

outstanding

Oscar Fernandez Can Teach You a Thing or Two

Who says there aren't any single, attractive and intelligent men left in Portland? Meet Oscar Fernandez, assistant professor of Spanish and comparative literature at Portland State University. Originally born and raised in San Jose, Costa Rica, he has been an integral member of Portland's queer community. He has volunteered with Outside In, served as the liaison to the Queers and Allies student group at Portland State University and was a member of the board of directors at Equity Foundation. In addition to academic research, volunteering and teaching, Fernandez also enjoys power lifting and is a bass baritone with a community choir.

My name is Oscar Fernandez.

I am known as an assistant professor of Spanish and comparative literature at Portland State University. I teach inter-American literatures and Spanish language.

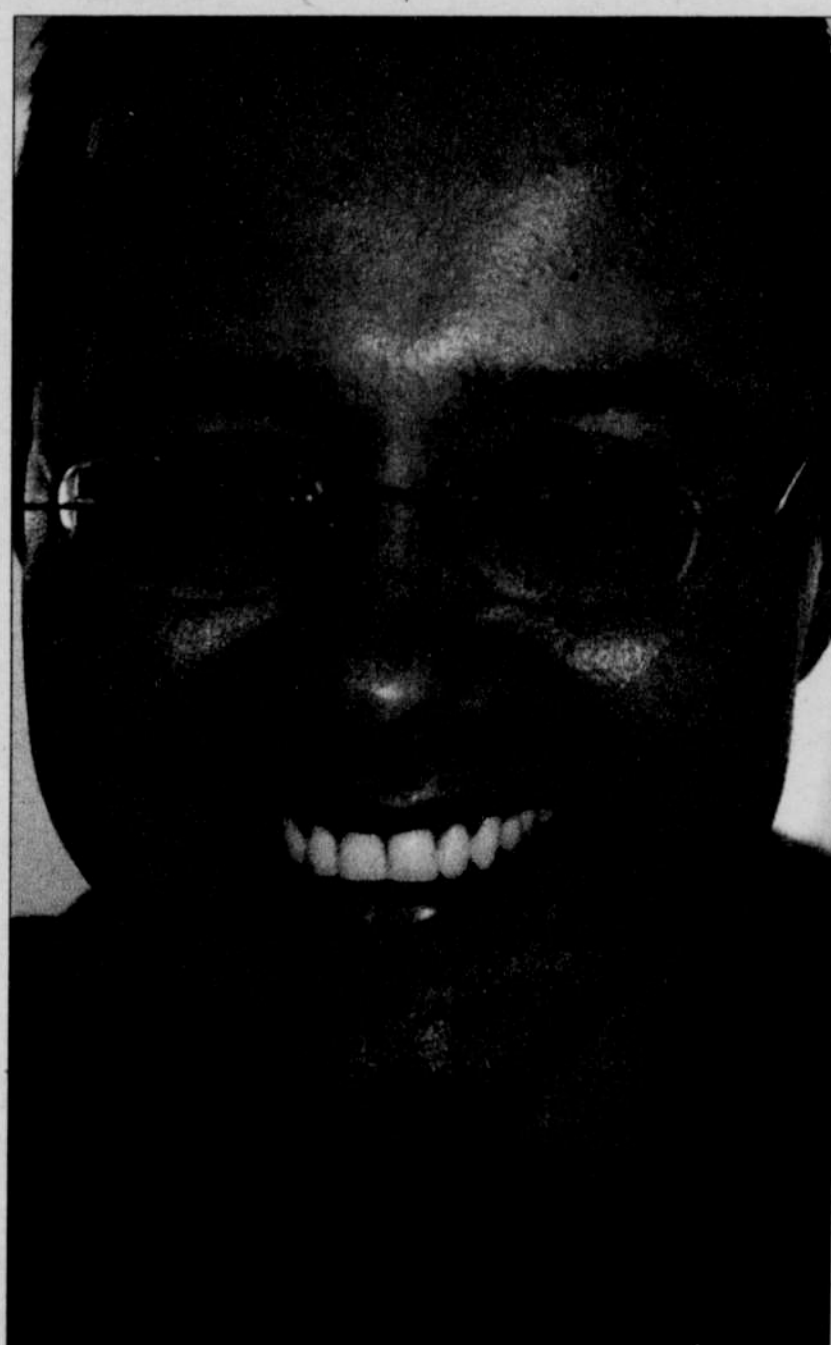
My cause is making my students aware of various repressions and prejudices expressed in inter-American literatures. I have been teaching courses on disease and literature, transgenderism in Iberoamerican narratives and dictators and dictatorships, for example.

I am 36 years old. I feel 36 years old.

My childhood ambition was to be an inter-galactic explorer or a paleontologist.

My first queer crush was in high school in Costa Rica. I knew I was different, but I did not have the language to determine that being gay was an option for me. Since I was leaving Costa Rica for college in Ohio, I gave my science fiction books—my Isaac Asimov collection, I think—to a friend; I left a letter in one of the books hoping he would read it someday and remember us.

I like to spend my down time at the gym following a power-lifting routine, singing bass for the Portland Symphonic Choir, practicing yoga and going to classical music concerts.



Oscar Fernandez volunteered for Outside In's migrant program and was an Equity Foundation board member.

MARTY DAVIS

My proudest moment was seeing my little brother graduate from the Air Force this past Christmas, helping my sister move as she started law school at UCLA this past fall and seeing my sister be a great mom to two kids.

A perfect day in Oregon would be spent driving to the beach.

My first job was teaching English and social studies at the American Nicaraguan School in Managua, Nicaragua.

My inspiration is my mom and my stepdad.

My highest hope for the cause is that it will confront transphobia and racism within gay and lesbian communities.

—Jedidiah Chavez

just asking

Just Out asked revelers at Gay Skate Night, "How do you express yourself creatively?"

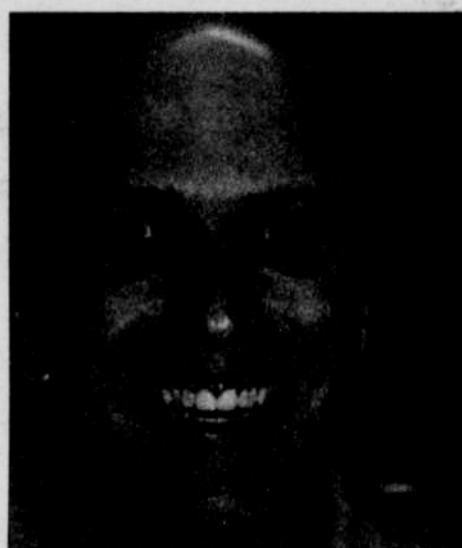


"I've been learning how to juggle, I fire dance, and I just got chosen to be a clown."

DANNY MORENO
Poi Boi

"Duct tape."

JEN WOFFINDEN
Wallet Maker



"In being me."

ROB STRUTHERS
Creatively Me



"Through cooking. I love layered, complicated flavors."

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