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Dr. Michael J. Janik**Assistant Professor****Pennsylvania State University**

Dr. Janik is an assistant professor of Chemical Engineering at PSU, beginning his appointment August, 2006. His research interests are in the use of computational methods to understand and design catalysts for alternative energy conversion systems. Current activities focus on fuel cells and electrochemical systems. Janik is affiliated with the PSU Electrochemical Engine Center and the PSU Institutes of Energy and the Environment.

Dr. Janik received his B. S. in Chemical Engineering from Yale University. Following three years as a Process Engineer for Procter and Gamble, Janik returned to graduate school at the University of Virginia. Janik completed his doctoral thesis examining the role of water in acid catalysis by polyoxometalates. His doctoral work was recognized with a departmental award for excellence in Doctoral Study, and his teaching accomplishments with an All-University award. Subsequent post-doctoral work, also at the University of Virginia, used first principles computational methods to elucidate the elementary mechanisms of methanol and carbon monoxide oxidation over Pt-Ru alloys. This work was extended to the design of ternary alloys for the anode of the direct methanol fuel cell.