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**Chess Team ranked ninth in
Pan American Tournament**

Team finishes ninth in Pan American Intercollegiate tourney

Chess team checks in with ninth-place finish

The U.T. Dallas Chess Team achieved national ranking for the first time, finishing ninth in a field of 36 teams worldwide in December at the United States Chess Federation's Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship in Baltimore, MD.

UTD competed against many of the strongest teams from the United States, Canada and Latin America.

"The team was in contention for second place in the last round when it lost to the powerhouse University of Toronto A team (UTD beat a higher ranked Toronto B team in an earlier round)," said Arts & Humanities Associate Professor Tim Redman, faculty sponsor along with Associate Professor Esteban Egea and Undergraduate Dean Dennis Kratz, team coach. "Our only other loss was to top-seeded University of Maryland Baltimore County, which won the tournament.

For its first time playing in the national championship, the UTD team performed impressively," Dr. Redman commented. "Team members Nouredine Ziane (Captain and first board), Marvin Huckaby (second board), Jacob Gurwitz (third board), Todd Trower (fourth board), Stephen Kattner (first alternate), and Roman Shevchuk (second alternate) played well during the exhausting four-day event. All are undergraduates except

for Shevchuk, a doctoral student in mathematics."

How did U.T. Dallas rise so quickly to become a nationally ranked college chess team? Two years ago, Dr. Redman approached Dr. Kratz proposing that U.T. Dallas begin offering chess scholarships.

"The plan was to use chess to recruit a highly intelligent segment of high school seniors to achieve national visibility in a game whose prestige is consonant with UTD's image of educational excellence, and to use UTD students to teach chess in economically disadvantaged Dallas area schools (school chess instruction has been linked to improved reading scores on standardized tests)," said Dr. Redman. The plan received the enthusiastic endorsements of Provost Hobson Wildenthal and President Franklyn Jenifer, who is an avid chess fan.

"To date, the first two parts of the plan have succeeded well," said Dr. Kratz. "The chess program has been an effective recruiting device for capable and motivated students who have a wide choice of universities. The program has received favorable publicity for the university in national and state chess magazines and *The Dallas Morning News*."

The campus chess club, Chess Kingdom, meets at 7 pm on Fridays for anyone looking for some practice.



President Franklyn Jenifer, left, accepted the Chess Club's trophy for its ninth-place finish at the U.S. Chess Federation's Pan American Intercollegiate Tournament from team member Nouredine Ziane and Arts & Humanities Associate Professor and faculty sponsor Tim Redman.