

Hall of Fame Induction: Acceptance Speech



by Beatrice Low

(Pictured left)

I would first like to thank everyone on the committee for thinking of me for this wonderful recognition. It is one of the most meaningful honors I've ever received, and I thank you for selecting me as a member of the first Induction class!

Chess has been a part of my life for a long time. I started playing chess when I was 5 when a local chess player (Chris Potts) came to my school and offered chess classes. After teaching us the basics, he recommended a few books to us, one of which was called *How to Beat My Dad at Chess*. The title of this book quickly inspired me and for the next few years, that was my primary goal: beating my dad at chess.

I went to my first tournament shortly after this, a local NECA tournament, and in that first tournament I won all my games! I was so happy, and I remember thinking that chess must be so easy.

Unluckily for me, I was very wrong. From here, chess has been a big part of my life with countless grueling hours spent memorizing opening lines, doing puzzles, and analyzing games, but also many hours spent having fun with my friends playing bughouse, blitz, and doing puzzle battles.

It has been a series of ups and downs with many successes, but also many failures. From tying for first in the National All-Girls Championships to mis-clicking and blundering my queen in the online girls state tournament, I've dealt with a roller coaster of emotions.

I want to wrap up by saying that it was an honor to represent the state of Connecticut at the National Girls Tournament of Champions for six years, and I want to thank my family and my chess coaches for all their help and encouragement.

I also want to thank the Connecticut State Chess Association and Alex Lumelsky in particular for organizing these girls tournaments every year. It was often quite intimidating to walk into tournaments full of boys as the only girl, and these girls tournaments allowed me to meet and talk to other girls who shared the same interest in chess.

Thank you again for thinking of me for this honor. I really appreciate it!