FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

7 Questions with *Fahim Khan*

Assistant Professor, Computer Science and Software Engineering

Hometown: Dhaka, Bangladesh

What brought you to Cal Poly College of Engineering?
Cal Poly's unique Learn by Doing philosophy and commitment to practical, hands-on education were major draws for me, as they align closely with my past teaching experiences and philosophy. I wanted to work in a place that balances strong academics with practical applications, perfectly fitting my teaching and research interests.

Tell me about your research interests and why you are passionate about this topic.
I focus my research on computer graphics, data visualization, computer vision and machine learning. I love these areas because they combine creativity with technology and can significantly impact industries and society. My goal is to make complex information easy to see and understand, helping people make better decisions. My research also connects to education, using machine learning to improve teaching and learning.

What is your favorite part of your job?
I love working with students, helping them understand challenging ideas and guiding them in building real-life applications, which is incredibly rewarding. I also enjoy collaborating with colleagues on interdisciplinary research projects that address real-world problems.

What is your favorite place in San Luis Obispo County and why?
I love the ocean. Pismo Beach is one of my favorite places because of its beautiful views. It is the perfect spot in San Luis Obispo County to relax and feel inspired.

How do you like to spend your free time?
I try to spend most of my free time with my family. I also enjoy reading, taking part in outdoor activities and exploring new technologies. Spending time in nature and staying active helps me balance the demands of work.

What is the most helpful advice you've received?
Always be open to new knowledge and experiences. This mindset has helped me grow personally and professionally, allowing me to adapt, learn and discover new opportunities.

How do you support the college's commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion?
I foster a classroom where every student feels valued. Drawing from my experience teaching in three countries, I create an inclusive space that celebrates diverse perspectives. My research focuses on making technology accessible, using projects like citizen science to engage diverse communities. This aligns with the college's mission to build a supportive and empowering environment for all.

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