



THE BIMONTHLY BLITZ

DALLAS CHESS CLUB NEWSLETTER | VOL. I NO. 3 | NOV/DEC 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Friday Swiss – Nov 17/Dec 1,8,15,22,29/Jan 5
- Saturday Increment – Nov 18/Dec 2,9,16,30/Jan 6
- DCC Adarsh and Atharv’s Pizza Night G/30 – Nov 22
- DCC Texas Masters – Nov 23-26
- DCC 2017 Dallas Junior Open – Dec 2
- DCC FIDE Open XI – Dec 23-24
- DCC New Years Eve Insanity – Dec 31-Jan 1

Refer to the calendar on the DCC website link below for any updates and event details.

www.dallaschess.com

- 2017 U.S. Class Champ. (Houston, TX) – Nov 10-12
- 2017 UTD Fall FIDE Open (Dallas, TX) – Nov 17-22
- 2017 National Scholastic K-12 Championship (Lake Buena Vista, FL) – Dec 8-10

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frutosbrothers@chessmovesinc.org

Tis the Season to Give Thanks

by Darla Frutos



Anyone who frequents the Dallas Chess Club (DCC) is all too familiar with this picture of Luis. Luis Salinas has been the steady, consistent fixture with the DCC for more than 20 years. Back when Luis began his “volunteer” Tournament Director (TD) role, (yes, that is correct, Luis is a volunteer of the Dallas Chess Club), who you can always count on to be at the DCC for nearly all chess tournaments. If he is not at the DCC, then he is fulfilling his duties at his job at the

University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), where he has worked for over 15 years. He is the Technical Tournament Director, handling everything behind the scenes for the UTD Chess Team.

Luis began playing chess when he was a young boy, about elementary school age. He has two brothers, one older, one younger. Luis first learned chess from his older brother, who learned chess from observing people play at the Boys Club. However, everything Luis learned from his brother about playing chess, was not all technically correct, which Luis discovered later. And very fortunate for all of us, this turned out to be the thing that inspired Luis to become a chess tournament director!

After graduating from high school, Luis served in the US Navy for six years as an Electronic Technician, where he identified objects such as aircraft as either friend or foe. He was stationed in several places during his time in the Navy: San Diego, Norfolk, Orlando and Chicago. Luis also spent time on the USS Virginia, a nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser, which sailed up and down close to the coast of Iran. Luis received a Letter of Commendation from US President Ronald Reagan for his work in the Iranian hostage situation, where he kept the radars and identification of friend and foe operating.

Luis attended Texas A&M University on a GI bill and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He joined the college chess club and became the President. Upon graduation, Luis moved to Dallas and worked for a couple of companies in engineering roles. Eventually, as fate would have it, he began working at UTD.

In 1996, Luis, along with Mr. James Stallings, UTD Director and FM John Jacobs, Luis’ first chess coach, opened up a nonprofit organization aimed at promoting chess in DISD, through UIL programs and offering scholarships, which was active up until the last couple of years.

Luis’ good work at the DCC has not gone unnoticed. In 2008, the United States Chess Federation (USCF) awarded Luis the prestigious title of Tournament Director of the Year, which is also the same year that the DCC also won Chess Club of the Year. And through the years, Luis chess work has made the DCC one of the strongest clubs in the nation. The DCC has continuously had a “Who’s Who” of top-notch chess players as members, in addition to top nationally ranked players who come to play at the DCC. Luis has done so much to keep the Dallas Chess Club running as one of the largest, most active and competitive chess clubs in the country.

Luis, thank you for all that you do for the Dallas Chess Club and keeping it going strong!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW



GM Darwin Yang

by Cole Frutos

Darwin Yang is one of our long-time members that grew up playing at the DCC and achieved the ultimate chess title, that of Chess Grand Master. Darwin is a junior at Harvard University¹, pursuing a degree in history and economics. The last couple of years, Darwin has been on the editorial board of The Harvard Crimson, Harvard's daily student-run newspaper. He is also a member of Harvard's chess club.

Darwin first got into chess through what he refers to as a few lucky coincidences, such as being introduced to chess at his day-care, where he credits his first coach, GM Babakuli Annakov, with his early inspiration for chess. Darwin states that, "Chess helped me in every aspect of my life." Chess has impacted his life in numerous ways such as by dealing with stress, staying prepared, using logic and problem-solving skills and working hard.

Darwin achieved his last GM norm during his Junior year of high school and became a GM when his rating went over 2500, his sophomore year of college. Darwin has some excellent advice that can be applied to anything one works hard to achieve, "It is as much about the journey as it is the result." Darwin says the memories, the lessons learned along the way and the level of happiness and fulfillment achieved from the process, are all important aspects to remember. Darwin encourages chess for anyone. Darwin credits the DCC for helping him excel at chess. He feels that he would have never achieved so much in chess if it wasn't for the DCC, where Luis Salinas and friends at the club were such a supporting environment. He says the DCC has a strong stable community. Darwin refers to chess as being an integral part of him and still plays chess when he can, on a selective basis. He believes chess is one of those things you can play all of your life.



Darwin Yang, 2005 3rd Grade National Chess Champion with Coach GM Babakuli Annakov

Photo courtesy of GM Babakuli Annakov

¹ #2 Harvard University in Best National Universities / 2018 US News & World Report

21st Annual North/Central Texas Grade Championships

by Chase Frutos

The 21st Annual North/Central Texas Grade Championships took place in Houston, Texas at the Hilton Hotel on November 3-November 5. There were a variety of kids at the tournament including many from the DCC itself! The DCC put on a good showing with many members in the top five.

The highest rated player in the tournament was Adarsh Hullahalli with a rating of 2201, who just crossed 2200 for the first time about a week before at the DCC. He finished with an astounding score of 6 out of 6, winning the 12th grade section.

In the 9th grade section, there were five DCC members, with four of them finishing in the top five. Andrew Mao finished first with 5.5 out of 6, Kai Tsuei finished second with 5 out of 6, Chase Frutos finished in third with 4.5 out of 6 and Angela Cheng finished fifth with 4 out of 6.

In the 7th grade section, there were three DCC members all finishing in the top four. Cole Frutos and Ganesh Kumarappan tied for first place, each with 5.5 out of 6 with only a draw to each other. Jia-Syuan Eric Jang finished in fourth place with 4.5 out of 6, taking a first-round bye and only losing one round.

In the 5th grade section, Ronit Podder tied for first place with 5.5 out of 6. Vinh Welsh finished in 3rd place with 4.5 out of 6.

Overall, there were many DCC members that competed in the State Championships and each and every one of them represented themselves and the DCC very well.



Andrew Mao



Cole Frutos



Angela Cheng, Chase Frutos, Kai Tsuei

Good Luck to all of our collegiate members who are competing in the 2017 Pan American Inter-collegiate Team Chess Championships Dec 27-30 in Columbus, Ohio!!

DCC Newsletter sponsored by:



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