

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WILLIAM POLIK NAMED 2009 JAMES FLACK NORRIS AWARDEE

Dr. William F. Polik, the Edward and Elizabeth Hofma Professor of Chemistry at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, has been named by the Northeastern Section of the American Chemical Society (NESACS) the winner of the 2009 James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry. This annual award was established in 1950 by NESACS to honor the memory of James Flack Norris (1871-1940), professor of chemistry at Simmons College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, chair of NESACS in 1904, and ACS President in 1925-26.

Professor Polik, who received a B.A. in chemistry and mathematics (Phi Beta Kappa) from Dartmouth College in 1982, joined the faculty of Hope College in 1988 after receiving his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. A molecular spectroscopist, he is a member of the American Chemical Society, American Physical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Council for Undergraduate Research. He works very closely with undergraduate students in his research laboratory and is active in the development of web-based materials for the teaching of physical chemistry. He has been recognized for his achievements in the past through receipt of an NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award, Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Fellowship, the Hope College Provost's Award for Teaching Excellence, and election as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Norris Award, which consists of a plaque and \$3,000, will be presented to Professor Polik at the NESACS monthly meeting on November 12, 2009, at Boston University in recognition of his outstanding work as a teacher and mentor, and for his leadership as member and chair of the ACS Committee on Professional Training in developing the new guidelines for undergraduate chemistry programs and bringing them toward implementation.

