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Mark Ratner received his Ph.D. (1969) at Northwestern University, and returned to join the faculty in 1975. His research focuses on chemistry in the molecular and nanoscale regimes, particularly on models for self-assembly of nanostructures, on charge transport in molecular electronics, on quantum mechanics and on predicting and optimizing the properties of molecular materials. He is a member of four academies of higher learning, including the US National Academy and the Royal Danish Academy, and has been awarded the Feynman and Langmuir Prizes for his research. He normally teaches first-year chemistry, and has taught about 4,000 Northwestern freshmen over the last decade. In October of 2004, he was named Visionary of the Year by the Chicago Innovation Council.