

NEW YORK NEWS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALBANY, NY – The New York News Publishers Association has announced the winners of its 2009-2010 Awards for Excellence competition. This year's winners were officially recognized at the Continuing Excellence Banquet and Reception on Wednesday, April 13 at The State Room in Albany. The annual contest recognizes journalistic excellence among the association's member newspapers.

Newspapers competed against one another in five circulation classes: Under 10,000; 10,000-24,999; 25,000-49,999; 50,000-175,000; and Over 175,000.

Contest judges selected winners from 644 entries submitted by 33 New York State daily newspapers. The judges were: Matt DeRienzo, Publisher of the Foothills Media Group in Torrington, Connecticut; Chazy Dowaliby, Editor for the *Patriot Ledger* in Quincy, Massachusetts; Vernon Hill, Sports Editor for *The Republican* in South Hadley, Massachusetts; Carolyn Levin, Faculty Advisor for Long Island University's School of Visual and Performing Arts; and David Sullens, retired Publisher of *The Daily News* in Galveston, Texas.

Awards were presented in each of 15 traditional print categories:

Distinguished Breaking News Coverage, Distinguished Investigative Reporting, Distinguished Business Reporting, Distinguished Editorial Writing, Distinguished Feature Writing, Distinguished Column Writing, Distinguished Headline Writing, Distinguished Sports Writing, Distinguished Community Service, Distinguished State Government Coverage, Distinguished Sports Coverage, Distinguished Page Design/Presentation, Distinguished News Photography, Distinguished Feature Photography, and Distinguished Sports Photography.

Awards were also presented in each of four online categories:

Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage, Distinguished Online Blog, Distinguished Online Graphics, and Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation.

Albany—Times Union
Amsterdam—The Recorder
Auburn—The Citizen
Batavia—The Daily News
Binghamton—Press & Sun-Bulletin
Buffalo—The Buffalo News
Canandaigua—The Daily Messenger
Catskill—The Daily Mail
Corning—The Leader
Cortland—Cortland Standard
Dunkirk—The Observer
Elmira—Star-Gazette
Geneva—Finger Lakes Times
Glens Falls—The Post-Star
Gloversville—The Leader-Herald
Herkimer—The Evening Telegram
Hornell—The Evening Tribune
Hudson—Register-Star
Ithaca—The Ithaca Journal
Jamestown—The Post-Journal
Kingston—Daily Freeman
Little Falls—The Evening Times
Lockport—Union-Sun & Journal
Long Island—Newsday
Malone—The Malone Telegram
Massena and Potsdam—
 Courier-Observer/The Advance News
Medina—The Journal-Register
Middletown—The Times Herald-Record
New York City—The New York Times
New York City—The Wall Street Journal
Niagara Falls—Niagara Gazette
Norwich—The Evening Sun
Ogdensburg—Ogdensburg Journal
Olean—The Times Herald
Oneida—Oneida Daily Dispatch
Oneonta—The Daily Star
Oswego—The Palladium Times
Plattsburgh—Press-Republican
Poughkeepsie—Poughkeepsie Journal
Rochester—Democrat and Chronicle
Rome—Daily Sentinel
Salamanca—Salamanca Press
Saranac Lake—Adirondack Daily Enterprise
Saratoga Springs—The Saratogian
Scheneectady—The Daily Gazette
Staten Island—Staten Island Advance
Syracuse—The Post-Standard
The Tonawandas—Tonawanda News
Troy—The Record
Utica—Observer-Dispatch
Watertown—Watertown Daily Times
Wellsville—Wellsville Daily Reporter
White Plains—The Journal News

Winning entries in the Distinguished Breaking News Coverage category reflect effective newspaper response to deadline demands; and clarity, thoroughness, balance and aggressiveness in the coverage of local spot news.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Investigative Reporting category demonstrate thorough, thoughtful, fair, and resourceful reporting of local stories that reveal corruption, or malfeasance, or inherent flaws in the functioning of society's institutions; and/or effectively measure the performance of those institutions against their stated missions.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Business Reporting category show effective newspaper coverage of business and the economy, skillful investigative reporting and excellence in writing style, editing, display and other pertinent criteria. The subject matter deals primarily with how business and economic events relate to individuals and the newspaper's community.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Editorial Writing category stress the concern for local community problems, courage in taking a position regardless of the popular view, and originality of viewpoint and style.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Feature Writing category showcase good writing in non-deadline situations. Submissions can include personality profiles, trend stories, narratives and general features, and must demonstrate style, originality and the ability to connect emotionally with the readers.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Column Writing category demonstrate originality, insight, wit, the capacity to illuminate character, and the capacity to enhance the reader's understanding of people and events in the community served by the newspaper.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Headline Writing category show clarity, creativity, and the capacity to distill and capture the essence of the story.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Writing category demonstrate quality and clarity of writing, originality, and local appeal.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Community Service category show effort and effect on the part of a local newspaper toward improvement of the community it serves.

Winning entries in the Distinguished State Government Coverage category demonstrate effective coverage of state government as manifested in service to the community, skillful investigative reporting, and excellence in writing style, editing and display, with subject matter dealing primarily with an aspect of state government and how it relates to a newspaper's community.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Coverage category exhibit innovative layout, design and photography, scope of content (variation of local sporting events), writing skill, headline suitability and appeal, and use of local features.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Page Design/Presentation demonstrate strong visual appeal, style and originality, and enhance the written content, making it easy to understand or navigate.

Winning entries in the Distinguished News Photography category stress news value, timeliness, communicative effectiveness, and skill as shown in composition and technical quality.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Feature Photography category demonstrate imagination, communicative effectiveness, appeal to reader interest, and skill in composition, technical quality and cropping.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Sports Photography category sharply capture the drama inherent in human athletic competition and draw the reader's eye to peak action, capturing the moment and communicating it on an emotional level with a high degree of technical skill, composition and quality.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage category demonstrate effective newspaper response to a breaking news story online, while exhibiting clarity, thoroughness, balance and aggressiveness in the coverage of local spot news.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Online Blog category show timeliness, originality, insight, reader interaction and the capacity to enhance the reader's understanding of persons and events in the community served by the newspaper.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Online Graphics category help explain the news, feature, or sports story the entry accompanies, and were selected based on impact, attractiveness and relevance.

Winning entries in the Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation category demonstrate work that incorporates distinguished journalistic storytelling via media other than the print format, while clearly showing creativity, ease-of-use for the Web site visitor, impact on the community and overall technical execution.

Following is the list of winners:

Under 10,000 Circulation Class

The Recorder in Amsterdam won awards in **Distinguished Feature Writing** for "Breaking Free" by Mark Robarge; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Charlie Kraebel; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for "Family Links" by Adam Shinder; and **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for "The Champ!" by Adam Shinder, Paul Antonelli, and Dave Wojeski.

The Daily Mail in Catskill won the award for **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** with "Blackthorne Resort lost to fire" by Jim Planck.

The Malone Telegram won the award for **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** with "Falls teen dies after baseball injury" by Darcy Fargo.

The *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* in Saranac Lake won awards in **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for "State land purchases in the Adirondacks" by Peter Crowley; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for "Fuming but still smoking" by Nathan Brown; **Distinguished News**

Photography for “Lake Clear home burns” by Jessica Collier; and **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Billy Demong's golden day” by Lou Reuter.

And *The Saratogian* in Saratoga Springs won awards in **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Higher Education: Is it Still Worth the Cost?” by Betsy DeMars, Paul Post, Emily Donohue, Mareesa Nicosia, and Patrick Donges; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Saratoga County dairy farmers fighting for their way of life” by Paul Post; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Hidden in Plain View: The plight of Saratoga Springs' homeless” by Mareesa Nicosia; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “The Politics of Gaming” by Paul Post; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Higher Education designs” by Paul Tackett; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Polar Plunge” by Ed Burke; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “In the Biz” by Mareesa Nicosia; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “National Rowing Championships” by Stan Hudy, Erica Miller, and Stephen Shoemaker.

10,000 – 24,999 Circulation Class

The Citizen in Auburn won the award for **Distinguished Sports Writing** with “Courage and desire” by Kristin Kowaleski-Wolford.

The Daily Messenger in Canandaigua won the award for **Distinguished Column Writing** with columns by Kevin Frisch.

The Finger Lakes Times in Geneva won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “It's shocking” by Craig Fox, Amanda Folts, Sean McCracken, Spencer Tulis, and Gabrielle Plucknette; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Off the rolls” by Jim Miller; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “A single Seneca Falls a good starting point” by Chuck Schading; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Have no fear ... Worry X is here!” by Jessica Youngman; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Hooked on 'ponics” by Chuck Schading; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Saving DeSales” by David Shaw and Mike Cutillo; and **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Varsity Club” by Alan Brignall and Josh DeSain.

The Leader-Herald in Gloversville won awards in **Distinguished Sports Photography** with “Slippery Gridiron: Granville drives past Fonda-Fultonville” by Bill Cain, and **Distinguished Online Blog** with “Bill's Broadsides” by Bill Ackerbauer.

The Daily Freeman in Kingston won the award for **Distinguished Feature Photography** with “Feline haven” by Tania Barricklo.

The Niagara Gazette in Niagara Falls won awards in **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Niagara Falls City School District” by Nick Mattera; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Casino compact: Enough time to act?” by David Marra; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “The Hat Lady of Main Street” by James Neiss.

And the *Press-Republican* in Plattsburgh won the award for **Distinguished News Photography** with “Fire displaces family” by Michael Betts.

25,000 – 49,999 Circulation Class

The *Press & Sun-Bulletin* in Binghamton won the award for **Distinguished Sports Writing** with “BU basketball scandal” by the *Press & Sun-Bulletin* Staff.

The Post-Star in Glens Falls won awards in **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Fate of Americade” by Blake Jones; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Education” by Mark C. Mahoney; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Ken Tingley; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “New York State Basketball Tournament” by *The Post-Star* Sports Staff; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Dusty Dash” by T.J. Hooker; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Your Right To Know” by Mark C. Mahoney; and **Distinguished Online Graphics** for “On the right path” by Jonathan Davenport and Bob Condon.

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Pine Plains hostage standoff” by the *Poughkeepsie Journal* Staff; **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Burning Trash, Burning Cash” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Birth by Surgery - Part Three” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “Money Pit/Money Maker” by Mary Beth Pfeiffer; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Thousands Embrace Walkway” by Chris Gregory; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Journey to Motherhood” by Spencer Ainsley; **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “Mercury spill at LaGrange Middle School” by John Davis, Craig Wolf, Irwin Goldberg, Spencer Ainsley, and Karl Rabe; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Scary Stories” by Chris Gregory and Barbara Gallo Farrell.

The *Staten Island Advance* won awards in **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “Her car's from Saturn, her ticket's from Mars” by Dean Balsamini, and **Distinguished News Photography** for “Ferry slams dock, injuring scores” by Bill Lyons.

And the *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica won the award for **Distinguished Community Service** with “The river's threat; One town's struggle” by Jennifer Bogdan.

50,000 – 175,000 Circulation Class

The *Times Union* in Albany won the award for **Distinguished Sports Photography** with “Out of nowhere” by Philip Kamrass.

The *Times Herald-Record* in Middletown won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “Endless storm. Hundreds stranded on highways; 175,000 without power” by the *Times Herald-Record* Staff; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “Husband: ‘Dying’ bride's tale a lie” by Doyle Murphy; **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “More than a game, hoops could be a way out” by Kevin Gleason; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Marc Bookal missing” by Jeff Goulding and Chet Gordon; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “Lebrew Jones is free at last” by Steve Israel, Chet Gordon, and John Pertel.

The *Democrat and Chronicle* in Rochester won the award for **Distinguished Online Graphics** with “Hydraulic fracturing” by Scott Sheils.

The Post-Standard in Syracuse won awards in **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “Iron Men of Overtime Break the Bank” by Michelle Breidenbach and John O'Brien; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Rush Order for Innovation Saves Combat Lives” by Dave Tobin; **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Budget Justice” by Paul Riede; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Sean Kirst; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Sheriff's Department” by John O'Brien and Michelle Breidenbach; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “Strasburg Coverage” by Mike Waters, Bud Poliquin, and Dave Tobin; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “After 50 Men, A Woman is Mayor” by Peter Allen; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Leap of Faith” by Nicholas Lisi; and **Distinguished Online Blog** for “News and Views from Syracuse and Central New York” by Sean Kirst.

And *The Journal News* in White Plains won awards in **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “D.A.: Hot date is a cold cheat” by Taani Pande; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “The Platinum Legislature” by Albany Bureau and *Journal News* Staff; and **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “6 dead north of exit 16. NB thruway closed” by Shawn Cohen, Frank Becerra, and *Journal News* Staff.

Over 175,000 Circulation Class

The Buffalo News was the biggest winner of the competition, taking home a total of 12 awards, including **Distinguished Editorial Writing** for “Region deserves an iconic bridge” by George Pyle; **Distinguished Column Writing** for columns by Donn Esmonde; **Distinguished Headline Writing** for “One Miracle Short” by Eugene Krzyzynski; **Distinguished Community Service** for “Who's Flying Your Airplane” by Tom Precious and Jerry Zremski; **Distinguished Sports Coverage** for “NCAA Tournament” by *The Buffalo News* Staff; **Distinguished Page Design/Presentation** for “Padding his resume” by Vincent Chiaramonte; **Distinguished News Photography** for “Rescuers Can't Save Dying Victim” by Harry Scull Jr.; **Distinguished Feature Photography** for “Pearl Harbor Survivor Remembers” by Derek Gee; **Distinguished Sports Photography** for “Knuckle Sandwich” by Mark Mulville; **Distinguished Online Breaking News Coverage** for “City Grill” by *The Buffalo News* Staff; **Distinguished Online Blog** for “Prep Talk” by Keith McShea; and **Distinguished Multi-Media Presentation** for “The Esmonde Files” by Donn Esmonde and Lauren Nicole Mariacher.

The New York Times won awards in **Distinguished Breaking News Coverage** for “A Bomb in Times Square” by *The New York Times* Staff; **Distinguished Feature Writing** for “A Soldier Reclaims His Life” by Lizette Alvarez; **Distinguished State Government Coverage** for “The Paterson Mess” by *The New York Times* Staff; and **Distinguished Online Graphics** for “Baseball, Rivera Dominates Hitters” by Graham Roberts, Shan Carter, and Joe Ward.

And *The Wall Street Journal* in New York won awards in **Distinguished Investigative Reporting** for “The Gulf Oil Spill” by *The Wall Street Journal* Staff; **Distinguished Business Reporting** for “Capitol Gains: How Congress Gains from Stock Trading” by *The Wall Street Journal* Staff; and **Distinguished Sports Writing** for “The Couch” by Jason Gay.