



For immediate release

**Quinnipiac University professor to receive
Roy F. Aarons Award for academic contributions
to the GLBT community**

Hamden, Conn. – June 8, 2009 - Edward Alwood, an associate professor of journalism in the School of Communications at Quinnipiac University, has been named the 2009 recipient of the Roy F. Aarons Award for his contributions to education and research on issues affecting the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) communities.

The GLBT Interest Group of the Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication will present Alwood with the award at its business meeting on Friday, Aug. 7, in Boston.

Alwood's research specialty concentrates on journalism history, particularly the early Cold War era of the 1940s and 1950s, and news of minorities. His Ph.D. dissertation focused on communists in the press and received the prestigious Nafziger-White Dissertation Award from the Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication. He is the author of the 1996 book "Straight News: Gays, Lesbians, and the News Media." He worked for 14 years as a news reporter at several television outlets, including the Washington bureau of CNN.

The Roy F. Aarons Award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the promotion and inclusion of GLBT materials in education and research. The award is named after Roy F. Aarons, who shocked the news industry in 1990 when he acknowledged that he was gay at a conference for the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

That announcement, in conjunction with the results from a landmark survey of gay and lesbian journalists, spearheaded the creation of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA), an organization of journalists, media professionals, educators and students who work to foster fair and accurate coverage of GLBT issues. Aarons spent 14 years as a reporter and editor at The Washington Post, was a founding

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board member of the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, and executive editor of The Oakland Tribune. He later worked to revive an educators' group within AEJMC to assist educators in incorporating GLBT materials in journalism courses. In 1999, Aarons became director of the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communication's Sexual Orientation Issues in the News (SOIN) program. SOIN works to assist journalism education in addressing issues affecting sexual minorities; the program holds forums and workshops and provides resources for understanding the complexities of the debate surrounding GLBT issues. Aarons died in 2004.

Alwood, who joined the Quinnipiac faculty in 2002, holds a Ph.D. in journalism and mass communications from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition, he has a master's degree in public communication from American University and a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Quinnipiac is a private, coeducational, nonsectarian institution located 90 minutes north of New York City and two hours from Boston. The university enrolls 5,600 full-time undergraduate and 1,900 graduate students in 52 undergraduate and 19 graduate programs of study in its School of Business, School of Communications, School of Education, School of Health Sciences, School of Law, College of Arts and Sciences and College of Professional Studies. Quinnipiac consistently ranks among the top universities with master's programs in the Northern region in U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges. The 2009 issue of U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges named Quinnipiac as the top up-and-coming school with master's programs in the North. Quinnipiac also is recognized in Princeton Review's The Best 368 Colleges. For more information, please visit www.quinnipiac.edu.

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