

**Entomological Society of America  
North Central Branch**

**Linnaean Games Committee 2017 Activities Report**

The NCB/ESA Linnaean Games Committee membership for 2017-2018 listed at the Branch website:

[https://www.entsoc.org/sites/default/files/files/2017-2018\\_NCB\\_Committees\\_and\\_Representatives.pdf](https://www.entsoc.org/sites/default/files/files/2017-2018_NCB_Committees_and_Representatives.pdf)

is incorrect! Deane Jorgenson remains Gamesmaster; Dan Young remains committee Chair and Panel Review Member. The remaining committee members were updated (per 10 February 2017 email from Chair Young to Jim Campbell) and should be updated on the website as follows:

Chair: Dan Young  
email: [young@entomol.ogy.wisc.edu](mailto:young@entomol.ogy.wisc.edu)

Gamesmaster: Deane Jorgenson  
email: [deane.jorgenson@gmail.com](mailto:deane.jorgenson@gmail.com)

Committee Member: Wayne Ohnesorg  
email: [wohnesorg2@unl.edu](mailto:wohnesorg2@unl.edu)

Student Committee Member: Amanda Skidmore (listed as rotating off in 2017?)  
email: [amanda.skidmore@uky.edu](mailto:amanda.skidmore@uky.edu)

[NOTE: The student member may be changing; we will need to check on this.]

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**OVERVIEW:**

The major task of the committee is to provide and vet the question bank with which to challenge our entered teams at the NCB meetings – this year **Sunday, 18 March** (preliminary rounds) and **Monday, 19 March** (finals), in Madison, Wisconsin.

It has now become operating practice to invite registered teams to submit question sets in addition to those written by the committee members and submitted to (and vetted by) Chairmen Young.

I first contacted the Linnaean Games Committee membership in November, 2017 and prospective teams were requested to submit question sets in the November NCB-ESA

Newsletter. A **Monday, 15 January 2018 deadline** was set for questions to be sent to Chair Young to provide time for screening, vetting, and then forwarding to Gamesmaster Jorgenson.

The deadline for signing up Linnaean teams to compete at the 2018 NBC-ESA meetings in Madison was **Monday, 8 January 2018**. For the 2018 meetings, we ended up with an 11 team field/bracket (up from 8 teams in 2017) (attached document), including two entries for the host University of Wisconsin.

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## **BACKGROUND:**

Questions and answers for The Games are prepared by the NCB/ESA Linnaean Games Committee. As noted above, we requested teams to also submit question sets for consideration and vetting. [**NOTE:** Having been vetted by Chair Young, questions are sent to Gamesmaster Jorgenson for sorting into rounds. The Gamesmaster is to insure that questions submitted by a given team are not used in their competition round(s).]

Toss-up questions are categorized according to the following sections and subject areas:

PBT (Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology)  
PIE (Plant-Insect Ecosystems)  
MUVE (Medical, Urban & Veterinary Entomology)  
SysEB (Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity)

**Subject areas:** Apiculture, Biological Control, Ecology, Economic Entomology, Medical and Veterinary Entomology, Physiology and Biochemistry, Taxonomy, and Toxicology.

Bonus questions draw heavily on the areas of history, people, and current entomological news/events. In NCB, we also draw heavily on popular media and current events. On the average, two toss-up questions in each game will come from each subject-area category.

### ***Additional guidelines for question writing:***

1. Toss-up questions should test core knowledge at the advanced undergraduate, beginning graduate level (it's fine to have some "easy" questions to build team confidence & audience excitement);
2. Generally we avoid true-false, format is "fill in the blank", short answer kinds of questions;
3. References for answers are encouraged (gives judges and Gamesmaster a source of comfort as we are being heckled - but the most current sources help!);
4. Bonus questions can/should be more difficult.  
(\*if a scientific term or name is pretty weird, phonetic help is appreciated)

When writing questions, we encourage writers to, where possible, include sources (trying to be current & "cutting edge" - not our Introductory Entomology text from 20+ years ago!) ... and/or photo credits.

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## OUTCOMES:

As noted above, I requested to have questions submitted to me for a screening and vetting process by not later than **Monday, 15 January 2018** (questions, answers, and sources for all questions to me by that date). The teams were almost entirely responsive, some contributing even far more questions than requested! I then screened/vetted them before pushing them along to Deane (on **22 January** – along with a bracket) for her to be able to resort them into rounds.

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## FUTURE CONCERNS:

1) The committee remains quite “lean” – the newest member being Wayne Ohnesorg) (*see committee updates requested, above*). This, however, has not been an issue since we adopted Deane’s suggestion of having registered teams submit questions (and that is about the only role of other committee members, anyway).

2) As I noted in my previous report (2017) it remains important to clarify the position of student member of the NCB Linnaean Games Committee: (a) do we need a student member of this committee (is that dictated by other Branch rules?); (b) if we need/wish to retain the student member, we need to clarify the role of the student in the process. Currently, the student essentially has no role and this does not promote a healthy relationship.

[Currently, it appears that the student serving on the Student Affairs Committee becomes, *de facto*, the student member of the Linnaean Games Committee, but the charge is not clear.]

3) Over my years chairing the committee, it has been quite challenging to retain committee members who would actually contribute question sets for the games – really their single responsibility as previously noted. The committee has, thus, shrunk to an all-time low number of “long term” positions. Deane’s suggestion to request teams to submit questions has worked out very well. Aside from this innovation, questions have, over the years, fallen almost entirely on the shoulders of the Chair and Gamesmaster.

4) During the NCB meetings and games, themselves, we have never adopted a standard (or rigorous) method for selecting the judging panel during the competition, itself (as I note EVERY YEAR in my committee report). Judges are generally selected on site – at the time they can be corralled – and they will not have seen the questions prior to the event. This has, on occasion, led to a few issues of some concern:

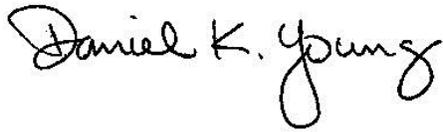
- \* seating the three judge panel in a timely manner
- \* retaining judges from one round to the next
- \* finding last minute alternates when there might be conflicts (e.g., judge from same school as one of the participating teams)

\* judges not really familiar with the content of questions and making “on the fly”  
revisions or differing interpretations

I do not believe these have been serious concerns to the teams or the audience, and the same issues crop up at the Nationals. Nonetheless, it has been the source of some “friendly” needling and light be better addressed ahead of the event.

Respectfully submitted,

(19 February 2018)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel K. Young". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'Y' at the end.

Dr. Daniel K. Young  
Chair, NCB-ESA Linnaean Games Committee

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## **2018 NCB/ESA Linnaean Games Team Rosters**

**18-21 March 2018  
Madison, WI**

### **Iowa State University:**

Team members –  
Kelsey Fisher  
Edmund Norris  
Rebekah Reynolds  
Ashley St. Clair  
Alternates:  
Caleb Corona  
Coach –  
Joel Coats

### **Kansas State University:**

Team Members –  
Matt Hamblin  
Stephen Losey  
Ryan Schmid  
Rachel Wilkins  
Alternates –  
Grace Craigie  
Coach –  
Greg Zolnerowich

### **Michigan State University:**

Team Members –  
Colin O'Neil  
Margie Lund  
Nicole Wonderlin  
John Paul Kole  
Alternates –  
Courtney Larson  
Coach –  
Matthew Grieshop

### **Purdue University:**

Team members –

Scott Gula  
Tyler Stewart  
John Ternest  
Ashari Zain

Alternates –

Wadih Ghanem  
Marguerite Bolt

Coach –

Laramy Enders

### **The Ohio State University:**

Team members –

Emily Justus  
Adrian Pekarcik  
James Radl  
Alex Tyrpak

Alternates:

Kendall King  
Tae Lee

Coach –

Joe Raczkowski

### **University of Kentucky:**

Team members –

Lauren Fann  
Ryan Kuesel  
Sarah Meierotto  
Josiah Ritchey

Alternates –

Paul Baker

Coaches –

Jennifer White & Caitlin Stamper

### **University of Minnesota:**

Team members –

Obiratanea Da Silva Queiroz  
Daniela Pezzini  
Hailey Shanovich  
Anh Tran

Alternates:

Anthony Auletta  
Edwin Benkert III and

Coach –

Robert Koch

**University of Missouri:**

Team –  
Grant Bolton  
Jessica Kansman  
Dalton Ludwick  
Coach –  
Deborah Finke

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln:**

Team members –  
Kait Chapman  
Elliot Knoell  
Jordy Reinders  
Matt Welter  
Alternates –  
Suresh Varsani  
Coaches –  
Robert Wright

**University of Wisconsin (Team 1):**

Team members –  
Olivia Cope  
Patrick Dunn  
Matt Kamiyama  
Audrey Simard  
Alternates –  
Scott Larson  
Coaches –  
Shawn Steffan & Dan Young

**University of Wisconsin (Team 2):**

Team members –  
Matt Hetherington  
Kristina Lopez  
Bonnie Ohler  
Jackie Whisenant  
Alternates –  
Natalie Eisner  
Coaches –  
Shawn Steffan & Dan Young

