

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hart House Chess Club Membership

FROM: Alumni Chair

DATE: September 23, 2024

RE: Hart House Chess Club – First Year Representative 2024/25

In alphabetical order the following is a list of all persons who declared an intention to run for the position of First Year Representative on the Hart House Chess Club 2024/25 Executive prior to the close of the declarations on September 20, 2024

Anna GAVRILEVA

I am a first year Engineering Science student.

I believe I am a good candidate because I have experience as a chess player and suitable leadership skills. I co-founded the board games and chess club at my school. My responsibilities included hosting meetings and ensuring all members were welcome. In addition, I am very active in the chess community and the Hart House Chess Club. I know many experienced chess players in Toronto and am very sociable. As a player, I also have insight into the perspectives of the members, and I believe I can help act as a connection between newer and older ones.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application. As a long-time member of the club, I am so excited for the opportunity to contribute to its success.

Jerry GERBER

I'm Jerry, a first-year student in the Life Sciences program at the UofT. I would really love to be considered for the First-Year Representative position for the Hart House Chess Club.

Throughout my life, chess has always been a significant interest for me. I started playing when I was five years old with family and haven't stopped playing since! I feel that throughout the years, chess has not only piqued my interest, but also helped me make many lifelong friendships. In general, it brings people together, no matter their backgrounds, skill levels, or experience with it. And I'd really like to aid in bringing this extra factor of belonging to the club.

As a first-year representative at the HHCC, I'd like to use my experience with chess, as well as my knowledge of the HHCC (from being an active participant for ~6 years) to create a welcoming environment for anyone joining the club, whether first year or beyond. I'd also love to act as a voice for my fellow first years to ensure everyone feels a sense of belonging, even though they may be new to the club, university, and maybe even the country!

Yun Hong (Kevin) Li

I am excited to submit my application for the role of First-Year Representative.

I first became involved with the Hart House Chess Club in 2016, when I attended the Hart House Holidays Open U1600. Both my mentor and I scored 4.5/5 and shared the prize, which marked the beginning of my chess journey with Hart House Chess Club. 2018-2019, despite being in Grades 7 and 8 at the time, I would take an hour-long bus ride every Friday evening just to attend club events, where I made many friends and cherished the time spent there.

Fast forward to 2024, I am now a first-year Mathematics student at UofT, eager to continue contributing to the Hart House Chess Club by connecting with new students and sharing the joy chess has brought me.

Here are some of my tournament achievements:

- Hart House Holidays Open 2016 U1600
- Hart House Holidays Open 2017 U1900
- Hart House Reading Week 2018 U1900
- Hart House Holidays Open 2019 U2200
- 2024 Ontario High School Chess Championship at UofT
- 2018 Canadian Open U1800 in Quebec City – Prize Winner

Outside of chess, I enjoy swimming, skiing, basketball, and badminton. As someone who is easygoing and enjoys meeting new people, I am confident that I can create a welcoming environment for students at Hart House. Living on campus at Westmore, I often play on my wooden chess set in my room and even have an electric piano, which helps me unwind. I am excited about the opportunity to engage with students, promote chess, and create memorable experiences together.

Jayden Henry TAN



jayden.tan@utoronto.ca

647-923-2573

First year Student Uoft

Life Sciences-Biology

Fide Rating: 1640 CFC Rating: 1525

Canadian Open 2024 Section B Laval, QC

Hart House Summer Junior - U1300 2023

MCC Fall Classic Premier 2023

Jayden Henry Tan graduated High School with an Ontario Scholar Diploma and French Immersion Certificate. He is currently a first-year student studying Life Sciences at UofT. His love of chess began in grade 3 when his school competed in a tournament. However, the path of developing his chess skills only began a year and a half ago when he started competing in tournaments. He competed in many HHCC tournaments but one of his favorites was HHCC Canadian Chess Festival-U1400 where he placed 1st.

Jayden is an active member of The Mississauga Chess Club where he competes and volunteers. He values the club's diversity, with chess players from different backgrounds, ethnicities and age groups. He would like to bring the same positive energy to HHCC. At MCC, Jayden is always ready to welcome new members and enjoys teaching younger players or anyone just starting out in chess. His friendly personality would make him a great First Year Representative on the Hart House Chess Club.

After Covid, Jayden helped form and run his High School Chess Club. He organized school activities, coordinated practices and ran workshops to help his teammates improve their chess skills. He was one of their strongest players and was instrumental in assisting the Loyola Chess Team win gold at the DPCDSB High School Board Tournament. It was the first for Loyola to win anything in chess. In 2020, he was involved in fundraising for Toronto Maple Leafs Skate for Easter Seals Kids where he met the Leafs, his favorite hockey team. His other interests include playing hockey, piano, taekwondo and

gaming. But Jayden's true passion is Chess and over the years, it has helped him develop his social and emotional skills. It has taught him to be patient and to compete in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner with others.

Back in the Summer of 2023, when Jayden first walked in Hart House for casual chess Fridays, he was enamored with the place and the Chess club. He told his parents that his goals were to one day represent UofT and also be part of the HHCC community. A year and a half later, Jayden is a first-year student in UofT, a member of HHCC and recently competed in the 2025 Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championship Qualifiers at Hart House. He placed 8th with 3 points and qualified to move on to the Tiebreak rounds but did not place in the top 3 to qualify for the Varsity team. Nevertheless, he was thrilled that he had the chance to compete with very strong chess players. Jayden is looking forward to improving his chess skills and hopefully competing next year to try to qualify for the Varsity team.

Jayden would like to thank you for your time in considering him for the First Year Representative Position. He would be honored to have the opportunity to represent and be the voice of the first-year students and make sure their experience in HHCC be a positive one. His previous experiences make him the right person to be a liaison between the first-year members and the more experienced ones. His knowledge in chess, daily interactions with diverse communities, experiences in various chess tournaments and volunteering make him the ideal candidate for the position. Chess has given Jayden a sense of belonging, "his happy place" and his wish is to have the chance to do the same for the first-year students members and the Hart House Chess Club community.

Samuel ZHANG

I'm interested in running for first-year chess club rep. I founded the first chess club in my hometown of New Providence, New Jersey where we grew to hold 2-3 weekly events for 100+ members. I've taught chess for the past 5 years and continue to teach privately. My CFC rating is 2322; last tournament I played, the Canadian Zonals, I went 6/7 after skipping the first 3 rounds. I'd love to be a part of the Hart House Chess Club and help grow the organization, host events, and recruit new members.