



the comm-unity newsletter

Dr. Arshia Anwer Appointed as New Communication Department Chair

by Christina Rella

Communication Department faculty member, Arshia Anwer, Ph.D. has been appointed chair of the Communication Department as of the 2023-2024 school year. Anwer has had a successful career thus far at Manhattan College, especially over the last year. In the 2022-2023 school year, she received the prestigious Costello Award for teaching from the School of Liberal Arts, received a promotion to associate professor and earned tenure status.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DR. ANWER'S CAREER

While Dr. Anwer is grateful for all of the recognition she has received, especially over the last year, a lot of her highlights involve her close work with students.

“I think one of the things that I’m really proud of is starting and working with student workers on our departmental promotional program,” Anwer said. “[It] helps our students get some experience in doing the kind of things that they are preparing for in the professional world.”

There is no doubt that Dr. Anwer puts her students first and she has always made that known. Always keeping the best interests of the students in mind, Dr. Anwer highlights the Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) concentration as something that is important to her career. The IMC concentration was created by Anwer.

“It’s just helpful for students. It’s helpful for them to have a little bit of knowledge of multiple things that they can do rather than possibly a deeper mastery over only certain things as entry level professionals,” she said.

She's proud that she has been able to grow this concentration over the last few years since it was implemented in 2019, only about two years after she became a faculty member.

THE PROMOTION

Dr. Anwer does not necessarily think that there is anything in particular that has prepared her for the position of Department Chair. She feels that her work as a whole has contributed to the recognition she has received, rather than one specific effort.

“Right from being a junior faculty member, I have always felt like I was invited — invited to add my voice to the kind of things that are happening in this department,” she said.

Her new role will only allow for her voice to be heard more. However, she plans to continue to always leave department discussions open to the entire faculty.

“All of us have points of connection or things that we are able to come together and discuss,” she said. “I don't think of the role as an ‘in charge’ role. I think the role is more of a lead everybody together kind of role, right? ... I think of it as being more of a representative of the department to the wider campus community.”

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Having Dr. Anwer as the Chair of the Communication Department will be a continuation of the work that has been carried out by the previous chairs, Michael Grabowski, Ph.D. and Thom Gencarelli, Ph.D. Anwer is more than qualified to be in this position, having a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Communication studies, an M.A. in Integrated Marketing Communication and Psychology, and years of experience in both Communication and teaching. Not only does her experience make her a perfect fit for this position, but her love for teaching and the dedication she puts into her work solidifies the appointment.

“I think what gives me life and what is more, what is closest to my heart, is the fact that I’m able to interact with students and am able to work with them in ways that foster creativity, new thoughts, and learning and knowledge,” she said.

Congratulations to Dr. Anwer on this milestone achievement! ★