

William Polik receives mentoring award

Dr. William Polik of the chemistry faculty has received an award from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Scholar/Fellow Program for Undergraduate Institutions.

The award, one of only four made nationwide this fall, will enable a post-doctoral Fellow to spend two years mentored by Dr. Polik at Hope, learning how to combine a research program with undergraduate teaching. Hope, Dr. Polik believes, is uniquely qualified to serve as a host site.

"There are many institutions that focus primarily on teaching or on research," he said. "To emphasize both is something that is quite special and that Hope does well."



Dr. William Polik

Doctoral programs, he said, typically focus on research but not on how the research process itself can be used to teach undergraduates about how science is done.

"So this is essential training for future faculty," he said. "The program is designed to provide first-hand experience with how to balance the requirements of both teaching and research, and how to achieve excellence in both."

The \$100,000 award will pay the Fellow's salary and provide funding for research and supplies during the 2004-05 and 2005-06 academic years. The individual chosen will have just completed his or her doctorate, and will be able to participate in Dr. Polik's research and in classroom teaching.

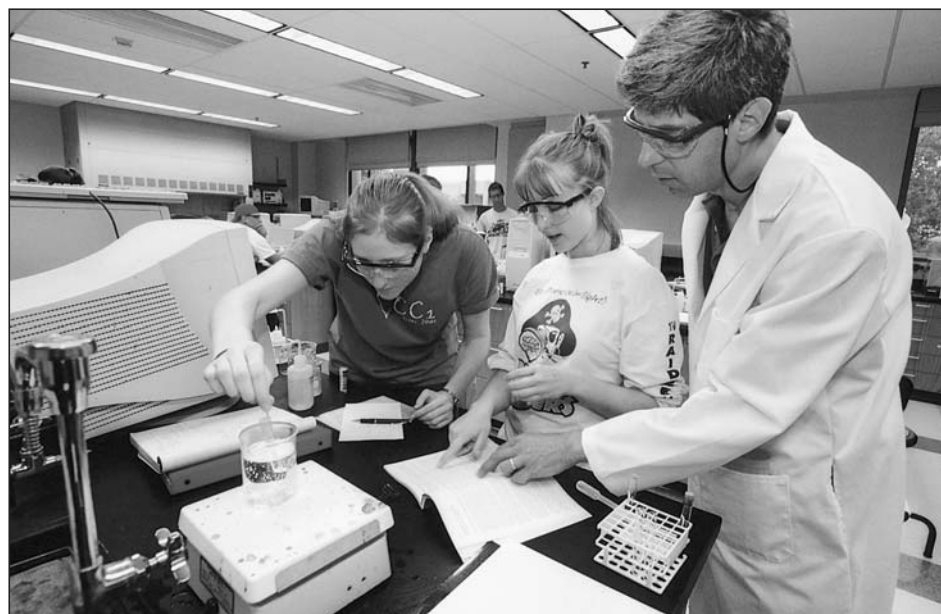
The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Inc. was established in 1946 and

is a memorial to Camille and Henry Dreyfus, two brothers who made major contributions in the research of materials used in the manufacture of photographic films. The Scholar/Fellow Program for Undergraduate Institutions was established in 1987, and is designed both to encourage the Fellows to pursue careers at undergraduate colleges and universities and to recognize the accomplishments of those chosen as the Fellows' faculty mentors.

The Dreyfus award is one of two honors this year for Dr. Polik, who is the Edward and Elizabeth Hofma Professor of Chemistry at Hope. He was one of only eight chemists from throughout the nation honored during the "Excellence in Undergraduate Chemical Research Symposium" held by the Department of Chemistry at Indiana University in Bloomington on Saturday, Sept. 27.

A specialist in physical chemistry, he uses lasers to study the details of chemical reactions, and maintains an active research program that involves Hope students. Since joining the faculty in 1988, he has received 40 grants and awards in support of his research, has given 44 invited seminars and has written 43 articles—including 15 co-authored with 20 Hope students who have worked with him on his research.

Dr. Polik has been especially committed to involving undergraduate research students in his research program, with between three and five students typically conducting research at any given time. During his time at the college his research program has involved 48 students, of whom 10 now have Ph.D. degrees, eight have master's degrees and five are currently in graduate school. Three of his research students have been awarded National Science Foundation or Department of Defense postdoctoral fellowships, and three have been awarded the college's top prize for creativity in independent research.



In recognition of his outstanding work as a mentor to students, Dr. William Polik of the chemistry faculty has received a national award from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. Through the award, a post-doctoral fellow will spend two years at Hope, gaining from Dr. Polik insights into how to blend research and undergraduate teaching.

In addition, he is a strong advocate for undergraduate research and education at the national level. He is a member of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Professional Training, having served as editor of the *Supplement on Undergraduate Research* and editor of the most recent edition of *The Guidelines*. He is a past member of the ACS DivCHED committee that helped develop the latest set of physical chemistry national examinations. He currently serves as chairperson of the Beckman Scholar Program Executive Committee, which distributes more than \$1 million annually in undergraduate research fellowships.

Dr. Polik received the "Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching" at Hope in 1999, the same year that he received the Sigma Xi

Award for Scientific Outreach at the college. In 1991, he received a prestigious "Presidential Young Investigator Award" from the National Science Foundation.

He joined the Hope faculty as an assistant professor. He was promoted to associate professor in 1994 and full professor in 2000, and appointed to his endowed chair in 2001.

He graduated from Dartmouth University in 1982. He holds a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Polik's award marks the fourth time that a member of the Hope chemistry faculty has been chosen to mentor a Fellow through the Dreyfus program. Dr. Rodney Boyer mentored a Fellow during 1987-89, Dr. Michael Silver during 1993-95 and Dr. Stephen Taylor during 1995-97. ✍



With planning and fund-raising for the Martha Miller Center for Global Communication and the De Vos Fieldhouse proceeding, so has site preparation. The college demolished the former Lincoln School on Columbia Avenue between 10th and 11th streets in December in anticipation of the Martha Miller Center.

Construction projects given green light

Two highly-anticipated campus additions have moved closer to happening.

During their winter meeting, the Board of Trustees accepted an administration recommendation that construction begin on the \$22 million Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse and the \$12 million Martha Miller Center for Global Communication.

While fund-raising for both projects continues, pledges and contributions to date through the college's capital campaign, *Legacies: A Vision of Hope*, will allow construction to begin.

Subject to final local and state governmental approvals, including the exchange of some properties between the college and the City of Holland, construction of

the 102,000-square-foot fieldhouse could begin in March. Construction of the Martha Miller Center is scheduled to start in late spring.

The DeVos Fieldhouse will house the department of kinesiology and the athletic training program, and will also serve as home court for the volleyball and men's and women's basketball teams. Designed to seat approximately 3,400 fans, it will also serve as a venue for other college and community events.

The two-story Martha Miller Center will house the departments of communication and modern and classical languages, and the offices of international education and multicultural life.

(More about *Legacies: A Vision of Hope* can be found on page five, or online at www.hope.edu/advancement/legacies/.) ✍