

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## 5 Questions with Dr. Lubos Brieda

Assistant Professor, Aerospace Engineering

### **What brought you to Cal Poly College of Engineering?**

Prior to joining Cal Poly, I worked as an independent aerospace analyst through my consulting firm. While that role allowed me to work on many space missions and projects in plasma propulsion and fusion energy fields, I was starting to miss working in a lab. At some point, numerical simulations can only take you so far. Joining Cal Poly seemed like the perfect opportunity to start conducting experimental research while simultaneously passing on my experience to a new generation of engineering students eager to gain skills through practical, hands-on learning.

### **What is the most helpful advice you've received?**

While many professors truly enjoy teaching, their real passion tends to be in their research. Talk to your professors about their projects and try to get involved in undergraduate research. It can lead to new opportunities, including internships and fully funded graduate school.

### **What is your favorite part of your job?**

I enjoy working with individual students and student clubs on new technology demonstration prototypes and the subsequent testing to increase product maturity.

### **How does engineering apply to your daily life?**

This may be a silly answer, but I enjoy cooking. To me, it exemplifies the overall engineering experience. You start with an idea for some end product (what you want to eat), then figure out what supplies and tools are available. Next, you come up with an algorithm (the recipe). And, unlike in the usual engineering world in which things tend to drag on, in a short amount of time you end up with a finished product.

### **How do you encourage engineering students to make an impact on the community?**

Being in college is a busy time, but try to volunteer as much as you can. Sometimes just being there is all it takes to improve somebody else's life.



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