

# the comm-unity newsletter

## Communication Department's Own Arshia Anwer Wins Costello Award for Teaching by Christina Rella

Arshia Anwer, Ph.D. of the Communication Department received the Brother Casimir Gabriel Costello, FSC Award for Teaching last semester after receiving many nominations from her students. The Costello award is in memory of Brother Costello, managed by the History department and is supported by the family of Brother Costello. This award is given to an educator, teacher or professor who, in Anwer's words, "has the spirit of teaching and serving right."

A significant aspect of the award is how the professor can serve students. If you've had Dr. Anwer as a professor, it likely is no surprise to you that she received this honor. This award goes far beyond the professor's work in the classroom. Dr. Anwer is consistently helping students, both her own and others, on top of teaching - for example, she is the advisor for the Public Relations Student Society of America and Sigma Delta Tau.

Although she fits the description for the award perfectly, Dr. Anwer shares that it was quite a surprise for her to receive the Costello Award.

"I got to know about it in March [when] I got an email from Cory Blad," Anwer said. "This was an email that was sent to all SoLA faculty. I saw my name, which I was not expecting to see at all. And so it was pretty surprising."



Dr. Anwer is the first person in the Communication Department to have received this award, after being nominated by students multiple times before. She was pleasantly surprised.

While Dr. Anwer does plenty of things outside of the classroom involving research, conferences and more, it is really meaningful to her that the Costello Award recognizes her passion for teaching.

"I always say that my heart is in teaching. And I was really happy about the fact that the recognition came for teaching and not the other aspects of what I do at my job. So that was really important to me," she said.

"I have to be nominated by my students who are the ones who are directly impacted by the teaching that I do. And more than that, it's just the fact that you're sort of inducted into this really cool Hall of Fame, I guess. Because there are won-

derful teachers there. Like, literally every single person that you want to take a class with.”

She not only just received the Costello Award, but she also recently received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. While exciting, she shares that she did not celebrate.

“The surprise was really sort of the major kind of response I had to it,” she said. “And the other thing about this is that the announcement came just a few days after my tenure and promotion announcement — that was the biggest surprise at the time!”

Dr. Anwer had a very exciting month and she is honored to be recognized for her teaching efforts, but she emphasized that she does not seek awards or recognition. While she appreciates these things and they make her feel good, it is her passion for teaching that makes her continue doing so. It is important to her to guide students to become successful professionals.

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“Teaching is something that I enjoy doing,” Anwer said. “It is something that I feel that I approach it in a way that sort of is having fun and interacting with my students and hopefully, we’re producing good things. We’re learning wonderful things and hopefully we are producing people who are able to have an impact on the world as they graduate from here. So that’s what is important to me in my career. This award is a recognition, it is great. It’ll go up on my wall. I think I’ll continue doing what I do.” ★