

## SLATE OF OFFICERS PAS

Sherri Evans Bergsten teaches genetics and developmental biology at Shippensburg University. She has a B.S. in Biology from Haverford College, and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Princeton University where she studied translational regulation of genes required for abdomen formation in *Drosophila melanogaster*. Her current research with undergraduates focuses on the genetic and environmental factors that play a role in mate choice in *Drosophila melanogaster*. Sherri has been co-chair of the Program Committee for the Pennsylvania Academy of Science Annual Meeting since 2006. She is committed to PAS and its mission to provide a stimulating and supportive arena for undergraduates to present their research.

Robert Coxe grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina and earned a B.A. in Biology at UNC-Asheville and an M.S. in Biology at UNC-Charlotte specializing in Plant Taxonomy and Ecology. Soon after graduating Robert worked for the Biota of North America Program at UNC-Chapel Hill producing a polyclave computer key for all plant species in North America. In 1999, Robert moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania started working as an ecologist for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and completed Natural Heritage Inventories for Fayette, Lawrence, Mercer, and Greene Counties. He remained at the Conservancy until 2005 when he started working as the state ecologist for the State of Delaware. In Delaware he is working on a statewide vegetation community map and has completed the Guide to Delaware Vegetation Communities. Robert joined the academy in 2000 and remained active when he moved to Delaware. He has had numerous positions in the academy including Corresponding Secretary and Membership Chair, Time and Place Chair, and Affiliates Chair. He lives in a house dating from 1672 in New Castle, Delaware.

Mike Elnitsky is a second-year assistant professor of biology at Mercyhurst College where he teaches a variety of introductory and upper-level courses. Originally from Brockway, Pennsylvania, he completed a B.S. in Biology at Slippery Rock University prior to spending 6 years at Miami University in Ohio for graduate school. Mike's research focuses on the physiological response of ectothermic animals to environmental stress, with special interest in low temperature biology (cryobiology). As part of this research, he spent two field seasons at Palmer Station on the Antarctic Peninsula. In his free time, Mike is an avid cyclist and generally enjoys spending time in the outdoors.

Steve Mauro is an assistant professor at Mercyhurst College where he teaches courses in cell biology, genetics, molecular biology and microbial ecology. He received his BS and Ph.D from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Steve's research focuses on the correlation of shiga toxin gene frequency, to commonly used microbial indicators of recreational water quality, patterns of shiga toxin gene distribution in deer fecal matter and the comparison of quantitative PCR to bacteriological plating of commonly used microbial indicators of recreational water quality.

Dr. Assad Panah is Professor of Geology and Environmental Science and Director of the Petroleum Technology Program at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Dr. Panah received his Ph.D. in Geology from University of Oklahoma; M.A. in Geology from University of Texas, Austin; M.S. and B.S. from University of Tehran, Iran. Dr. Panah has published 59 articles in the fields of Geology, Environmental Science, Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems, Telemetry using GPS in Wildlife Diseases Investigation, and Renewable Energy-Geothermal Energy. He is co-editor (and co-author of chapters) of four books by the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. Dr. Panah served as President and Chair of the board of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science 1998-2000. He served as Secretary of the Board of the National Association of Academies of Science (NAAS) 2000-2002; President-Elect of the NAAS 2002-2003 and President and Chair of the Board of the National Association of Academies of Science and the American Junior Academy of Sciences (AJAS) 2003-2004. Dr. Panah is recipient of Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the mission and goals of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science (2000); and he is the recipient of Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the mission and goals of the National Association of Academies of Science and the American Junior Academy of Sciences (2004). Dr. Panah served as webmaster of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science 2000-present.

Matt Wallace is an entomologist at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. He received his B.S. at the University of Connecticut in 1995, his M.S. at NC State University in 1999, and Ph.D at NC State University in 2003. He works on the systematics of the insect family Membracidae (treehoppers) and teaches four courses in entomology: Insects & Human Life, General Entomology, Medical Entomology, and Insect Systematics.

Jennifer L. White is an Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences at East Stroudsburg University, where she has taught since 2003. She teaches courses in Human Anatomy & Physiology, Histology, Embryology, and Human Gross Anatomy, and she directs the Pre-Physician Assistant concentration within the Biology major. Her research interests include functional morphology and development of the limbs of small mammals, and computer-aided morphometric techniques to analyze complex shapes of bones and embryos. Jennifer has served the Pennsylvania Academy of Science as Treasurer from 2006-2008, and as Treasurer-elect from 2008 to the present.