303.945.6514

www.linkedin.com/in/scrabblecat

jeremysimon42@gmail.com

# **OBJECTIVE AND SUMMARY QUALIFICATIONS**

I aim to bring my 20+ years of editorial experience and acumen, consensus-building and community engagement to an organization that works to promote positive change. My work incorporates:

- A full toolkit of communications skills including journalism, media relations (outreach and crisis response), digital and social media, executive communications, and strategic direction
- Outstanding writing and storytelling published in dozens of journalistic and literary outlets
- A strong and authentic rapport with people from diverse professions and cultures
- **Fluency with philanthropy communications** and its integration with the community fabric, including service as chair of a community radio station
- A successful track record generating consensus and action in complex situations: whether on a new logo, a social media strategy or a mission statement
- Change management savvy, working with 10 different supervisors in 12 years to help organizations chart new paths amidst turbulence, while sustaining staff buy-in and morale

## Professional Experience

# **U.S. Center for SafeSport,** Denver, Colo.

2020-

Senior Technical Writer/Editor

Responsibilities for this national nonprofit include:

• Lead writing and editing of all outfacing materials, both for primary audiences affiliated with the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and for general publics

## Western Colorado University, Gunnison, Colo.

2019-20

### **Director of Marketing Communications**

Responsibilities for this regional public university include:

- Oversight of central marketing communications efforts for the university, including creative services, media relations, brand, digital communications
- Public Information Officer for the university, leading outreach and reputation management during a hectic period that included COVID-19 and #BLM
- Oversight of a nine-person team and \$800,000 budget

# Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Boulder, Colo.

2017-19

#### **Director of Strategic Communications**

Responsibilities for this agency, serving Western U.S. higher ed initiatives and priorities, included:

- Oversight and hands-on execution of creative services, media relations, executive communications, digital and web communications
- Chief writer/editor for initiatives in varied higher ed niches, ranging from affordability and access, to preparing states and institutions for demographic and technological change
- Oversight of a four-person communications staff and \$500,000 budget

University of Colorado System, Broomfield, Colo.

2008-16

**Executive Director, Advancement Communications** (2014–16)

**Director of Advancement Communications**: (2012–14)

#### Senior Communications Manager, Advancement (2010–12)

**Communications Manager, Advancement (2008–10)** 

Work through August 1, 2013 occurred under auspices of the CU Foundation

Responsibilities for the CU System's mar/com team, serving a four-campus fundraising operation raising \$300+ million annually and managing endowments of \$1+ billion, included:

- Oversight of strategy, execution, a staff of seven, and a department budget of \$1 million
- Oversight of Advancement media relations, executive communications, editorial style/brand
- Oversight of development of CU Advancement website (giving.cu.edu) and intranet, leading to 50% YOY increase in online gift volume
- Founding and editing of Creating Futures magazine, which celebrated philanthropy at CU
- Writing, editing, and project direction of the lead case statement for CU's \$1.5 billion *Creating Futures* campaign and for three of CU's four campuses, and a broad range of donor brochures, alumni appeals, broadcast emails, and websites
- Direction of a creative services team producing 250+ deliverables a year for university partners

# Colorado Rocky Mountain School, Carbondale, Colo.

2006-08

#### **Director of Communications**

Responsibilities for this independent secondary school, located 25 miles from Aspen, included:

- Management of all aspects of communications including external relations, newsletters, viewbooks, website, broadcast email, and other strategic marketing and brand elements
- Management of budget and contract personnel

### Aspen Music Festival and School, Aspen, Colo.

2003-06

#### **Publications and Research Manager**

Responsibilities for the largest classical music festival in the Western U.S. included:

- Writing, editing, and oversight of publication production aspects, including an editorial weekly 8-page *Aspen Times* insert
- Audience surveying and analysis
- Oversight of visual identity (including logo development) and other brand components
- Budget, intern and contract-personnel management

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

National Arts Journalism Program, Columbia University School of Journalism, New York Research Manager

The Gazette, Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Reporter** for features, arts, and business desks

News internships at the **Arizona Republic** (Phoenix, Ariz.), the **Courier-News** (Bridgewater N.J.) and the **South Florida Sun-Sentinel** (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.).

Daily Northwestern, Evanston, Ill.

Entertainment editor, columnist, editorial board member, and reporter

### FREELANCE EXPERIENCE

#### Essays, reportage, features and humor writing published in

- Magazines, Newspapers, Websites: Newsday, Orange County Register, Denver Post, Conde Nast Traveler, Time Out New York, Philadelphia City Paper, RollingStone.com, Aspen Philanthropist, Coloradoan, Aspen Sojourner, Aspen Home, Mountain House and Home, Aspen Daily News, Aspen Times, Mountain Parent, Nerve, Book, and Modern Humorist.com
- Literary Journals: American Journal of Print (print), Faultline (print), Post Road (print), Big City Lit (print) Eclectica (online, www.eclectica.org), and Saucepot Review (online, www.saucepotreview.com)
- **Books:** Rough Draft: Pop Culture the Way It Almost Was (Three Rivers Press, 2001); Mirth of a Nation: The Best of American Humor Writing (Harper Collins, 2002); Up From The Ashes (Honor Books, 2001); Moon Metro New York City (Avalon Travel Publishing, 2002)

Copy editor for the *Zagat Survey* and *Nerve* 

Fact-checking for *Spin* magazine

#### **EDUCATION**

Master of Fine Arts (MFA), creative nonfiction writing, Columbia University, New York

**Bachelor of Science in Journalism (BSJ)**, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. Concentrations in economics and sociology

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AND PERSONAL PASSIONS

### Intercambio, Boulder Colo.

2016-

Teaching and tutoring of English to non-native speakers, along with practical mentorship to help them overcome language barriers in navigating their new Colorado community.

### KDNK/Carbondale Community Access Radio, Carbondale, Colo.

2003-08

Board of Directors president (3/06-1/08) and vice president (11/04-3/06), overseeing a 30 percent increase in station revenue during my tenure. Led search for new general manager. Hosted semi-weekly new music show among numerous volunteer roles.

#### Rocky Mountain Rumble, Denver, Colo.

2003-05

Director of the largest Scrabble tournament in the Rockies, at which time I ranked among America's top 700 Scrabble players

#### Honors

- 2000 Hertog Research Fellowship, working with architecture critic Ada Louise Huxtable
- Society of Professional Journalists' *Best of Colorado* awards in 1998 (first place in arts/entertainment feature writing) and 1996 (first place in science/environmental/medical feature writing; second place in arts/entertainment feature writing)