In an effort to recognize the accomplishments of faculty researchers, last week the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Graduate Studies and Research held the First Annual Mancur Olson Research Achievement Awards.

"The role of research is essential to the university," said University President C.D. Mote Jr. at the ceremony.

"In selecting the name, it was an easy decision to name the award after Mancur Olson," said Charles Wellford, interim associate provost for research and dean of the Graduate School. Olson, who passed away last February, was internationally known for his research in economics.

This year's Mancur Olson Research Award was given to John Baras and George Gloeckler and posthumously to Mancur Olson.

**Mancur Olson**

Olson, recognized as one of a handful of scholars responsible for changing the field of economics, taught graduate and undergraduate courses in the department of economics for 29 years and was named distinguished professor of economics in 1979.

Olson received his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University. He published seven books in his lifetime, including two towering classics: *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups* and *The Rise and Decline of Nations: Economic Growth, Stagflation, and Social Rigidities*.

He was well known in international circles for his work in providing guidance to more than 30 developing or formerly communist countries seeking to build sustaining economic and democratic institutional structures. As principal investigator for the Center for Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector (IRIS), Olson worked closely with governmental leaders and other decision-makers to help them understand that a country's economic policies and institutions principally determine its economic performance.

**John Baras**

Baras serves as the Martin Marietta Professor of Systems Engineering and is internationally known for his work on various aspects of system engineering, particularly in the area of advanced control and communications systems. His efforts, together with colleagues, led to the establishment of one of the first six NSF Centers of Excellence in Engineering at the university. Recently Baras and his colleagues worked to establish a NASA Center for the Commercial Development of Space in the area of hybrid communication networks.
Currently Baras is researching ways to provide fast and inexpensive Internet access via satellites and via terrestrial wireline and wireless extensions of satellite networks. He is also investigating the management control of large heterogeneous telecommunications networks.

According to Dean William Destler of the Clark School of Engineering, Baras is "considered a world-class authority in the systems science/engineering community."