Dr. Keith P. Reber, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, joined the faculty of the Department of Chemistry in August 2014. Dr. Reber earned his Ph.D. in synthetic organic chemistry from Princeton University in 2012, and his bachelor’s degree from the Pennsylvania State University in 2007. Before joining Towson University, Dr. Reber was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of California at San Diego.

Dr. Reber teaches organic chemistry, supervises undergraduate research in synthetic organic chemistry, and serves as the faculty advisor to the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SAACS) club at Towson University. His research involves discovering methods to synthesize rare natural compounds thought or known to be beneficial as antifungal, antiviral and antibiotic compounds. Dr. Reber’s undergraduate student mentees have successfully synthesized such compounds, presented their results at the American Chemical Society, and published in a high-impact journal. Altogether, Dr. Reber has published five journal articles and is the Principal Investigator on two successful internal Faculty Development research grants and two pending extramural grant proposals.

Dr. Reber will be developing inexpensive techniques to synthesize a number of antiviral compounds that occur naturally in the marine fungus *Cladosporium sphaerospermum*. The resulting synthetic compounds will be tested for biological activity through a collaboration with Eli Lilly and Company. Results will be published and will serve as the basis for future external grant proposals.
ABOUT THE FISHER ENDOWED CHAIR PROGRAM

The endowed chair program was established by the Robert M. Fisher Memorial Foundation to honor the memory of Jess Fisher ’34, his wife Mildred, and their family, and to maximize the benefit of their philanthropy for students in the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics. A specific objective is to incorporate high quality research opportunities into students’ undergraduate learning experiences through the support of the scholarly growth of highly promising early-career faculty members in the physical and biological sciences. Fisher Professors, who are appointed by the Dean of the Fisher College, serve a term of three years.

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Joy E. M. Watts, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences; 2006-2009
Jennifer E. Scott, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Astronomy; 2007-2010
Timothy J. Brunker, D.Phil. – Assistant Professor of Astronomy; 2009-2012
Elizabeth A. Duncan-Vaidya, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences; 2010-2011
Matthew R. Hemm, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences; 2011-2014
Meghan A. May, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences; 2012-2013
Joel Moore, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Geological Sciences; 2013-2016
Petra A. Tsuji, Ph.D., M.P.H. - Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences; 2013-2016
Elana S. Ehrlich, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences; 2014-2017
John D. Sivey, Ph.D – Assistant Professor of Chemistry; 2015-2018
Keith P. Reber, Ph.D. – Assistant Professor of Chemistry; 2016-2019

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