

2025 College Chess Committee Report

Prepared by: Andrew Schley, Chair

Overview

The 2024–2025 academic year marked a significant period of growth and achievement in collegiate chess. The US Chess College Chess Committee successfully advanced its objectives of expanding PanAm tournament participation & retooling eligibility guidelines to further increase participation among different levels of clubs. Notably, the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship saw continued growth with 91 teams participating, and the President's Cup delivered a thrilling finale to the season.

2025 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship

Held from January 2–5, 2025, in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Pan-Am attracted 91 teams from 45 universities, underscoring the event's growing prominence. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) clinched first place with a flawless 6.0/6 score, demonstrating exceptional performance throughout the tournament.

Top 5 Final Standings:

1. **University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (A)** – 6.0/6
2. **University of Texas at Dallas (B)** – 5.0/6
3. **Saint Louis University (A)** – 4.5/6
4. **Webster University (A)** – 4.5/6
5. **Texas Tech University (A)** – 4.0/6

Special Category Winners:

- **Top All-Female Team:** Webster University (B)
- **Top International Team:** University of Toronto (A)
- **Top Division II Team:** University of Texas at Dallas (D)

- **Top Division III Team:** University of Toronto (B)
- **Top Small College:** University of Connecticut
- **Best Mixed Doubles:** Webster University (B)

The tournament also featured a U1800 section, promoting inclusivity and providing competitive opportunities for developing collegiate players. Full tournament standings & prizes can be found at <https://events.charlottechesscenter.org/collegiate/standings>

2025 President's Cup (Final Four)

The President's Cup, held in April 2025, brought together the top four collegiate teams in a round-robin format to determine the national champion.

Final Standings:

1. **Webster University** – 7.0 points
2. **University of Texas Rio Grande Valley** – 7.0 points
3. **Saint Louis University** – 6.0 points
4. **University of Texas at Dallas** – 4.0 points

Webster University secured the President's Cup title based on tie-break criteria, marking a significant achievement in their collegiate chess program. Congratulations to both Webster University & University of Texas Rio Grande Valley on co-national champions.

Online Rapid & Blitz Championships

The 2025 U.S. Collegiate Blitz Championships, organized by the Charlotte Chess Center, continued to showcase the depth of talent in collegiate chess.

Blitz Championship:

- **Open Blitz Champion:** FM Dachey Lin (Northwestern University)
- **U1800 Blitz Champion:** Jainil Trivedi (Arizona State University)

These events provide valuable competitive opportunities and maintained engagement within the collegiate chess community.

Committee Initiatives and Future Plans

The College Chess Committee remains committed to fostering the growth and development of collegiate chess. Key initiatives for the upcoming year include:

- **Expanding PanAm Tournament Participation:** Encouraging more universities to participate in national and regional tournaments. Our goal is to break 100+ teams at the 2026 event. A feat not crossed since the Fischer boom.
- **Clarifying PanAms & President's Cup Guidelines:** Working towards transparent and consistent eligibility criteria for collegiate players. For both events found within one published document.
- **Expanding the Collegiate Committee:** We've had many valuable members that have contributed immensely to Collegiate Chess for decades step down this year so many big shoes to fill. Thank you so very much Al Lawrence and Jim Stallings.

The committee extends its gratitude to all organizers, arbiters, volunteers, and participants who contributed to a successful year in collegiate chess.

The 2026 Pan American InterCollegiate Championships will be held January 2nd-5th in Schaumburg, IL hosted by ChessWeekend.