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# e-Currents Online Newsletter

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## Top Story

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### Mariachi OLLU takes second place in Vargas competition

Mariachi OLLU takes second place

Mariachi OLLU took second place in the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza group competition held Friday evening at the Municipal Auditorium. The group, under the direction of **Rachel Cruz**, DMA, competed against mariachi groups from all over the region. Last year, Mariachi OLLU took third place in the competition.



### President's Points

### News & Announcements

"They may not have won first prize, but for the third year in a row, they definitely won the hearts of the audience," Cruz said.

The presence of the University administration, faculty and at least 100 students at the competition is a great testament to the program, Cruz added.

Christmas card funds to go to American Sunrise

Photo: Mariachi OLLU ▲

St. Martin Hall to hold book fair

### Points from the President

Ceremony to mark end of semester for freshmen

1. Mariachi OLLU delivered a stellar performance at the Mariachi Vargas Competition, raising last year's national ranking to second place among other university mariachi groups.

19th annual Las Posadas set

2. The American Sunrise Learning Center has been selected to be this year's recipient of the University's Christmas gift of \$2,000 in support of their after-school tutoring and enrichment for area elementary and middle school students. (NOTE: This is our third year of supporting a community organization with funds that have generally been spent on the printing and mailing of University Christmas cards).

Chemistry Club to hold Christmas program for kids

3. Mark your calendar to drop by the President's Office for hot cider and cookies for the weight-conscious on Dec. 18, 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.▲

Math Society planning social

Graduation events set

### News

West Side development group meets at OLLU

### Christmas card funds to be donated to Cisneros' American Sunrise

OLLU will once again forgo printing and mailing Christmas cards this year and donate the money to a San Antonio West Side, community-based organization. President **Tessa Martinez Pollack**, PhD, began this tradition three years ago as a way of giving back to the community.

This year's recipient of the \$2,000 gift is American Sunrise, a company begun by

In 2006, OLLU's VITA program volunteers, directed by **Edgar Zepeda**, associate professor of accounting, prepared more than 770 returns, far exceeding the original goal of 300 returns. The OLLU site is one of seven West Side VITA sites coordinated by the Center for Women in Church and Society (CWCS) through a partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation Making Connections Initiative and the San Antonio Coalition for Family Economic Progress. The CWCS manages, coordinates and lends technical assistance to the seven VITA sites.

In 2006, VITA's goal was to prepare 4,900 returns and assist taxpayers in maximizing tax credits, especially the Earned Income Tax Credit. The seven VITA sites prepared 5,281 returns and \$3,047,405 in earned income tax credit has been returned to the West Side community. The earned income tax credit is particularly important because it is the single largest federal credit that is targeted for low-income families and helps raise their income level above the federal poverty level.▲

### OLLU happenings

#### **Mariachi OLLU provides preview**

Student **Alison Garcia** and Mariachi OLLU performed a preview of the songs they would perform for competition during the 12th Annual Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza Friday evening at the Municipal Auditorium.

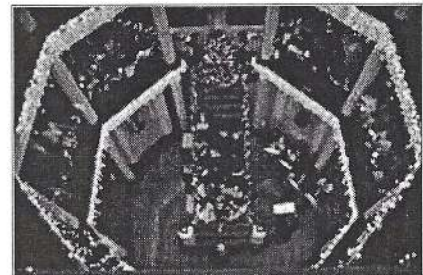


#### **Breakfast with Santa**

Children of alumni, students, faculty and staff enjoyed meeting Santa Saturday during the annual Breakfast with Santa sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations.

#### **Candlelight**

The 71st annual Candlelight celebration took place Saturday evening and included dinner, an Advent prayer service, Christmas caroling by candlelight in the four-story Moye Rotunda and a dance.



#### **Fatherhood conference**

Gabriel Ramirez, OLLU Housekeeping Supervisor **Moses Porras** and Richard Garcia attend the *Hombres con Razon: The Many Faces of Fatherhood* Conference organized by