received an additional $2,000 this year from Dean James Glaser. Fringe Benefits for the summer months (faculty and students) and all year (for Post-docs) must be budgeted from these amounts, as well as $12,000 for two course replacement for Senior and Mellon Leaves (irrespective of any departmental disclaimers), a stipulation instituted a year ago.

The distribution of awards was as follows:

• **Faculty Research Fund Awards (FRFs):** 20 applications; 10 were funded by FRAC, albeit not all in the amount requested; one by Marshall.

• **Grants in Aid (GIAs):** 16 applications; 12 were funded, albeit not all in the amount requested.

• **Senior/Mellon Leaves:** 13 applications; 4 were funded.

• **Summer Fellowships:** 5 applications, 3 were funded, one jointly by FRAC and Marshall.

• **Distinguished Scholar Award,** this year from Engineering, Mathematics, and the Natural Sciences: There were outstanding nominations from Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics. At the beginning of the academic year the committee had decided that it would only make one award per year, potentially rendering its task more difficult, but also making the award a more distinctive one.

Recipient: Michael Levin from the Department of Biology.

The total of the available **$132,000** was awarded during the 2012-2013.
For the third academic year, FRAC relied entirely and with good success on a Wiki Website for distribution of documents to committee members and for the filing of applications by faculty. Minor additional adjustments were made on the site over the span of the year, and new clarifications on Wiki application pages, about the stipulations of awards were proposed at our final meeting, on April 5.

After lengthy discussions throughout the year about the committee's selection criteria, we plan to clarify them on the application forms. It was also decided to review GIAs at predetermined regular intervals. Finally we agreed that the names, projects and departments of successful applicants would be published on the committee website at the end of every academic year, thus creating an archival record and becoming more transparent.

The committee wishes to remind colleagues about the change initiated by then Dean Andrew McClellan: The Dean’s Office will accept requests from tenure-stream faculty for help to pay for subventions (including the costs of illustrative material and reproduction rights) for academic presses, towards meeting the cost of book publications. Thus FRAC will no longer consider such requests but rather direct its limited funds towards distinctive scholarly projects-in-progress.

The committee members, and especially the chair, are very grateful for the administrative support of Jillian Dubman and her assistant Courtney Spieler. Their work has become vital and is much appreciated.

On behalf of the Faculty Research Awards Committee

Christiane Zehl Romero, FRAC chair

Members:
Behrouz Abedian, Mechanical Engineering
Drusilla Brown, Economics
Mark Cronin-Golomb, Biomedical Engineering
Soha Hassoun, Computer Science
William Oliver, Physics and Astronomy, GIA subcommittee
Zbigniew Nitecki, Mathematics
Christiane Zehl Romero, German, Russian, Asian Lang. and Lit., chair, chair of GIA subcommittee
Deborah Schildkraut, Political Science
Janet Schmalfeldt, Music, GIA subcommittee
Christopher Schmidt-Nowara, History
Mary Jane Shultz, Chemistry

Ex-Officio, without vote:
James Glaser, Dean for Academic Affairs, School of A&S
Elena Naumova, Associate Dean of Research, School of Engineering
Christine Woodroffe, Senior Associate Director, Research Administration
Donald McGowan, Director Corporate and Foundation Relations
Jillian Dubman, Secretary of the Faculty
Courtney Spieler, Staff Assistant