

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hart House Chess Club Membership
FROM: Alumni Chair
DATE: September 28, 2026
RE: Hart House Chess Club – First Year Representative 2026/27

In alphabetical order the following is a list of all persons who declared an intention to run for the position of First Year Representative prior to the close of the declarations on September 25, 2026.

Elise BUI

My name is Elise, I am a first-year social science undergraduate student and I look forward to meeting everybody in the Heart House Chess Club. I am interested in the position of First Year Representative because I wanted to spread the joy and creativity of playing chess. In the 10 years that I have been playing chess, I participated in multiple citywide and national chess tournaments in my home country - Vietnam. Other than that, I have also become chess club president of my high school. With such experience, I have hosted my own school-wide chess tournaments, working over logistics, promotion and marketing of such event. I myself have collaborated with other exec members in order to keep the spirit of chess alive in my old school, and I hope to do the same in University of Toronto. Besides the skills that I gained from my past experiences, I believe that my passion of playing chess alone makes me a qualified member to be the first-year representative as I deeply love and appreciate the game. If elected, I believe I will provide great assistance to other exec members, supporting and welcoming students into the chess community.

Hao Ran FAN

Hello everyone, my name is Hao Ran Fan, though most people call me Hayden. I am originally from Guangzhou, China and moved to Toronto when I was young.

I am rated 2100 in rapid and 2000 in bullet (chess.com) and I hold the FIDE Arena International Master Title (AIM). I currently work as a part-time chess teacher at CWMS, and I've been a top 10 finalist at the Ontario Chess Challenge 3 times. However, regardless of my achievements, I find most pride in teaching others chess and spreading the beauty of the game.

In high school, I founded my high school's chess committee, along with FIDE Master Tony Lu partnering with Maverick Chess Club to sponsor prizes and

chess boards for our members. Under that committee, I also organized and hosted numerous in-school events including tournaments, workshops, and coaching sessions.

As the First Year Representative, I want to bring my experiences throughout my years of teaching and playing chess to Hart House Chess Club to create a more welcoming and engaging community and I'd be honoured to have your vote. Thank you :)

Jordan GAO

My name is Jordon Gao, and I'm a first-year mechanical engineering student interested in becoming the first-year representative for the Hart House Chess Club. I have been starting to play chess since childhood and have been an active member of my high school chess club since grade 9, having a highest rating of around 1950 on Chess.com. In 2024, I also attended the Ontario Chess Challenge, ranked 8th and earned a top-10 finalist trophy. Besides playing, I have the ability to cooperate, communicate, and lead, as I earned the District School Board of Niagara's team chess champion title twice in a row and volunteered at the local chess studio, dedicating myself to teaching kids chess. With these experiences, if elected, I will be expressing the needs and wants of the first-year members and provide them with a welcoming and inclusive environment, making sure everybody's voices are being heard. I will also be the connection between the newcomers and the experienced players, as I am really familiar with all sorts of things relating to chess. Lastly, I am more than willing to do things such as a session on the rules of chess for beginners who might be interested or discuss openings/certain moves to further improve with skilled players. By the end of the school year, everyone should not only be enjoying the fun of chess but also finding this club meaningful, with more enhancement of their skills! I am hoping to greet everyone from across the chessboard!

Noah KIM

Hi everyone, my name is Noah Kim. I'm a first-year Humanities student and am excited to be part of the Hart House Chess Club this year.

I've been playing chess since 2020, hold the National Master title, and am 2800 Blitz and 3100 Bullet on Chess.com. Back when I was still competing at the top levels of chess in Canada, I played in many Hart House Reading Week and Holiday Opens, and I admire how well run the tournaments are every year. But more importantly right now, I'm focused on helping others improve at chess - which is why I currently coach the Friday intermediate level group lessons at the club.

If elected as the First-Year Representative, I promise to work hard behind the scenes, listen closely to every member's feedback, and put the community first so we can run great events together. I'll do my absolute best to show you a great performance this year. Thank you for your support.