

# April 2025 Newsletter



## Faculty Spotlight



myUMBC Bio  
Webpage

### Dr. H. Mark Perks

Teaching Professor –  
Organic Chemistry

### Teaching Interests:

Making learning chemistry  
captivating and fun and  
making myself unnecessary

### Personal Factoid:

Enthusiasm for Linux  
computers, running, and an  
office that says “I’d rather  
be outside.”

## Upcoming Events

**Mar. 31 – Apr. 1 (Breezeway to Commons)** – ACS  
Bake Sale of Elements

**Apr. 4 - 6 (College Park)** – NE/SE Regional  
NOBCChE Conference and Career Fair

**Apr. 7 (MEYR 256)** – ACS Chem Club Science Night  
Practice

**May 9 (3:00 – 5:00 pm; UC Ballroom)** – CNMS  
Awards and Recognition Day

## Departmental Seminars

*Seminars are held on Fridays at 12:00 in MEYR 120*

**Apr. 04:** Dr. Julia Dshemuchadse (Cornell) – Self-  
Assembly Models for Crystal Growth and Phase  
Transitions

**Apr. 11:** Dr. Bradley Webb (WVU) – Cell Biology of  
Metabolism: Structural and Functional Insights into  
a Glycolytic Enzyme

**Apr. 25:** Dr. Boone Prentice (U. Florida) – Imaging  
with High Chemical and Spatial Resolutions Using  
Mass Spectrometry

## Important Dates and Deadlines

**Apr. 4** – Last Day to Withdraw from a Course

**May 13** – Last Day to Withdraw from all Courses

**May 13** – Last Day of Classes

**May 14** – Study Day

**May 15 - 21** – Finals Week

**May 15 - 21** – Undergraduate Commencement

Follow the Department at

<https://chemistry.umbc.edu>

To get on the ACS Chem/Biochem Club mailing  
list, email [ACS\\_Chapter@umbc.edu](mailto:ACS_Chapter@umbc.edu)

**Student Tip of the Month** – “A model kit is very helpful for  
organic chemistry, if you haven’t been using one up until now, it  
can be helpful before finals”

**Did you know?** – That plastic packaging used for medicines must  
go through extensive quality control testing for chemicals that  
can leech into your skin, but that plastics used in everyday items  
such as cell phones and cases do not?

## Department News

- Congratulations Caleb Zeleke (A. Smith Lab) on being selected  
into MIT’s Bernard and Sophie Gould Summer Research  
Program in Biology
- Justin Muraya (Geddes Lab) and Stephen Shaner (Bennett Lab)  
awarded a Merck Data Science in the Life Sciences  
Undergraduate Fellowships
- Rya Holzman Awarded 2025 ACS Chesapeake Chemist Student  
Award for Research and Academic Excellence
- Congratulations to our 2025 ACS undergraduate student  
awardees: Lexi Wise (Analytical Chemistry Award); Jumana Al-  
Anesi (Biochemistry Award); Jason Smith (Organic Chemistry  
Award) and Haneul Kim (Physical Chemistry Award)
- Prof. Lisa Kelly Receives the 2024-2025 Marilyn Demorest  
Faculty Advancement Award for mentoring junior colleagues

## New Jobs, Internships and REU Listings

For an extended listing of recent job postings and internships; [click here](#)

- [Thermo Fisher Scientific – Laboratory Manager](#)
- [Astra Zeneca – Cell Culture and Fermentation Scientist](#)
- [Matrix Sciences – Lab Analyst, Chemist](#)
- [W. R. Grace – Sr. Technician Specialist – Catalyst R&D](#)
- [Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education Internships](#)
- [Undergraduate and Graduate Programs at the FDA](#)
- [Searchable database of 650+ Summer Research Programs](#)

Join the Chem/BioChem Jobs group – email [bmoravec@umbc.edu](mailto:bmoravec@umbc.edu) to  
receive regular job/internship updates & postings

## Resources

- Need Help with Chemistry Courses? – In addition to reaching out  
to your instructor, did you know about:
  - Chemistry Tutorial Center (Sign up to meet w/ a tutor; MEYR 145)
  - UMBC Tutoring Center (Walk-ins welcome; Library 1<sup>st</sup> Floor)
  - Peer assisted study sessions w/ SI Pass (Academic Success Center)
- Interested in Undergraduate Research?
  - Visit the department’s website to see faculty’s research programs
  - Email/Call faculty with appealing research – can be taken for  
credit or just experience
- Interested in Pre-Professional Programs (pre-med, pre-dental,  
etc.) – Don’t miss out on advising
- Need help with your resume or interviewing advice? – Reach out  
to the UMBC Career Center