

A LITTLE HISTORY OF THE AAA TRIVIA BOWL



Trivia Bowl Planning Committee
Redstone, CO
1989

The History of the Academy's Trivia Bowl

The true history regarding the origins of the Academy of Audiology Trivia Bowl is a little hazy, but there seems to be two distinct events that had the greatest impact. In the fall of 1987, audiologists Tom Powers, Brad Stach and Gus Mueller were enjoying Happy Hour at a Des Moines Holiday Inn watering hole, when the bartender set up a slide projector, handed out answer sheets, and preceded to conduct a trivia contest. These three well-educated perky lads immediately entered the game, assuming of course that they would take home the championship trophy. This was not to be, however, as they lost game after game to a team composed of young female mostly-inebriated clerical workers. "If only they had asked questions about audiology," the three disgruntled doctors thought. For the purpose of the story told here, consider that early the next year the American Academy of Audiology would be formed, and the treasurer of this organization would be Brad Stach. In those early days of the Academy, support from industry was critical, so also consider that on this 1987 trivia team was Tom Powers, the audiology face of Siemens—a manufacturer who perhaps would help sponsor Academy events.

Two years later: It was a sunny and warm weekend during the summer of 1989 when Jerry Northern invited his ASHA convention committee composed of Gus Mueller, Fred Bess, Brad Stach and Linda Hood to his home in the little mountain town of Redstone, CO, to review the ASHA Convention scientific program submissions. Rather than mailing all the submissions to each committee member to review in isolation, it seemed more efficient (i.e., fun) to come together in a relaxed location and review the proposals as a group; a bonding experience with maybe a few adult beverages.

The "paper review" went on until the wee hours of the morning. There were a few early risers for breakfast, however; one of them being Fred Bess. That morning, Fred delighted in telling anyone who would listen that after retiring the night before, his roommate Gus kept him awake for another hour asking about audiology trivia. That of course prompted Brad to tell the infamous Des Moines story, which led to Jerry describing the hugely successful University of Colorado Trivia Contest held each year in Boulder.

Before breakfast was over, the "committee" had agreed to plan the first Audiology Trivia Bowl which would be held at the historic Fairmont Hotel just outside the French Quarter in New Orleans. Gus Mueller, as the "trivia expert" would develop 25 questions and work with Jerry Northern to present the program at the Academy's second convention in 1990. Very conveniently, sitting at the breakfast table was Linda Hood, the Program Chair for the New Orleans meeting, so getting the Trivia Bowl on the program was a simple matter. Given the Tom-Powers-Des-Moines trivia link, it was suggested that treasurer Brad Stach approach Siemens Hearing Instruments to see if they would be willing to sponsor the program. They agreed.

To make the New Orleans event more appealing and possibly draw a bigger crowd, Siemens agreed to sponsor a food and beverage activity, so the first Audiology Trivia Bowl was planned for the lunch hour (12:00 noon to 1:30 pm) on Saturday. The initial Academy convention in Kiawah Island was attended by 600 persons; we were not sure how many would attend the New Orleans meeting (in fact, attendance swelled to 1000 attendees). No one had any 'feel' for how successful the first Trivia Bowl might be or how many audiologists would actually show up to play. However, we should have known that the free lunch would be a big draw.

As it turned out, more than 200 audiologists came to play. There was no room large enough available in the hotel for a sit-down lunch of this size, so three adjoining rooms were used. A video system was set up to display the Gus and Jerry slide show originating in Room #1 to the other two rooms. The small monitors used in those days made it nearly impossible to see the slides in these other rooms, which of course caused a considerable amount of whining. Informal teams were created around each lunch table, and fun team names were determined, and the task was for each team to discuss each question and come up with a cooperatively-agreed-upon answer and mark an answer sheet accordingly. All questions were multiple choice with five possible answers—something that never changed over the 25 years. Members of the Siemens staff were on hand to collect the score sheets, and manually score each to identify the winning table. Although it was a cumbersome operation, this first Audiology Trivia Bowl was agreed by all to be such a fun event, that it would become an annual convention activity.

By the next convention, the Academy's 3rd annual meeting held in Denver in 1991, the program had become so busy it was decided to make the second annual Audiology Trivial Bowl a breakfast event, held from 7:30 to 9:00am. In spite of the early morning schedule, word of mouth concerning the fun of the previous year's Trivia Bowl increased the number of participants to more than 400 with some 45 teams playing against each other in friendly competition.

Audiology Today announcement of the 2nd Annual Trivia Bowl

It's coming...

The Siemens AUDIOLOGY TRIVIA BOWL II

**At the Third Annual Convention
of the American Academy of Audiology**

Radisson Hotel, Denver • Saturday, April 27th • 7:30 – 9:00 AM
During a complimentary breakfast buffet.

"Do you know which prominent researcher in the audiological field is also a concert violinist?"

"Can you name the professional who wrote the first 'audiology' text – Clinical Audiometry?"

If you participated in Siemens' first Audiology Trivia Bowl last year at the AAA, you would be able to answer these questions and more!

The "Phonemic Regressives" are the reigning champions. Can you and your team surpass their winning score? First, second, and third place teams win valuable prizes, including the Siemens Cup for the first place winners!

Enter as a team or join a table at the contest and start competing against each other in the battle of audiology trivia!

...ARE YOU READY?

The informal teams from the past year had now bonded, many showing up wearing “team t-shirts.” The 3rd Audiology Trivia Bowl held in Nashville, included new “pictorial displays” of some of the answers for the questions created by Dr. Mueller “. . . to provide well-needed credibility to the answers and to sufficiently embarrass some of the Academy leaders . . .” who often were included in the question and answer foils.

A welcome change occurred at the 1994 Trivia Bowl in Richmond Virginia—something called . . . PowerPoint! Prior to this meeting, the questions were typed up in advance, and sent to Siemens, where their marketing staff created a tradition slide show. A tedious process, which was fraught with all the problems and worries associated with the reliance on this presentation mode. Armed with PowerPoint, the presentations became more dynamic and slick, with more photos, graphics and animations. Of course, this also meant that the question and answer files didn’t really have to be finished until minutes before the Bowl started; a “convenience” that caused problems more than once.

The 1996 Salt Lake Trivia Bowl was noted as the initiation of official team name competition for which prizes were awarded to team members. The winning team name was decided by “loudest-audience-noise” voting – sometimes determined scientifically with a sound level meter (Mead always had one in his pocket); other times with the incredibly calibrated ears of the hosts.

Each Trivial Bowl event began with individuals seated at the same table creating a team name which is then entered into the name competition. Over the years, some teams have attended with the same core members and retain the same team name. Some teams enjoy creating new names each year, although the members stay the same. New teams come up with a new name for the current year's competition. The creative and often funny team names usually are related to audiology tests and practices, anatomy of the ear and vestibular systems, the geographic location and city where the event is being held that year, current political events, or the ever-popular audiologic play on a current movie or song title. For many, the creation of a clever team name is every bit as much fun as deciding on the answers to the trivia questions!

The Audiology Trivia Bowl continued with much success as a breakfast meeting until the Ft. Lauderdale convention held in 1997. Finally, realizing the requirement for clear thinking and rested minds to tackle the increasingly more difficult and complex trivia questions formulated by Dr. Mueller, the Trivia Bowl was moved to "prime time" (i.e., 4:00 to 5:30 pm) and became the Saturday afternoon convention closing event until the final event in March, 2014.

This new time frame also increased attendance to 600-700 with 70 or more teams playing. Adding to the enjoyment of this later time slot was that (free) beer and wine was now served during the event. To accommodate this important addition, the questions were organized somewhat differently, so that short breaks would be possible. It soon became customary for each table to designate a "beer runner"—someone fast, who could easily carry several pitchers at the same time, and who was not contributing significantly to answering the questions.

In 2004 there was another big change. A professional audio/visual company was hired to run the show. This meant that there now was automated keypad entry of the answers for each table, and automated scoring, which allowed for assigning different point values to different questions depending on the difficulty. Questions were now presented with a 30-second automatic countdown, much like you'd see on a television game show. This new presentation format also provided the opportunity to easily add music during the 30-second countdown, and considerable thought went into what song was the best fit for each question. The music added significantly to the party atmosphere, and spontaneous singing and dancing broke out on more than one occasion.

The scope and content of the questions also evolved over the 25 years—largely due to the internet. In the early days, most questions that made it to the final 25 originally were scribbled on bar napkins that Gus and Jerry had collected during late-night discussions with other audiologists. Often, these were unique stories known to only a few mature audiologists, making the questions pretty tough for the younger crowd. With the internet and Google came the ability to easily research other topics, verify correct answers, and the questions became much more diverse. Interestingly, while the teams and questions changed through the 25 years, the winning score was nearly always the same—17 or 18 of 25 correct.

Other changes through the years have included the introduction of a permanent and beautiful silver trophy that is engraved with the name and year of each winning team and placed in prominent display at the Academy National Office; and the addition of competition between student teams from various university programs begun in 2001, and a student trophy was added. On two occasions over the years, one of the student teams has actually out-performed all of the “grown-up” teams, much to the puzzlement of the sage veterans on these elder teams.

The AAA Audiology Trivia Bowl, continually sponsored by Siemens Hearing Instruments, has been an Academy convention favorite for 25 years . . . with an amazing run of frivolity and success from 1990 until 2014. This unique event has provided fun and diversion from the hectic pace of the Academy Convention for all attendees and served as a great “wrap-up” to the 4-day professional meeting. It was quite the sight each year when the doors would open at 4:30, and hundreds of audiologists would enter the room running to claim the best table (or be first in line at the bar).

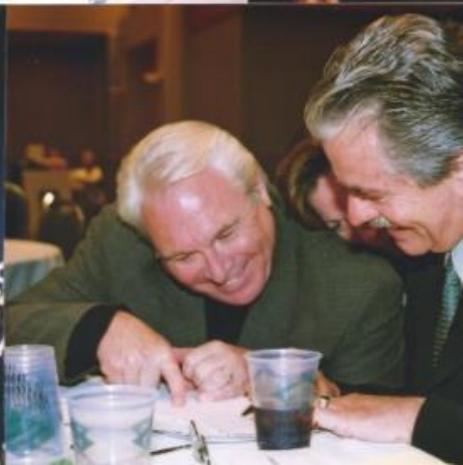
It has been a welcome source of pleasure and fun for all those involved; appreciation is extended to the Academy’s National Office staff for their support and involvement, to Siemens Hearing Instruments for their long-time continuing sponsorship, and to Academy members who have participated with vigor and enthusiasm to show their teammates how little (or how much?) audiology trivia they really know!

Thanks to all from

Gus Mueller and Jerry Northern

#		First Place	Student Team	Winning Team Name
I	1990	Phonemic Regressives		
II	1991	Odd Docs		
III	1992	Seren-Dips		
IV	1993	Seren-Dips		
V	1994	Odd Docs		
VI	1995	Iowa: The Next Generation		
VII	1996	Phonemic Regressives		The Waxy Morons
VIII	1997	Trapezoid Bodies		Managed Care: HI
IX	1998	Ear-resistibles		Bill, Till and Monica's Multiple Memories
X	1999	Seren-Dips		EAR-otic Pitts
XI	2000	Phonemic Regressives		BEAR Naked Ladies
XII	2001	Phonemic Regressives	AuD-acity Returns Audibly Better	Hidden Wax, Crouching Q-tips

#	Year	First Place	Student Team	Winning Team Name
XIII	2002	Aural Sex	The Incidental Learners	Independence Hall-Pikes
XIV	2003	Nearly Dead Zones	Simply "Ear"-resistible	Viva Las Tragus
XV	2004	Brit Pack	Ear-resistible	My Big Fat Hairy Tragus
XVI	2005	AC/DC Shift	Paradigm of Odd-Balls	Tie: Kiss Our ASSR; Bush and the Ossicular Cheneys
XVII	2006	Phonemic Regressives	Western Michigan U	Nice Tymps
XVIII	2007	The MountainEARs	Northwestern University	BAER to the Left
XIV	2008	Charlotte-Tans & Charlotte Ears	BAER your ASSR	The Pinna-Up Girls
XV	2009	The Earqulators and FLAC PAC	Concha Hear Me?	The Auditory Stimulus Package
XVI	2010	The Earqulators and FLAC PAC	Rocky Mountain Noisters	Inglorious Maskers
XVII	2011	Not So Pure Tones	The King's Speech Banana Hammock	Black Schwannoma
XVIII	2012	FLAC PAC	Fukuda Matata	The Girl with the Tragus Tatoo
XIV	2013	Phonemic Regressives	The Jergernauts	Ganglion Style
XXV	2014	IT COULD BE YOU		



ANSWERS TO "TOP 100" (AND BONUS)

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. B | 11. D |
| 2. D | 12. B |
| 3. E | 13. A |
| 4. C | 14. C |
| 5. D | 15. D |
| 6. A | 16. E |
| 7. A | 17. E |
| 8. B | 18. B |
| 9. D | 19. B |
| 10. A | 20. E |

ANSWERS TO "TOP 100" (AND BONUS)

21. C

22. E

23. B

24. A

25. B

26. E

27. D

28. D

29. B

30. D

31. E

32. B

33. B

34. C

35. E

36. C

37. B

38. C

39. D

40. A

ANSWERS TO "TOP 100" (AND BONUS)

41. B

42. A

43. B

44. C

45. D

46. B

47. C

48. C

49. D

50. C

51. B

52. C

53. B

54. A

55. B

56. C

57. A

58. D

59. B

60. D

ANSWERS TO "TOP 100" (AND BONUS)

61. E

62. A

63. B

64. D

65. D

66. C

67. B

68. C

69. D

70. E

71. C

72. E

73. D

74. B

75. C

76. C

77. B

78. D

79. C

80. A

ANSWERS TO "TOP 100" (AND BONUS)

81. C

82. E

83. E

84. E

85. A

86. A

87. A

88. C

89. E

90. B

91. B

92. E

93. B

94. D

95. E

96. B

97. E

98. A

99. B

100. D

ANSWERS TO "TOP 100" (AND BONUS)

B1. E

B2. C

B3. C

B4. D

B5. C

B6. B

B7. B

B8. C

B9. A

B10. A

B11. D

B12. C

B13. D

B14. C

B15. A

B16. A

B17. E

CHEERS!

