

## Alfred University engineering students soar at Design Build Fly competition

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ALFRED, NY A group of Alfred University engineering students took part in a competition last week in which participants tested model aircrafts they had designed, built and flew model aircrafts.

The Alfred University team, named Aerosaxon, competed in the Cessna/Raytheon Systems Student Design Build Fly competition. The international competition, sponsored by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) was held April 19-22 in Wichita, KS. Alfred University, which had a team entered in the event for the first time, placed eighth out of 91 entrants.

The competition required student teams to design, fabricate and demonstrate the flight capabilities of an unmanned, electric-powered, radio-controlled aircraft. Teams were required to use their aircraft to complete various missions developed by the AIAA Foundation, Cessna Aircraft and Raytheon Missile Systems. The contest aims to provide real-world aircraft design experience for engineering students by giving them an opportunity to validate their analytic studies.

Seven engineering students comprised Alfred University's team. Aaron Smith, mechanical engineering major from Woodstock, CT, served as pilot and along with junior Ryan Fordham, mechanical engineering major from Canandaigua, NY, served as team leaders. Other team members were junior Sean Benoit, a ceramic engineering major from Gasport, NY; junior Richard Berger, mechanical engineering major from New Paltz, NY; junior Nathaniel Bender, renewable energy engineering major from Grahamsville, NY; junior Justin Smith, mechanical engineering major from Woodstock, CT; and junior Timothy Mahany, mechanical engineering major from Orchard Park, NY.

Seong-Jin Lee, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, supervised three teams entered in the competition. The Aerosaxon team travelled to Kansas for the Cessna/Raytheon Systems Student Design Build Fly competition. He said team members raised funds, approximately \$8,000, to pay for materials needed to build the airplane and for traveling to the competition.

The two teams made up of seniors will compete Friday at Alfred University&s Jericho Hill fields in the Town of Alfred. Lee said design and construction of model aircraft by the senior teams served as a senior design project.