

## VITA

## TONY MOTON

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*“... Tony comes to us as a successful African-American journalist and, as such, provides our minority and majority students with a positive role model. ... Tony put together an excellent forum that focused on two incidents of racial insensitivity in news coverage. ... One involved the Times-Delphic, our student newspaper, and the other involved one of the local television stations. Tony kept the discussion focused and civilized so that it generated more light than heat.”*

Janet Hill Keefer, Dean,  
School of Journalism and  
Mass Communication,  
Drake University

### ***Education***

**M.F.A., UCLA, Westwood, CA 2004**

#### **Screenwriting**

*Comprehensive Areas:*

Feature Film

Television

*Distinctions:*

Jay Grossman Comedy Writing Award, 2004

Ella Okern Scholarship, 2002-2004

**M.A., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 1998**

#### **Journalism**

*Comprehensive Areas:*

News-Editorial

Magazine Writing

*Thesis:*

Nebraska Style: The Faces of American Music

Thesis Committee:

Will Norton, Michael Stricklin and Joe Starita

**B.A., Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 1983**

#### **Humanities**

*Comprehensive Areas:*

Mass Communications

Journalism

### ***Related Education***

**Brown Institute, Minneapolis, MN 1988-89**

#### **Radio-Television Certificate Program**

*Comprehensive Areas:*

Radio Broadcasting

Radio-TV Advertising

### ***Research Interests***

Race and ethnicity in mass media; new media and reporting ethics; pop culture, film, sports and music in news; media law; print media trends; computer-assisted journalism.

“... I know him as more than a colleague. For three years, he taught high school journalism in Omaha at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, where my daughter was a student of his for two of those years. ... Tony was an excellent teacher, highly regarded by students and school administration. ... He combined knowledge of his craft with enthusiasm, and was a great motivator. ... He is serious about furthering his own learning and expertise and then sharing it with others. ...

Michael Kelly,  
reporter/news columnist,  
The Omaha World-Herald

### **Scholarly Presentations**

#### *Papers presented:*

"From Novel to Small Screen: The Adaptation of Willa Cather's *My Antonio*," Seventh International Willa Cather Seminar, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA, June 1997.

### **Awards**

#### **Samuel Goldwyn Writing Award, 2003**

Finished second in the Samuel Goldwyn Foundation's annual writing competition for the fact-inspired feature screenplay "All Bets Are On," about the relationship between a Little League baseball player and his philandering grandfather, set in 1969 Chicago.

#### **Nevada Press Association Award, 2003**

Received second-place honors from the Nevada Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest (best local sports feature category) for the profile "Farm boy fullback," about a rural California-bred player adjusting to life playing football at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

#### **Nevada Press Association Award, 2002**

Awarded top honors from the Nevada Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest (best local sports feature) for the story "Base Camp," a profile of the fledgling College of Southern Nevada baseball team's meteoric rise to national prominence.

#### **Kansas City Press Club Award, 2001**

Earned second-place accolades from the Kansas City Press Club (best investigative reporting) for "Let the Chips Fall," about a regional snack-food company brought down by mismanagement and a little-known sodomy case involving a 56-year-old vice-president and a 14-year-old girl who helped clean the premises.

### **Fellowships**

#### **Drake University/Des Moines Register Minority Journalism Fellowship, 1999-2000**

Received nine-month fellowship, totaling \$40,000, from Drake University and the Des Moines Register for a collaborative teaching and reporting position to help foster the development of minority college professors in the field of journalism.

“... As a student pursuing my graduate degree, I am fortunate to have Tony Moton as my writing mentor and teacher. ... Under his guidance, I have received superior grades in my writing classes. ... Tony is extremely competent and has a wonderful rapport with people of all ages. His ability to connect with others and impart simple writing concepts, as well as more advanced techniques, are both excellent. ...”

Henie Reisinger,  
President, HennArt

## ***Teaching Experience***

### *Traditional University Settings*

**Associate Professor** Drake University, Des Moines, IA. Aug. 1999-May 2000. Taught courses in news writing and reporting and race, ethnicity and media; participated in all levels of administrative functions; developed and moderated a public forum on race and news coverage.

### *Traditional High School Settings*

**Journalism Instructor and Newspaper Advisor** Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, Des Moines, IA. August 1994-May 1997. Served as faculty advisor of the school's monthly newspaper and taught courses in writing, reporting and editing at the all-girls' college prep school; helped guide the school newspaper to numerous top awards at the annual Creighton Byline Awards competition, sponsored by Creighton University.

### *Non-Traditional Middle School Settings*

**Writing Instructor** YouthInkwell Writing Center, Pasadena, CA. June 2008-present.

**Academic Tutor** Eliot Middle School, Altadena, CA. Feb. 2008-June 2008. Performed as an academic coach in math for the Extreme Learning, Inc., after-school program; provided additional enrichment teaching in the fields of creative writing, web design, animation and acting.

## ***Work Experience***

**Freelance Writer**, Variety, Hollywood, CA. April 2004. Provided feature story on philanthropic efforts within the film and television industries.

**Staff Writer and Photographer**, Below the Line, Los Angeles, CA. September 2002-January 2004. Covered film and entertainment industries with news stories focused on production and crew angles for the start-up monthly magazine.

**Staff Columnist, Reporter and Photographer**, The Las Vegas Mercury, Las Vegas, NV. Feb. 2002-Feb. 2003. Wrote a weekly column covering the nightclub and DJ music scene and provided sports and news feature stories for the alternative news weekly.

**Freelance Sportswriter**, The Rocky Mountain News, Denver, CO. Dec. 2001. Provided game and news coverage of the Denver Broncos NFL team.

**Freelance Sportswriter**, The Newark Star-Ledger, Newark, NJ. Sept. 2001. Covered the New York Giants' first NFL game in the aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy.

“... Moton says he appreciates being in the classroom with college students who have a certain level of maturity and take their work seriously. ... Moton has embraced the fellowship’s goal of bringing diversity to both the classroom and the news room. ...”

The Reliable Source,  
The Drake University  
Office of Marketing and  
Communications

**Freelance Magazine Writer**, Kansas City Magazine, Kansas City, MO. May 2001-January 2002. Provided cover feature stories for monthly publication on the Kansas City Zoo and the Kansas City Ballet.

**On-Air Radio Personality**, KMBZ-AM, Kansas City, MO. Nov. 2000-May 2001. Served as a fill-in host on the "Tom Becka Show," a politically-oriented morning news-talk radio show.

**Investigative Reporter**, Pitch Weekly, Kansas City, MO. June 2000-May 2001. Provided long-form narrative stories for the alternative news weekly, focusing on courts, crime and murder cases.

**Staff Writer and Photographer**, The Des Moines Register, Des Moines, IA. Aug. 1999-May 2000. Contributed feature and spot news coverage various sections, including business, news, sports and arts & entertainment; major contributions included coverage of the NCAA's investigation of the Iowa State University's men's basketball program.

**Pop Culture and Entertainment Columnist**, The Omaha World-Herald, Omaha, NE. Oct. 1991-Aug.1999. Wrote some 1,600 columns, covering various aspect of music, entertainment and pop culture on national and local fronts; column was considered by reader surveys to be the most widely read feature in the paper, across the board; noted columns included profiles of Ben Vereen, Ice Cube, Marilyn Manson, Halle Berry, Red Skelton, Alexander Payne, Destiny's Child, Britney Spears, Shaquille O'Neal and N'Sync.

**Freelance Sportswriter**, The Washington Post, Washington, D.C. Oct. 1991. Contributed game and news covering of the 1991 World Series between the Minnesota Twins and the Atlanta Braves.

**Baseball Beat Writer and Reporter**, The National Sports Daily, New York, NY. Feb. 1990-June 1991. Provided game and news coverage of the Chicago White Sox during the 1991 season; provided feature and news coverage of heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson's upset loss to Buster Douglas.

**Pro Hockey Beat Writer, Reporter and Columnist**, The Minneapolis StarTribune, Minneapolis, MN. March 1986-Feb. 1990. Assigned to cover the Minnesota North Stars NHL franchise during the 1989-1990 season, including coverage of the 1988 and 1989 Stanley Cup Finals and the 1987 World Series.

**Sportswriter, Prep Columnist and Copy Editor**, The Courier-Journal, Louisville, Ky. Nov. 1984-March 1986. Provided coverage of Western Kentucky men's basketball team, University of Kentucky men's basketball team, high school sports, the Kentucky Derby and pro boxing.

**Sportswriter and Columnist**, The Daily Dispatch, Moline, Ill. August 1982-March 1985. Wrote national and local sports column, providing coverage of pro, college and high school sports; noted assignments included feature and game coverage of the 1982 World Series, the Chicago Bears, Chicago White Sox, Chicago Cubs, minor league baseball and pro golf.

### ***Selected Professional Service***

**Faculty Selection Committee**, Drake University, Des Moines, IA. Feb. 2000. Interviewed and evaluated prospective recipients of Drake's National Alumni Scholarships for high school seniors.

**Lecturer**, Greenlee School of Journalism, Iowa State University, Ames, IA. April 2000. Conducted seminar to critique and instruct professional journalists from around the state on writing and reporting.

**Moderator**, Drake University, Des Moines, IA. Nov. 1999. Conceived, organized and hosted a public forum titled, "Apologies Necessary? Understanding the Impact of Race in Today's Media Coverage," which was attended by more than 100 local citizens and students and debated issues involving race and diversity in news coverage.

**Lecturer**, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE. July 1996. Provided journalism instruction to students participating in the Nebraska High School Press Association's annual Summer Journalism Workshop.

**Lecturer**, Donna Reed Performing Arts Festival, Dennison, IA. June 1995 and June 1996. Conducted writing and reporting workshops.

**Judge**, Regional Spelling Bee, Minneapolis, MN. March 1988. Served on judging panel for a Scripps National Spelling Bee qualifying event, sponsored by the Minneapolis StarTribune.

### ***Distinctions***

#### **Kappa Tau Alpha, University of Nebraska Chapter, 1998**

Awarded membership into the national college honor society for journalism and mass communication.

#### **Platinum Record, "311" (Capricorn Records), 311, December 1995**

Received a commemorative platinum record (more than 1 million records sold) from the rock band 311 for outstanding news coverage.

#### **The Homer Award, Homer's Records and Tapes, April 1993**

Honored for outstanding coverage of the local and national music scenes by the Homer's Records & Tapes retail music outlet in Omaha, NE.

*"... I don't think of myself as a special case or anything, but I do want to enlighten people. ... I do think that sometimes people live with their blinders on when it comes to understanding the impact of minorities and what their value can be. ..."*

Tony Moton

“... Remarkable focus, insight  
and tone infused with quality

interview, stats and flow.

Excellent personality

profile. ...”

The Nevada Press  
Association

### ***Professional References***

Carolyn Youssef St. Philip the Apostle carolnyoussef@yahoo.com

Patti Jameson Polytechnic H.S. jamo1980@aol.com

Bebi Bacchus Extreme Learning  
bbacchus@horizon.csueastbay.edu

Char Ullman U. of Texas at El Paso cullman@utep.edu

Lew Hunter UCLA lew1@alltel.net

Will Norton U. of Nebraska wnorton1@unl.edu

Debbie Harmsen Random House debbieharmesen@fodors.com

Janet Keefer Drake University janet.keefer@drake.edu

### ***Community Service***

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City, 2000. Served as an adult volunteer for a child at risk, providing companionship and mentorship.

Twins Cities Metro Meals on Wheels, Minneapolis, MN. 1989.  
Volunteered and delivered meals to senior citizens and the disabled on a weekly basis.