

# Chesapeake Chemist

*Maryland Section  
American Chemical  
Society*



**Remsen Awardee, Matthew Platz**

Wednesday, May 29, Johns Hopkins University

## Maryland section's new committee chair: James Nwaba

The last issue of the Chesapeake Chemist announced the establishment of a new committee, Mentoring Program and Task Force on Mentoring, chaired by James Nwaba.

Mr. Nwaba, who has an M.S. in chemistry, is a research/analytical chemist for DAP Inc., a leading manufacturer and marketer of a variety of home improvement products, such as caulk, adhesives, and sealants, etc. An employee of DAP since 1995, Mr. Nwaba works at the company's research and development laboratory in Baltimore, where his duties include new product development and product reformulation; his specialty is cementitious products. Among his analytical chemistry duties are reverse engineering, quality assurance, quality control, and method development and validation.

Mr. Nwaba has been a member of the Maryland section and ACS since 1998. In preparation for initiating the Maryland program, he attended a 3-day training workshop on mentoring sponsored by the ACS. According to Mr. Nwaba, his goals for the section's mentoring program are "to implement the national ACS Strategic Plan, as well as to develop and implement programs that will facilitate increased participation and leadership of underrepresented minorities and women in the ACS."

## 50-year membership luncheon scheduled

Congratulations to Maryland Section members who have reached the ACS 50-year membership milestone. This year's 50-year members are Dr. Sol Glicker, Mr. Norman H. Weissert, Jr., Dr. Frank Shanty, Mr. Israel S. Ungar, Dr. Joseph A. Cogliano, Dr. Moises G. Sanchez, Mrs. Ellen N. Young, and Dr. Ernest F. Silversmith.

The Maryland Section has arranged a luncheon to mark the event. The luncheon will be held at Belmont, the ACS retreat just off Route 1 in Elkridge, Maryland, on May 17, 2002. Registration will start at 11:30 am, with lunch at noon. The afternoon program (from 1:00 to 2:00 pm) will begin with a history of the section, followed by a brief introduction to each new 50-year member and the presentation to each of a plaque that the ACS has issued in his or her honor.

Directions to Belmont and a map are available on the internet at [www.acs.org/Belmont](http://www.acs.org/Belmont).

## Maryland Section picnic planned

The annual Maryland Section picnic has been scheduled for Monday, July 1, 2002 at Belmont:

Time:	11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Goal:	To have fun and to discuss and plan the activities for next year.
Attendees:	Members, their families and friends
Activities:	Swimming, hiking, tennis, other games and good food
Price:	Individual \$20; Family \$30

**Chesapeake Chemist**

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202-647-4011

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410-771-7886

Secretary: Stephanie Scierka  
410-762-1141

Treasurer: Angela Sherman  
410-532-5713

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**Committee Chairs**

Remsen Award:  
Lev Ryzhkov, 410-704-3831

Maryland Chemist Award:  
Shekar Munavalli, 410-436-2819

Maryland Service Award:  
Shree Iyengar, 410-541-2266

Mentoring Program/Task Force:  
James Nwaba, 410-675-2100 ext. 2650

**Student Awards:**

Education:  
Shirish Shah, 410-532-5712

National Chemistry Week:  
Shirish Shah and Sandy Young

Chemistry Olympiad:  
Mike Zapf, 410-771-7471

Kids and Chemistry:  
Shirish Shah

**High School Teachers:**

Archives:  
Ernest Silversmith, 443-885-3214

Member Assistance:  
Merle Eiss, 410-484-0521

House:  
Shirish Shah

Public Relations:  
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Jan Kolakowski

Women Chemists: Sara Narayan

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Minorities:  
Alfred Amah, 410-383-5777

Career Planning:  
Linh Cheong, 410-762-1159

Government Relations:  
Shirish Shah

Retired Chemists:  
Alvin Bober, 410-581-5321

Young Chemists:  
Amanda Miller

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# May 2002 Meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2002

Johns Hopkins University

## Schedule

6:00- 7:00 pm	Registration and social hour in the Glass Pavilion
7:00 - 8:00 pm	Dinner
8:00 - 9:00 pm	Remsen Award Ceremony Photochemistry and Photobiology of Riboflavin Dr. Matthew S. Platz The Ohio State University

Cost:

Members, \$22.00; Retired members, nonmembers, and spouses, \$16.00; Students, \$10.00  
For reservations, call Shirish Shah, 410-532-5712, or e-mail him at sshah@ndm.edu.

## Abstract

The NIH has pointed out that in a typical year “3.8 million Americans are transfused with 28.2 million blood components derived from 12.8 million units of blood donated by apparently healthy volunteers.” Blood products are extensively tested for the presence of pathogens prior to administration in the developed world. Nevertheless, there exists a small, but finite risk of transmission of infectious agents in a transfusion. The NIH estimated the risk during transfusion “of a unit of screened blood is 1/1,000,000 for hepatitis A virus (HAV), 1/30,000 - 1/50,000 for HBV, 1/30,000 - 1/150,000 for HCV, 1/200,000 - 1/2,000,000 for HIV, 1/250,000 - 1/2,000,000 for human T-cell lymphotropic viruses (HTLV) types I and II, and 1/10,000 for parvo virus B1. Furthermore, the estimated frequency of bacterial contamination of red blood cells is 1/500,000 units, and the risk of platelet-related sepsis is estimated to be 1/12,000.” This lecture will present new research involving density functional theory calculations and time resolved infra red spectroscopy to investigate the mechanism of action of riboflavin sensitized inactivation of pathogens present in blood products. Emphasis will be placed on the direct detection of the reactive intermediates generated as a result of photoactivation.

## About the speaker:

Matthew S. Platz was born in New York City in 1951. He graduated from the State University of New York at Albany in 1973 with degrees in chemistry and mathematics. Dr. Platz performed undergraduate research with Professor Shelton Bank, which inspired him to pursue a graduate degree. Dr. Platz studied with Professor Berson at Yale University, where he was awarded the Wolfgang Memorial Prize for outstanding research. After receiving a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1977, Dr. Platz spent 18 months pursuing postdoctoral research with Professor Closs at The University of Chicago. In 1978 Dr. Platz joined the faculty of The Ohio State University as an assistant professor and rose through the ranks to his present position of distinguished university professor.

Dr. Platz has been an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, a Camille and Henry Dreyfuss Teacher-Scholar, a Cope Scholar Award winner; he has also won awards at OSU for both outstanding teaching and distinguished research. Dr. Platz served as chair of the Department of Chemistry from 1994-1999. During his term as chair, the Department of Chemistry renovated McPherson Laboratory, opened the Newman and Wolfrom Laboratory, and hired 14 new faculty members. Dr. Platz is interested in the use of photochemical methods to study radicals, biradicals, carbenes and nitrenes and in using reactive intermediates to inactivate pathogens that threaten the blood supply.

## Directions to Johns Hopkins University

**From I-95 (southbound) or from I-695 (the Baltimore Beltway):** Take the beltway toward Towson to exit 25. Take Charles Street south for about 7 miles (when Charles Street splits a block after Loyola College and Cold Spring Lane, take the right fork). As you approach the university and cross University Parkway, continue southbound but be sure to jog right onto the service road. After you pass the university on the right, turn right onto Art Museum Drive. Just after the Baltimore Museum of Art, bear right at the traffic island onto Wyman Park Drive. Take an almost immediate right through the university gates. A visitors' lot and parking meters will be on the left.

**From I-95 (northbound):** Take exit 53,I-395 north toward downtown Baltimore, then take the exit to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and follow the directions from Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard below.

**From Maryland 295 (the Baltimore-Washington Parkway):** Entering Baltimore, the parkway becomes Russell Street. Stay on Russell Street until (Ravens stadium is on your right and Oriole Park at Camden Yards is before you) you reach the right-hand exit marked Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (look carefully for this; the signs are small). This exit will put you very briefly on a service road parallel to Russell Street. Stay to the left and take the ramp marked Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Follow the directions (below) from Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

**From Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard:** Take King Boulevard north until it ends at Howard Street (remain in one of the middle lanes of King Boulevard to avoid a premature forced right or left turn). Turn left at Howard Street and proceed about 2 miles. One block past 29th Street, turn left at the traffic island (just before the Baltimore Museum of Art) onto Wyman Park Drive. Take an almost immediate right through the university gates. A visitors' lot and parking meters will be on the left.

**From the Jones Falls Expressway (I-83) southbound:** Take the 28th Street exit and go left on 28th Street. Turn left on North Howard Street. One block past 29th Street, turn left at the traffic island (just before the Baltimore Museum of Art) onto Wyman Park Drive. Take an almost immediate right through the university gates. A visitors' lot and parking meters will be on the left.

**A map of the JHU campus showing parking and the location of the Glass Pavilion can be found at [www.jhu.edu/~tour/parking.html](http://www.jhu.edu/~tour/parking.html)**

## MARM 2002

The ACS Chemical Society of Washington and the Chemistry Department of George Mason University will host the 35th Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM 2002) from Tuesday, May 28 to Friday, May 30, on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. The meeting will feature 8 invited symposia—Bio-Process Engineering, Biotechnology Crops, Forensic DNA Testing, Structural Genomics, Space Science, The Grant Game—How is it Played?, and Women in Chemistry. The general sessions include analytical, organic, and physical chemistry, chemical education, and an undergraduate research poster session. The deadline for advanced registration is May 10, 2002. For detailed information, visit the meeting website: <http://gunston.gmu.edu/MARM2002/>. Gregory D. Foster, Planning Co-Chair, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030; telephone 703/993-1081; Email, [gfoster@gmu.edu](mailto:gfoster@gmu.edu)

## Fall meeting dates set

Below are the dates for the Maryland Section's fall dinner meetings. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

September 18, 2002	College of Notre Dame of Maryland
October 23, 2002	College of Notre Dame of Maryland
November 13, 2002	Towson University
December 11, 2002	Johns Hopkins University

## Chemistry Olympics held

The regional Chemistry Olympics was held at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland on April 20. Four students, from Mt. St. Joseph, Mt. Hebron and Wild Lake schools, took part in the regional olympics.

Each year, approximately 100 students, sponsored by the local sections, participate in the Chemistry Olympics nationwide. Out of the 100 students, 20 students are invited to participate in the National Olympics in Colorado Springs, in June. Four to five students from this group are then selected for the International Olympics. In 2002, the International Olympics will be held in Amsterdam.

The regional olympics is a six-hour exam, consisting of several sections. There is a multiple-choice section, a problem-solving section, and a laboratory section. Work-study students from the College of Notre Dame, under the leadership of Mr. Pat Bell (the lab manager), prepared the materials and equipment required for the lab section. Proctors for the exam were Mike Zapf, Anna Kallas and Shirish Shah.

## Free links to journal articles in C&EN

Chemical & Engineering News Online (<http://pubs.acs.org/cen>) offers free links to journal articles in a growing number of publications. Links to journal references in *C&EN* articles include not only ACS journals, but also journals published by the Royal Society of Chemistry (such as Chemical Communications) and Angewandte published by Wiley-VCH. Readers do not need to be subscribers to these journals to read the linked journal articles. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Voith, online editor, *Chemical & Engineering News*, 1155 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036 <http://pubs.acs.org/cen> phone: 202-872-4406; fax 202-872-8727.

## Officer nominations being accepted

The Maryland Section Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for section officers to serve in 2003.

The committee will present the slate for the election of officers in the fall of 2002. Anyone wishing to nominate someone to serve as an officer should contact Shirish Shah or Alvin Bober.



*Several 2002 section officers with Dr. Kevin Manning, president of Villa Julie College, at the February dinner meeting. Far left is Walter Roy (vice-chair), then Angela Sherman (treasurer), and section chairman, Robert von Tersch is on the far right.*

# May Historical Events in Chemistry

by Leopold May, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

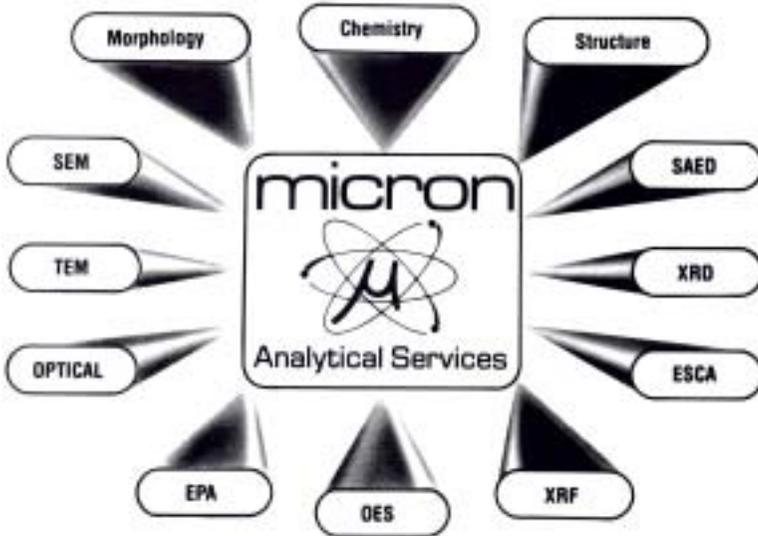
- May 1, 1824      Birthday of Alexander W. Williamson, who was a researcher on alcohols and ethers. He was the first to suggest the intermediate compound theory of catalysis with Kay and synthesized ethylene glycol.
- May 2, 1912      BF Goodrich Company was incorporated on this date.
- May 3, 1895      Birthday of Herman F. Mark, who is known as the “Father of polymer chemistry.” He developed the process for production of styrene from ethylbenzene.
- May 10, 1860      Robert Bunsen & Gustav R. Kirchhoff announced the discovery of cesium on this date.
- May 12, 1803      Birthday of Justus von Liebig, who is known as the “Father of Agricultural Chemistry.” He perfected methods for quantitative organic analysis, divided foods into carbohydrates, fats, and protein and invented the Liebig condenser.
- May 17, 1897      Odd Hassel researched molecular structure of cyclohexane and derivatives, charge-transfer compounds, and the rules for geometry of charge-transfer compounds. He shared the Nobel Prize in 1969 with Derek H. R. Barton for their contributions to the development of the concept of conformation and its application in chemistry. He was born on this date.
- May 18, 1901      Birthday of Vincent du Vigneaud, who studied sulfur containing proteins, including insulin. He researched transmethylation and the metabolism of single carbon compounds. In 1955, he received the Nobel Prize for his work on biochemically important sulfur compounds, especially for the first synthesis of a polypeptide hormone.
- May 20, 1890      Birthday of Francis O. Rice, a researcher in free radicals. He served as head of the Chemistry Department at The Catholic University of America from 1938 to 1959.
- May 24, 1783      Aaron Dexter appointed first professor of Chemistry and Materia Medica at newly organized Harvard Medical School on this date.
- May 27, 1840      Birthday of Lars F. Nilson, who discovered scandium in 1879.
- May 28, 1887      Kasmir Fajans established radioactive displacement law and initiated concept of heat of hydration of gaseous ions. He was born on this day.

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**Attention all officers and committee chairs.** Because there is not enough space on page 3 of the newsletter to provide a variety of contact information for each officer and committee chair, the Chesapeake Chemist would like to include a directory of officers and committee chairs in its September (and/or January) issue. The directory would list the name, address, telephone number, and email address of each officer and committee chairperson so that they can be contacted by members of the Maryland Section. The newsletter is asking each officer and committee chair to provide the above contact information, via email, to the editor no later than July 1, 2002.

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