

Nomination for the 2024-2025 Dr. George J. Wanko Award for Outstanding Junior

Award Given for outstanding service and leadership, and for maintaining an excellent record for progressive academic achievement while at Barry

Submitted for Aftab Alam Masjidi on 3/28/2025

Aftab Alam Masjidi has successfully balanced academic excellence with leadership, service, and professional development since his first year at Barry when he set a goal of creating a lasting impact on our community. Academically, Aftab maintains a current 3.97 GPA in Computer Science with specialization in Cyber Security, earning a 4.0 gpa in all but one semester.

As a Student Ambassador, Aftab engages with prospective students to help shape their first impressions of Barry whether it's guiding tours, mentoring incoming students, or assisting the Admissions team. As Founder and President of the Muslim Student Association in his sophomore year, Aftab helped to create a strong, inclusive space for students, advocating for their needs and organizing impactful events that foster cultural and religious understanding. This includes Eid Celebrations, Friday prayer transportation, Ramadan activities, and Islamic educational programs. Recognizing the challenges faced by Afghan refugee children, Aftab founded the Sunday Discovery Program, a mentorship initiative providing academic support and cultural integration assistance. Every Sunday, he works with the children remotely, helping them to improve their language skills, adapt to new educational environments, and ensure they receive the necessary guidance to excel academically while adjusting to life in a new country. In fall '24 Aftab served as Co-Managing Director of FinFit Thursday conducting weekly financial literacy workshops for local high school and primary school students. He also served as Co-Managing Equity Research Analyst of our Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF) contributing to the managing of a \$1.2M portfolio, conducting financial analysis, and leading research efforts of tech companies. This aligns closely with his Computer Science major —bridging his passion for finance and technology. As part of Barry University's community service initiatives, Aftab contributed over 50+ hours to various projects, including Beach Cleanup, visiting children in hospitals, and volunteering at elder care facilities. As a Barry Stamps Scholar, Aftab has actively participated in the annual Day of Service, served as a mentor and resource to entering Stamps Scholars, and participating in various networking activities with fellow Scholars. Aftab is most worthy of the Dr. George Wanko Award for Outstanding Junior.

Breakthrough @ **Barry**
University

Angela Scott

Director, Admissions Operations

Recruitment and Admissions

Barry University

11300 NE 2nd Ave

Miami Shores, Florida 33161

P: [305-899-3666](tel:305-899-3666)

2024 Student Leadership Awards Nominations

Nomination Page

Each year Barry University recognizes our students at the annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet. The University will recognize students who have demonstrated exceptional initiative in service and outstanding leadership skills.

April 11, 2024

4:30-6:30pm

Please nominate students for the Class Excellence Awards by April 3rd at 5pm.

Submitted by Angela Scott

Student ID #

3507602

Aftab Alam Masjidi

Please select from one of the following awards:

Mother Gerald Barry Award for Outstanding Sophomore

View the full description, eligibility and criteria of each award

2024 Student Leadership Award List.pdf (https://barryuniversity-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/jcwilliams_barry_edu/EQ5e6VJBzdpFt7tIU8VsmLQB-owzCif2jyb9vFJXwrrh7Q?e=VWBWru)(https://barryuniversity-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/pdias_barry_edu/Eb0g-ah_hrdAiLyNshq4890BR1B1fQ2D5QCJSayNckt49A)

Why are you nominating this student, program, advisor, OR student organization? 300-500 words. Please include past and current involvement, service, leadership, and campus spirit.

Aftab is a well-rounded student leader, consistently demonstrating notable leadership, service, and academic excellence. Aftab was selected as a Student Ambassador for the Office of Admissions beginning in his freshman year and continues to do an outstanding job meeting and greeting prospective students, families, alumni, and special guests providing campus tours, sharing information about Barry and answering questions. He assists with and attends Barry's Open Houses, Admitted Students Days, and other recruitment events as a student leader on campus. He often staffs the front desk in Kelley House and assists Admission Counselors with daily tasks and other projects. Aftab exhibits outstanding communication skills and team leadership skills in this important role.

Last summer Aftab made a positive impact at Barry by working with our AVP & Dean of Students, Matt Cameron, in requesting enhancements to menu options in our dining hall, particularly for our current and future Muslim students. As a result, one of the stations in the dining hall now consistently features 100% certified halal food that is clearly marked by signage. Aftab demonstrated his dedication to advocating for the diversity, equity, and inclusion of underrepresented groups by founding the Muslim Students Association and serving as President. He collaborates with Barry's J.E.D.I Office in arranging equity, diversity and inclusion celebrations. Aftab has applied to be selected for the Environmental Leadership Summit in Adrian, Michigan this summer. As a Barry Stamps Scholar, Aftab has been active in Stamps events and activities, including the Stamps Day of Service in March assisting the residents of Shoreside Rehabilitation Center – Nursing Home. He also joined 2 other Scholars during spring break on March 6th to support the Stamps Scholars at University of Miami who performed in their annual UM All-Stamps Ensemble.

Aftab demonstrates outstanding academic excellence, earning a 4.0 and recognition on the President's List every semester since enrolling at Barry in fall 2022. He is majoring in Computer Science. I wholeheartedly nominate Aftab Alam Masjidi for the Mother Gerald Barry Award for Outstanding Sophomore.