

outstanding

Ambassador for Empathy

World traveler and Centennial High School Spanish teacher Reed Scott-Schwalbach said she would have to temper some of her "Americanisms" to be more accepted while living and teaching in Cuernavaca, Mexico, for the 2008 school year.

Scott-Schwalbach, on a Fulbright scholarship, and her partner, Regina Norris, swapped Portland for Cuernavaca last month. Scott-Schwalbach will teach English to students aged 15 to 18, and Norris will challenge herself by learning Spanish.

While Centennial High School loses Scott-Schwalbach for a year, it gains Monica Matus de la Cruz, a teacher from Mexico to cover her class and further the cultural exchange.

The Fulbright Scholarship program began after World War II in an effort to prevent future wars.

"Our charge is to further understanding between the place we are stationed and our home country to create greater empathy between the countries," said Scott-Schwalbach. "If you understand the country, you're able to work with it."

Scott-Schwalbach, an Alaska native and Portlander for

nearly a decade, took students on a trip to Costa Rica in June, has taken students to Spain and lived in Ecuador for a year.

She said she feels "mildly prepared" for her newest challenge.

My name is Reed Scott-Schwalbach.

I am known for teaching Spanish and being the past president of Centennial Education Association and co-chair-woman of Oregon Education Association's GLBT caucus.

My cause is furthering global understanding.

I am 32 years old. **I feel** 23 years old because that's when I first started teaching, and this is like being a brand new teacher all over again.

Right now, I'm in Washington, D.C., at my predeparture Fulbright orientation.

My childhood ambition was to be president of the United States. I thought about being a teacher. I wanted a job that would pay me to travel.

My first queer crush was on my best friend, Dana, who was a senior in high school when I was a freshman. She knew.

My proudest moment was seeing my students use their Spanish to get around a city or communicate with their families.

My biggest challenge is going to be taking care of my partner while we're living in a city where it's not really OK to be gay.

My first job was being a commercial deckhand on a gillnetter in Alaska.

My inspiration is Martin Luther King because he worked with people to make a change. He knew that people power is always the strongest type of power.

My highest hope for the cause is learning to respect each other more and treat each other better.

—Jaymee R. Cuti



Reed Scott-Schwalbach is furthering cultural understanding by teaching in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

just asking

In honor of back-to-school season, *Just Out* asked readers, "What is your most embarrassing high school memory?"



Every year my high school did a talent show, and I was persuaded to do a choreographed dance. I danced over the top of one of my classmates and did a backwards somersault and knocked him down. I never volunteered to do anything onstage again."

ALAN COLLEY
New Equity Foundation Guy

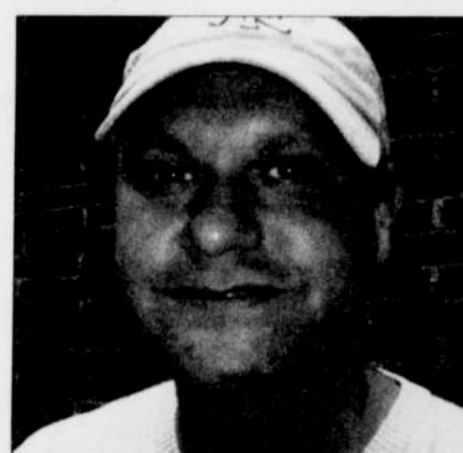
I was a senior in a freshman history class, and I went to the front of the classroom to get my test. When I came back, everyone, including the teacher, was snickering. I looked down and saw my zipper was down and my shirt was poking out a nice 8 inches."

JETT SCREAM
Rose City Roller



During the first week of my freshman year, my drama class broke my arm. I was afraid the older kids would hurt me, and they did. It was an ice-breaking exercise. They lifted me up on a broomstick, and I fell and had to go to the emergency room. I got my school colors, blue and gold, on my cast, which made me look like more of a geeky freshman."

KEVIN EASTON
Equity Foundation
Executive Director



I was afraid of being embarrassed, so I stuck to myself or beat somebody up if I thought they would embarrass me."

SMACK YA SIDEWAYS
Rose City Roller



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