

April 2026 Newsletter



Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Joseph Benett

Assistant Professor –
Inorganic Chemistry

Research Interests:

I am interested in teaching computational materials chemistry

Personal Factoid:

In off times, you can find me walking two big dogs at Druid Hill Park

[myUMBC Bio](#)

[Lab Webpage](#)

Student Tip of the Month – “Reach out to your instructor if you have questions, they really do want to help, not just to learn, but to achieve your goals too, whatever they are.”

Did you know? – That UMBC will be hosting the Maryland State Science Olympiad Tournament on Saturday, April 18th to determine which two Maryland high school teams go on to compete in the National Science Olympiad Event?

Department News

- Kevin Schwanebeck Awarded 2026 ACS Chesapeake Chemist Student Award for Research and Academic Excellence
- Congratulations to our 2026 ACS undergraduate student awardees: Severin Elbich (Analytical Chemistry Award); Tyler Sadtler (Biochemistry Award); Aliyyah Roberson (Organic Chemistry Award) and Aeon Kaplowitz (Physical Chemistry)
- Dr. Mark Perks announces his retirement after 35 years of dedicated service in the Department.
- Congratulations Dr. Tara Carpenter, Recipient of the 2026 the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching
- Congratulations Dr. Michael Summers, Recipient of the 2026 the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring

Upcoming Events

Mar. 31 – Apr. 1 (Apt Community Cntr; 10 am – 2 pm) – UMBC Suits You: Professional Clothing Closet

Apr. 6 (MEYR 256; 12:00 pm) – ACS Chem Club Meeting (ACS Conference Debrief)

Apr. 18 (across campus; 8:00 am -5:00 pm) – MD State Science Olympiad Tournament

May 8 (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. 03: Dr. Molly Sutherland (U. Del.) – Insights into Heme Trafficking from the Bacterial

Cytochrome C Biogenesis Pathways

Apr. 10: Dr. Jill Wenderott (Drexel) – Guiding Mixed Anion Material Synthesis with Informed Approaches

Apr. 17: Dr. Jeff Saven (U. Penn.) – Theory, Computation and Experiment to Study Condensed Phase Biomolecules and Polymers

Apr. 24: Dr. Andrew Tsourkas (U. Penn.) – Engineering Molecular Platforms for Precision Therapy in Oncology

Important Dates and Deadlines

Apr. 3 – Last Day to Withdraw from a Course

May 12 – Last Day to Withdraw from all Courses

May 12 – Last Day of Classes

May 13 – Study Day

May 14 - 20 – Finals Week

May 21 – Undergraduate Commencement

New Jobs, Internships and REU Listings

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

- [Cruz Associates – Polymer Chemist – GPC/HPLC LC-MS](#)
- [Precise Systems – Analytical Chemist](#)
- [Maryland Department of the Environment – Chemist](#)
- [NIST – Forensic and Drug Analytical Chemist](#)
- [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 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 1st 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

Follow the Department at

<https://chemistry.umbc.edu>

To get on the ACS Chem/Biochem Club mailing list, email ACS_Chapter@umbc.edu