

To Professor Gerhard Maas on the Occasion of his 60th Birthday



Gerhard Maas, Professor of Organic Chemistry, celebrates his 60th birthday on June 12th, 2009. On this occasion, a group of colleagues, former students and friends in the scientific community are dedicating to him a collection of research papers in the present issue of *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung B, Chemical Sciences*, to honor him for his scientific achievements and his ongoing commitment to science and scientific publishing both as an author and an editor.

Gerhard Maas studied chemistry at the Universities of Saarbrücken and Heidelberg. After a diploma thesis in Inorganic Chemistry with Karl Wieghardt in 1971 he joined the group of Manfred Regitz, first at Saarbrücken, but, after the move of the Regitz group to the newly founded University of Kaiserslautern, he finished his Ph.D. thesis in Organic Chemistry (1974) there. As a Liebig Fellow he subsequently started his independent research in Kaiserslautern (1974–1976).

The academic year 1979/1980 he spent as a post-doctoral fellow with Peter J. Stang at the University of Utah (Salt Lake City). Back to Kaiserslautern, he rose through the academic ranks, with the Habilitation in 1982, followed by the appointment as an apl. Professor in 1992. In 1994 he accepted the chair of a Full Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Ulm, where he has been ever since.

His research interests are broad with a focus on organic synthesis: conjugated iminium salts and allenes

as versatile synthetic building blocks, organic chemistry of silicon and phosphorus, and transition metal-catalyzed transformations of diazo compounds. But also organic transformations in non-conventional reaction media – fluorous phases and ionic liquids – are an important part of his research, thus testifying a chemist with a broad knowledge and a wide range of research interests both in organic and organometallic chemistry.

His scientific achievements are well documented in a large number of papers published in leading chemistry journals. In addition, he has been the author of many review articles and has served the scientific community as an editor of important reference works.

Gerhard Maas has always been highly engaged in teaching chemistry to students and young chemists. Over the years, many students went through his courses learning how chemistry research should be done and how satisfying this can be.

Finally, for many years he has been co-editor of the *Zeitschrift für Naturforschung B: Chemical Sciences*. The fellow editors and the publisher of *ZfN B* therefore join his colleagues, friends, and former students in expressing their appreciation of his service to science and wishing him all the best: *Glück, Erfolg und gute Gesundheit für die nächsten Jahre!*

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