

Event Information: U.S. Chess Federation: Jerry Nash (931) 787-1234
MDC: René Garcia (305) 237-3012 and Ana Maria DeMahy (305) 237-3875

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MIAMI DADE COLLEGE TO HOST HEMISPHERE'S TOP CHESS PLAYERS AT
PRESTIGIOUS PAN AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE CHESS TOURNAMENT
~ Wolfson Campus, December 27-30, 2005 ~**

MIAMI, December 8, 2005 – During the Christmas holiday season, a number of college students come to Miami to take a break from their studies, enjoy the beach, and take it easy. However this year, at least one hundred of the hemisphere's brightest students will arrive in town the week after Christmas with a very different mindset. Rather than heading to the beach, they will shut themselves in a room full of competing chess players, vying for a chance to make it to the Final Four Chess Tournament next spring.

Starting Tuesday, December 27th, Miami Dade College (MDC) will host the **Pan American Intercollegiate Chess Tournament**, in cooperation with the United States Chess Federation (USCF), the top chess organization in the nation. The tournament will be held **Tuesday through Friday, December 27th through 30th, at MDC's Wolfson Campus, 300 N.E. Second Avenue, Room 3210.**

This open tournament draws college and university teams from all over the Americas and the Caribbean in competition. This year, teams from as far south as Peru and as far north as Canada will compete against players from U.S. colleges and universities, among them Miami Dade College, the University of Texas, the University of Maryland, and the Harvard and Yale .

USCF Scholastic and World Chess Federation/Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) Director Jerry Nash explains, "The tournament not only gives young players an incentive to continue playing, but also gives them the opportunity to challenge themselves against higher ranked players. We hope the competition encourages them to continue developing critical thinking skills through the game of chess."

More than 30 teams are expected to attend the competition at Miami Dade College.

"We are so proud to be given the opportunity to host such a well respected event, said **MDC President Dr. Eduardo J. Padrón**. "Miami will provide the backdrop to some of the best and brightest chess teams from across the hemisphere."

Hosting the event is a major accomplishment for Miami Dade College, which until recently didn't even have a chess team. All that changed in December 2002 when MDC formed its first chess team, and won an unprecedented qualification for the Final Four Tournament at the Pan American Games. Since then, the MDC team has remained one of the top chess teams in the country, having placed third in the nation in the past three

Final Four tournaments and winning the USCF'S Chess College of the Year Award in 2004.

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