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## Soaring Flyers

University of Dayton

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# NEWS



Monday May 11, 2015

## Soaring Flyers

University of Dayton students earned top honors in the international IT FLIES USA competition.

Alex Watt placed first in the presentation phase of the competition while Matt Pulfer won the flight-handling phase.

Watt also finished third in the flight-handling phase. Katelyn Dvorsky placed second in the presentation phase.

"The IT FLIES USA competition is an incredible opportunity that allows students to see their aircraft designs come to life," Pulfer said. "The Merlin flight simulator is a unique and unparalleled tool that aids in the creation of a polished final aircraft design. The competition is a good way to gain test pilot feedback on an aircraft design. It is a rewarding experience when your aircraft is programmed into the simulator and you see it take flight for the first time. Overall, the simulator and the competition create a type of learning environment that cannot be achieved in the classroom alone."

Students from around the world put their aircraft design skills to the test last month at the University of Dayton during the Merlin Flight Simulation Group's fifth annual IT FLIES U.S.A. competition. Members of the Society of Flight Test Engineers and the Society of Experimental Test Pilots tested the students' designs on the only Merlin flight simulator in the U.S., and one of 20 in the world.

Since the University installed the flight simulator in late 2010, University of Dayton students have won the IT FLIES USA and IT FLIES UK competitions.

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