

ChessFest News



Talent Development Expert and Father of an IM Will Talk Nurturing Chess Talent at UT Dallas on Feb. 25

Author, educator and international speaker [Dr. Kenneth A. Kiewra](#) was named the 2020 UT Dallas Chess Educator of the Year by the [UT Dallas Chess Program](#). Kiewra, the father of International Master (IM) Keaton Kiewra, a former UT Dallas Chess Team player and now a chess teacher and professional chess player, will speak about “The Nurturing of Chess Talent: The Strong and Loving Moves Parents Play” at this year’s ChessFest awards ceremony, which will be held at the [Eugene McDermott Library](#) on Feb. 25.

ChessFest is a celebration of chess organized annually by the McDermott Library and the elite UT Dallas Chess Program.

Kiewra, a professor of educational psychology at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, is an expert on learning strategies and talent development. His research pertains to world-class talent development, particularly the roles parents play, and to strategies for academic success.

Kiewra’s chess roots extend to the early 1990s when he introduced his son to chess. At the time, he knew little about chess or talent development, so he turned to studying the game and interviewing parents of highly talented children in chess and other domains to understand how parents best help cultivate children’s talents.

This work led to several talent development articles and interviews including, *How to Parent Chess Talent: Classic and Modern Stories*; *Developing Young Chess Masters: A Collective Case Study*; *Developing Young Chess Masters: What are the Best Moves?*; *Researching Chess Prodigies: An Interview with Dr. Kenneth Kiewra*; and *More Chess Parenting: Nurturing the Talented Child*.

Kiewra’s newly published book, *Nurturing Children’s Talents: A Guide for Parents*, chronicles the talent experiences of Olympic medalists, professional athletes and other champions of talent domains ranging from chess to rodeo, as well as their coaches and parents.

A reception with refreshments will be held at 6:15 p.m. in the McDermott Suite in the library on Feb. 25. 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.**



Dr. Kenneth Kiewra

UT Dallas Chess Champs to Play Blindfold Chess Feb. 26

Playing chess takes special skill, so imagine playing with no eyes on the board! As part of ChessFest 2020, UT Dallas students have a chance to watch or even go head to head with some of the best chess players in the world, who will be blindfolded! This year, UT Dallas Chess team Grandmaster Joshua Ruiz of Columbia and International Master Titas Stremavicius of Lithuania will go up against challengers in a game of blindfold chess in the Eugene McDermott Library lobby from noon to 2 p.m. on Feb. 26. During the games, Ruiz and Stremavicius will either sit with their backs to the board or be blindfolded and will be unable to see the position of the pieces or touch them. This event is free and open to the public.

