

ChessFest News



Chess Hall of Fame Grandmaster to Speak At UT Dallas on Feb. 21

International Grandmaster, author and award-winning journalist [Andrew Soltis](#), the 2017 recipient of the UT Dallas Chess Educator of the Year Award, is scheduled to speak on the topic: “Why We Study Chess All Wrong” at the annual ChessFest awards ceremony, which will be held Tuesday, Feb. 21.

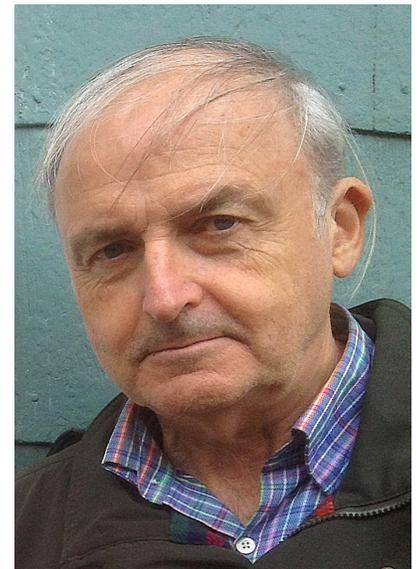
The awards ceremony is an integral part of ChessFest, a celebration of chess organized by the UT Dallas [Eugene McDermott Library](#) and the renowned [UT Dallas Chess Program](#).

Soltis, who learned how chess pieces moved at age 10 when he came upon a how-to-play book in the public library in Astoria, Queens where he grew up, is a member of the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame

and is one of the few Americans in the 20th century who earned the International Grandmaster title but was not a professional chess player.

He has written more than 100 books, including best-selling books *Pawn Structure Chess*, *Soviet Chess* and *What it Takes to Become a Grandmaster*. He retired in 2014 after 45 years as a reporter and editor for the *New York Post* but continues to write a weekly chess column for the *Post*, as well as a monthly column for *Chess Life*.

The reception with refreshments will be held at 6:15 p.m. in the McDermott Suite in the library. The awards ceremony and talk will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. **To attend, please RSVP with Jim Stallings at james.stallings@utdallas.edu.**



International Grandmaster Andrew Soltis will speak at the annual ChessFest Awards ceremony on Feb. 21.



“Blindfold Chess” to be held in McDermott Library

How good are UT Dallas chess players? Good enough to play blindfolded! As part of ChessFest, UT Dallas students will have a chance to go against some of the best chess players in the world. This year, Grandmasters Denis Kadric from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Angel Arribas from Spain and Holden Hernandez from Cuba will be playing games of giant chess in the Eugene McDermott Library lobby from noon to 2 p.m. on Feb. 22. During the games, the Grandmasters will either sit with their backs to the board or be blindfolded, making it impossible to see the position of the pieces or touch them. This event is free to the public.

For more information: James Stallings, 972-883-4899 or Jill Glass, 972-883-4951.