The program room floor of the Richardson Public Library became a giant chess board on a recent Saturday, with a duo from the renowned UT Dallas chess team exhibiting their award-winning skills.

International master Puchen Wang, a freshman business administration major from New Zealand, dazzled the crowd of about 50 people by playing and winning games against all challengers without looking at the chess board.

Jim Stallings, head of the UTD program, called out the opponents' moves and Wang responded from his chair. While Stallings turned his back to the board, Wang was seated with his back to the board. Right, UT senior Keaton Kiewra plays a "simul" against 20 opponents at once.

Challengers in games played simultaneously, winning all games in less than two hours. Stallings called the event "a two-ring circus" with rising stars from the chess world providing the show.

"The Richardson citizenry gave it their all for two hours...but the two masters prevailed," Stallings said. "The main thing is that everyone had a good time."

"We thought this was a great example of cooperation between the university and the library for the benefit of the public," Stallings said. "I have already received e-mails from participants saying how much they enjoyed it."

It was the first time the UTD chess program had held such an event.

Janet Vance is the community services supervisor at the Richardson Public Library.

MORE INFO
On UTD chess program, contact Jim Stallings at james.stallings@utdallas.edu