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GRACE RESEARCHER RECOGNIZED WITH INDUSTRY AWARD

Columbia, Maryland – March 16, 2010 – Dr. Stephen R. Schmidt, Research Fellow for Grace Davison, an operating segment of W. R. Grace & Co. (NYSE: GRA), has received the 2010 Raney® Award from the Organic Reactions Catalysis Society (ORCS).

The award was presented at the 23rd ORCS Conference in California and is recognition of Dr. Schmidt's contributions to the advancement of catalyst technology. He has over twenty years of industrial experience in the use of RANEY® hydrogenation catalysts for specialty applications, successfully applying his knowledge for synthesis of chemicals used in a variety of important segments, including automotive, textile, food and pharmaceutical applications. He is author or co-author on nine patents in the areas of automotive exhaust catalysts, matting agents for paints and metal hydrogenation catalysts. His innovative contributions to the field of RANEY® hydrogenation catalysis include novel Cu and promoted nickel catalysts. In addition, he has pending patent applications for polyethylene (plastics) and renewable chemicals catalysts.

The Organic Reactions Catalysis Society is an international scientific association. Its members seek to advance practical applications of catalysis for making organic compounds and to foster discussions that facilitate the dissemination of scientific knowledge. In conjunction with the award, Dr. Schmidt is scheduled to present an address at the conference. His address is slated to be published in the journal, *Topics in Catalysis*.

“Steve’s work over a wide range of materials and applications has helped solve many customer issues – from converting biodiesel byproducts into chemicals to producing additives for low volatile and water-based paints, as examples,” remarked Greg Poling, Vice President, W. R. Grace & Co. and President, Grace Davison. “His contributions span many Grace Davison product lines. I join his colleagues and the scientific community in congratulating him on this special distinction.”

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Dr. Schmidt joined Grace in 1985 and has applied his skills as a physical chemist to a wide range of materials and applications, ultimately becoming known within Grace and the industry as an expert in hydrogenation catalysis. He is an instructor for the Center for Professional Advancement's Advanced Hydrogenation Technology course offered up to three times each year to industrial chemists and engineers in the United States and Europe. In addition, he has created a successful collaboration with the Seton Hall University Center for Applied Catalysis in New Jersey. He has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Benedictine College (Kansas) and Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Iowa State University.

Grace is a leading global supplier of catalysts and other products to petroleum refiners; catalysts for the manufacture of plastics; silica-based engineered and specialty materials for a wide range of industrial applications; sealants and coatings for food and beverage packaging, and specialty chemicals, additives and building materials for commercial and residential construction. Founded in 1854, Grace has operations in over 40 countries. For more information, visit Grace's web site at www.grace.com.

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