

# CONEXIÓN

SACultura.com

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 30

## 22 la onda

November 27, 2008 • C

### Trinity to host mariachi workshops

*Sessions meant to showcase school to Hispanics*

MARISSA VILLA  
mvilla@conexionsa.com

As part of an effort to bring more Hispanic culture to Trinity University, the university will take part in the Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza by having private workshops and performances for South Texas students on Dec. 4.

"This is a very important opportunity for the high school students to see Trinity and consider us when they're making their choices," said Dante Suarez, a business administration associate professor who is spearheading the event on campus.

The university doesn't have a mariachi program in place, but this event may spark further interest.

Suarez says the university is currently in search of funds to create the Center for Mexico, the Americas and Spain so students will have a better opportunity to connect with Hispanic countries.

"There's other schools around the nation (that have Hispanic-related programs), but they can't get on a bus and go to Mexico, which we can," Suarez said.

Suarez says the event won't be just about performing, but it will also be about students learning about Mexican culture and how it is integrated into San Antonio.

The importance of mariachi programs in high school will also be stressed during the event.

"When you look at the

graduation rates overall for high schools in the Valley (it is) 70 percent and the graduation rates for kids in mariachi band are in the upper 90s," Suarez said. "The connection between music and education is basically what drove me to help make this happen."

But the emphasis should begin earlier so younger students know that being involved in music programs has its advantages, which is why students from two low-income middle schools will also attend the event.

"I'm also worried about middle school students not being aware of the possibilities that could open up to them if they went into a high school mariachi band," Suarez said.

For more information on this and other Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza events visit [www.mariachimusic.com](http://www.mariachimusic.com).



JOSE LUIS MAGANA

Juanes receives from OAS Secretary General Jose Miguel In Humanitarian Award for his work helping mine victims in C

### Juanes asks OAS for help removing land mines

*Colombian also honored by group in D.C.*

For the musician, winning of the prize "a great opportunity to ask for Colombia, because of antiperson...