American chess fans everywhere are cheering in the streets as their countryman Fabiano Caruana overcame the game’s elite Grandmasters to win the recently concluded Candidates tournament in Berlin, Germany. In doing so he qualified to play World Champion Magnus Carlsen for his title in November 2018. It is the first time an American will compete for the crown in over two decades with the last victory for the United States coming in 1972 when Bobby Fischer won an epic match against the Russian Boris Spassky in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Caruana, 25, who was born in Miami, raised in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and currently resides in Saint Louis, Missouri, had to recover from a potentially devastating loss in round 12 of the marathon 14-round event that took 18 days to complete. After a rest day to collect his nerves, the new challenger bounced back with two dominating victories to seal his place in history.

Asked how he got over the difficult loss, Caruana replied, “we watched a movie which was nice, because for two hours I could just forget about chess, which is what I needed. The Shape of Water, which was excellent.”

Caruana, who became a Grandmaster just shy of his 15th birthday, rose to prominence when he won the prestigious Sinquefield Cup in 2014 with a performance that is hailed as one of the greatest individual results in the history of the sport. His perfect 7-0 start, which included a victory against the World Champion, catapulted him into the limelight with chess pundits predicting that he was clearly the rightful next challenger to the throne. However, in 2016 at the last Candidates match held in Moscow, he was dealt a crushing blow in the final round, killing all his hopes of winning the event. Two years later, he now sits atop all his rivals for a shot at the title.

“I know he deserves it,” said his mother, Santina Caruana. “It was too stressful for me to follow the event, so I just didn’t watch. I only found out yesterday that he was leading and for some reason we thought he had won. We had to suffer one more day, but he did it. My heart is pounding.”

“He runs the show,” added his father, Lou. “A long while ago he asked for more and more control of his career, and now he is the boss. He has been on a long journey and it has paid off.”

The family decided to relocate to Europe when young Fabiano was twelve so that he could play on the more competitive European circuit. He competed under his mother’s Italian flag until 2015, when he decided to switch back to playing for his home country. He became U.S. Champion in 2016 and played 1st board for the U.S. team that won the Chess Olympiad later that year in Baku, Azerbaijan. This was the first gold medal victory for an American team in 76 years. Now he will represent the U.S. as he fights for the title of the best chess player on the planet.

“We always knew we would come back,” said Santina, “to win it for the U.S. It’s just right to do it back home.”

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Universal Rating System™ Opens Doors for Global Chess

BY GRAHAM JURGENSEN

A novel system designed to address the need for a more open and interconnected chess landscape, the Universal Rating System (URS)™ was created by John Donaldson, GM Sam Shankland, and GM Hikaru Nakamura. It was the brainchild of Kasparov, who was a key figure in the creation of the system. Since its launch, the URS™ has been widely praised for its potential to transform the way chess is rated and played.

The URS™ system is based on a novel approach to rating that is different from the traditional Elo system used by the World Chess Federation (FIDE). The URS™ system uses a combination of historical and contemporary data to calculate ratings, taking into account the strength of opponents and the outcomes of games.

The URS™ system has several key advantages over the Elo system. Firstly, it is more accurate, as it takes into account the performance of both players in a match. Secondly, it is more dynamic, as it changes in response to the changing landscape of chess. Finally, it is more inclusive, as it can be used to rate players from any country, regardless of their background.

The URS™ system has already been adopted by the St. Louis Chess Club (SLCC) and the Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF), which are two of the leading organizations in the chess world. The SLCC has used the URS™ system for its rating purposes, and the KCF has used it for its rating list.

The URS™ system is expected to make it much easier for players to move from one country to another. This will allow players to compete in tournaments around the world, regardless of their nationality. The system will also be used to rate players from countries that do not have their own chess federations.

The URS™ system is expected to be a landmark day in chess history, as it will allow for a more open and interconnected chess landscape. It is a testament to the vision of Kasparov, who has long been a champion of the idea of a universal chess rating system.

In conclusion, the URS™ system is a major step forward in the evolution of chess. It is a system that is designed to meet the needs of the modern game, and it has the potential to transform the way chess is rated and played.
WCHOF Exhibits in Europe on Grand Chess Tour: A Trip of Firsts

BY NICK SCHLEICHER
Assistant Curator, World Chess Hall of Fame

The Grand Chess Tour: Art of 2017 traveling exhibition was the first ever overseas traveling exhibition for the World Chess Hall of Fame as a whole. The first time traveling abroad. With stops in Fries, Friesland, and Leuven, Belgium, this trip was filled with many and exciting learning opportunities!

In preparation for a new, traveling exhibition, we decided to connect guests in Belgium with our collections and artifacts. We wanted to provide a unique experience for the guests of the Grand Chess Tour: Art of 2017 traveling exhibition while also introducing them to a side of chess that they may not have seen before.

We knew that our collections were the perfect way to engage and connect with our guests in Belgium. By showcasing our collections, we were able to provide a unique and engaging experience for the guests of the Grand Chess Tour: Art of 2017 traveling exhibition.

Building an Exhibit: Experiences Traveling a Chess Exhibition

BY JESSE HENNINGER
Information/Exhibitions Manager, World Chess Hall of Fame

From June 24th to July 4th, 2017, I was honored to help with the first international pop-up exhibit for the World Chess Hall of Fame. I was excited for the opportunity to work in two international venues, including the WCHOF in Leuven, Belgium. The location was particularly interesting as it was currently featured in the IBM! Capturing attention by a logo of a chess and a rotating,！”2017”!

The French Federation had already received a check of the Grand Chess Tour which had passed by their pop-up exhibit on top of boxes inside the building. The children visited the exhibit while handing out puzzles and some could not have been able to wait, while others were just being informed to the children who were passing by. For me, it was a very gratifying experience.

While the Paris exhibit stop was separate from the placing game, the Leuven exhibit would be another stop on the Grand Chess Tour. This stop was vital because of the number of games involved and the importance of the location. The exhibit was played on one side of the hall and the other hall featured on our collection of Chess & Comics, a national pop-up exhibit. We decided to use the floor of the building while the exhibition was to be played on one side of the hall and the other room was to be used for the exhibition.

The exhibition was well received and many people came to visit. We were especially grateful for the support we received in Belgium. Overall, it was a successful trip and we look forward to returning to Europe in the future.

Chess Collection Goes on the Road

BY NICOLE TIFFINGER
Manager, Collections, World Chess Hall of Fame

I was both nervous and excited as I arrived in Paris for the first time during our tour. I had just stepped into the position of Assistant Curator a few months prior, and this was my first experience of traveling to play chess. I expected to learn and grow from this experience.

The exhibition was the first official traveling exhibition for the World Chess Tour and it was a great opportunity to showcase our collections and artifacts. I was proud to be connected with the Grand Chess Tour: Art of 2017 traveling exhibition.

While in the exhibition space, one could create a simple game of chess on the floor of the building while the exhibition was being played on one side of the hall and the other room was used for our collection of Chess & Comics. We decided to use the floor of the building while the exhibition was played on one side of the hall and the other room was to be used for the exhibition.
Why Fortune 500 Companies Should (And Do) Support Chess In Saint Louis

BY LAUREN STEWART
Development Manager, Saint Louis Chess Club

Saint Louis has had Saint Louis business owners and executives talking since the Saint Louis Chess Club opened in 2008. They understood that it takes hard work, persistence, confidence, and, most importantly, strategy to run a business. A successful business needs a leader thinking 1, 10, or even 20 moves ahead. Has chess influenced every mower and shaker in Saint Louis? Perhaps not, but they do see the importance of the game of chess for students starting at an early age.

Chess has been on the Saint Louis scene for 15 years, inspiring Saint Louis Fortune 500 companies to give their philanthropic dollars to a cause that is changing young lives and shifting the focus about a game that can seem highly intimidating. Our hometown companies are investing in a game that brings new perspective and long-term benefits for both students and companies, on and off the board. Together the Saint Louis Chess Club and our supporters are building a brighter future for our beloved city!

BY BRIAN FLOWERS
Marketing Communications Coordinator, World Chess Hall of Fame

On September 13, 2010, three years after opening its doors in the historic Central West End, the Saint Louis Chess Club (SLCC) launched its channel (officially named the STLCC) on the world’s second largest search engine, YouTube. A few months later, its first video was uploaded, a behind-the-scenes look at the 2010 U.S. Chess Championship with a little more than 300 miles to go in the main event and grandmaster Kosteniuk on the verge of winning the title.

The reach and impact of the STLCC’s tournament broadcasts have captured audiences in all corners of the world. Coverage of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT), a circuit of international tournaments featuring the top young chess players in the world, has been a cornerstone of the STLCC’s media strategy since 2009. The STLCC, a member of the FIDE World Chess Federation, is the world’s largest producer of chess tournament coverage around the globe. Fan-favorite commentators like GM Tim Iley, GM Maurice Ashley and GM Susan Polgar bring their wealth of knowledge and excitement to the masses. In fact, GCT live views almost triple the number from the previous year.

In a world where YouTube is available, quite literally, at our fingertips, the STLCC has been on the Saint Louis scene for 15 years, inspiring Saint Louis Fortune 500 companies to give their philanthropic dollars to a cause that is changing young lives and shifting the focus about a game that can seem highly intimidating. Our hometown companies are investing in a game that brings new perspective and long-term benefits for both students and companies, on and off the board. Together the Saint Louis Chess Club and our supporters are building a brighter future for our beloved city!

THE WORLD IS WATCHING: Saint Louis Chess Club Dominates YouTube

Saint Louis Chess Club Media Impressions

2009
- 2009 U.S. Championships: 1,300,000
- 2010 U.S. Women’s & Junior Closed Championships: 29,626,802
- 2010 U.S. Chess Championship: approx. 12M

2011
- 2011 U.S. & U.S. Women’s Championships: 44,000,000
- 2011 Junior Closed Championships: 4,664,038

2014
- 2014 Senate Resolution: 41,371,034
- 2014 Chess Congress: 3,799,086
- 2014 Junior Closed Championship: 2,681,911
- 2014 Simul Live Stream: 44,697,363
- 2014 Sinquefield Cup: 407,045,214

2015
- 2015 Grand Chess Tour: 195,866,494
- 2016 FIDE Women’s World Chess Championship: 99,772,135
- 2015 Sinquefield Cup: 433,102,994
- 2015 Ascension Partnership: 144,499,285

2016
- 2016 Junior Closed Championship: 72,112,684
- 2016 Other Coverage: 45,529,761

2017
- 2017 Junior Closed Championship: 79,867,462
- 2017 Simul Live Stream: 208,928,223
- 2017 Sinquefield Cup: 1,000,940,691
- 2017 Simul Grandmaster: 2,867,574,896
- 2017 Other Coverage: 222,811,087

The Saint Louis Chess Club (STLCC) was founded in 2007 and opened its doors in July of 2008. It is not for profit organization that is committed to promoting the game of chess both locally and nationally, with a specific focus on bringing the benefits of chess to Saint Louis area schoolchildren.

- On Monday, May 5, 2014, the United States Senate passed a resolution that officially recognized Saint Louis as the Chess Capital of the United States.
- Located in the historic Central West End district of Saint Louis, the STLCC is a three-level, 20,000-square-foot community center featuring a classroom, library, and world-class tournament playing hall.
- The Chess Club is widely recognized as the premier chess facility in the nation and one of the best in the world.
- The Chess Club has established a partnership with the Kasparov Chess Foundation to walk on the top young chess players in the country and offers them intensive instruction.
- The Chess Club’s scholastic outreach brings chess to thousands of students in more than 100 different classrooms and community centers across the greater Saint Louis area.
- The Chess Club is open 7 days per week, 12 hours per day and offers kids classes, adult beginner classes and intermediate classes free for members or a weekly fee.
- The Chess Club currently boasts more than 1,000 active members and has more than 100 tournaments on the schedule for 2018.
- Membership is remarkably affordable at just $20/month or $240/year for students and $33/month or $400/year for adults. Family memberships are just $550/year.
- Saint Louis has hosted the U.S. Chess Championship and U.S. Women’s Championship each of the past 10 years (2009-2018) and the U.S. Senior Championship (2010-2018). These are the three most prestigious, end-of-year chess tournaments in the United States. The U.S. Chess National Congress is held in Saint Louis for the first time in 2017, and will return in May 2018.
- In addition to the Chess Club’s affordable student rate, it offers summer camps, field trip and private lessons, and free classes in an effort to make the game accessible to all students.
- The Chess Club always has a full-time Resident Grandmaster on staff. This rotation of the country’s top players is an invaluable resource for our members. These top players give private lessons and host weekly clubs for members, multiple times per week. They also present a free clinic class on Sundays. No other chess club in the U.S. has a full-time Resident Grandmaster.

Awards & Accolades, Facts & Figures 2007–2018

Finally, the United States Chess Federation (US Chess) has recognized both the Chess Club and the city for their extraordinary accomplishments with the following awards:

- In 2010 and 2013, US Chess awarded Saint Louis the title of “Chess City of the Year.”
- In 2015, the STLCC was named “Chess Club of the Year.”
- In 2010 and 2014, Executive Director Tony Rich won “Organizer of the Year.” The 2014 award was given to the STLCC, as a whole.
- From 2008 – 2013, and once again in 2016, Club Founder Rex Sinquefield has won the George Koltanowski Award, given to the person who does the most to further chess in the U.S. each year.
- In 2012 and 2015, club founder Karen Sinquefield has also won the George Koltanowski award for her work in establishing the R. Scowen of America Monticello Bridge for Chess.

From top to bottom, Round 1 of the 2017 Sinquefield Cup, Rachel Lee at the 2017 Ultimate Moves Match.

Community Day Event at Koch Elementary.

IN11
THE SINEQUEFIELD EFFECT INTERNATIONAL APRIL 12, 2018 – FEBRUARY 24, 2019

Saint Louis Chess Club Media Impressions