



**Bruce Pandolfini, featured speaker at ChessFest**

## *“BLINDFOLD CHESS” to be held at Chess Plaza on the first day of ChessFest XI*

UT Dallas Grandmaster **Julio Sadorra** will show his amazing skills playing blindfolded against challengers in the Chess Plaza located between the Student Services Building and Lot F from 11 a.m. to noon on Feb. 22. This free event features the UT Dallas Chess Program’s giant chess set called “Chess Grande.” From noon to 1 p.m., UT Dallas Chess Champions will direct the large pieces to illustrate some of the famous end games in chess history. This is a chance to meet members of the elite UT Dallas Chess Team. Free and open to the public.

*For information:* Jim Stallings, 972-883-4899 or Tom Koch, 972-883-4951.



UT Dallas Chess Team Grandmaster **Julio Sadorra** (seated and blindfolded at right) competes at Chess Plaza against challengers who can see the chess board and the giant wood-carved chess pieces.

## Prolific teacher, author noted guest at ChessFest XI

### *Portrayed in **Searching for Bobby Fisher** Pandolfini to lecture at UTD*

The *11th Annual ChessFest* at the University of Texas at Dallas will showcase **Bruce Pandolfini**, who is touted to be the premier chess instructor on how to think strategically. ChessFest is a collaboration and celebration of chess organized annually by UT Dallas’ Eugene McDermott Library and the renowned Chess Program.

The free, public presentation by Pandolfini will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23 in the library’s McDermott Suite. His topic is “How I Became A Professional Chess Teacher.”

The public is invited to a reception beginning at 6:15 p.m. A light buffet will be provided. If you plan to arrive early for the reception, RSVP **Jim Stallings** at james.stallings@utdallas.edu or call 972-883-4899.

A national chess master, Pandolfini has written dozens of instruction books and is a highly sought after chess teacher. To the general public he is most recognizable for the 1993 film *Searching for Bobby Fischer* that was based on the book of the same title by Fred Waitzkin. In the movie actor Ben Kingsley plays Pandolfini who was the mentor for chess whiz kid Josh Waitzkin.

Pandolfini is one of the founders of the Chess-In-The-Schools program in New York and the creator of the Fireside Chess Library. His books include *The ABCs of Chess: Invaluable, Detailed Lessons for Players at All Levels*, and *Chess Target Practice: Battle Tactics for Every Square on the Board*. In addition he is a columnist for *Chess Life*, the must read publication for chess enthusiasts

His legacy spans back to his role as an analyst for PBS’s coverage of the 1972 classic match between chess immortals Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky.

“We are greatly pleased to welcome an honoree with such a legendary reputation as Bruce Pandolfini to UT Dallas,” Stallings said. “His approach is to teach students how to think. In his own words, ‘The ability to read other people and the ability to understand oneself.’”

Pandolfini will receive the UT Dallas Chess Educator of the Year Award after the lecture. Past chess luminaries who have received the award are **Susan Polgar**, 2004; **Sunil Weeramantry**, 2005; **Erik Anderson**, 2006; **David MacEnulty**, 2007; **Beatriz Marinello**, 2008; and **Dr. Stephen Lipschultz**, 2009; **Dr. Jonathan Rowson**, 2010; and **Elizabeth Shaughnessy**, 2011.

According to Pandolfini “You need clarity, not clairvoyance . . . Chess is about controlling the moment at hand . . . Thinking too far ahead is a waste of time.”