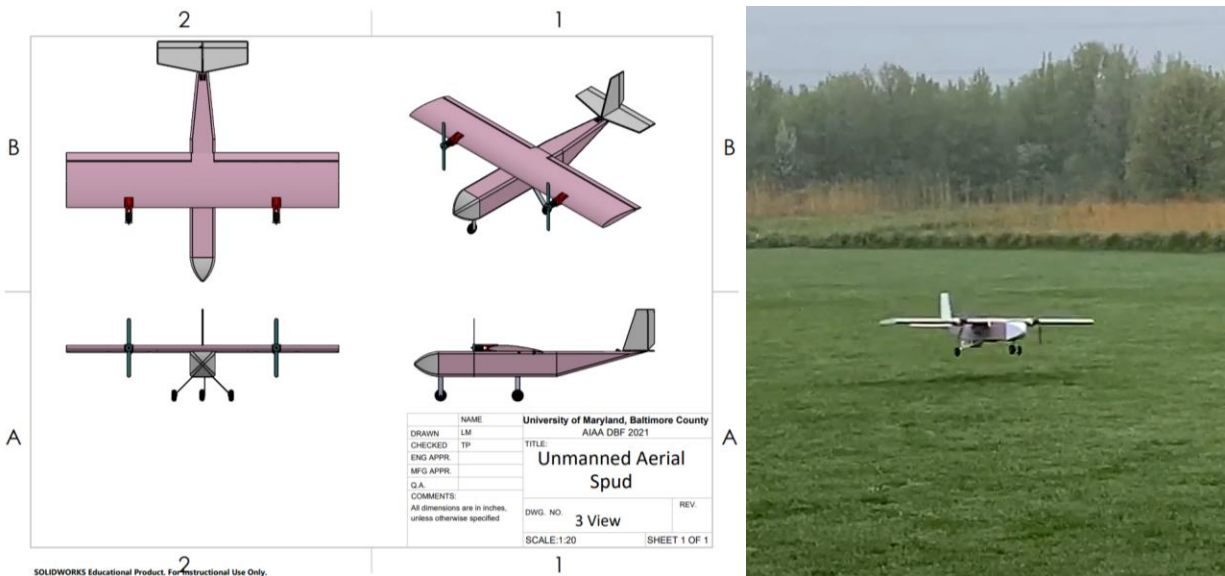


UMBC Places 20th in 2021 AIAA Design, Build, Fly Competition

The annual American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Design Build Fly competition is an international engineering design competition. Due to the pandemic, the 2021 competition was virtual and was scored from a report and video submission. The challenge for this year's competition was to create a remote control airplane with a remotely deployable sensor with flashing lights. In addition, sensors had to be carried as payload inside the airplane.



3D model drawings (left) and physical airplane in flight (right)

UMBC successfully met all aircraft requirements and placed 20th out of 115 teams. This is a massive improvement over our previous best placement of 50th in 2019. In just four years the team has gone from tied for last to beating schools like MIT, Virginia Tech, USC, RPI, and Cornell.

The 2021 UMBC Design, Build, Fly team was led by Project Lead Timothy Packard (BSME 2021), Avionics Team Lead Parker Schading (BSME 2021), Structures Team Lead Lani McGuire (current ME student), Aerodynamics Team Lead David Deluca (current ME student), and Mission Systems Team Lead Samuel Dennison (current ME student). The 2022 team will be led by Project Lead Lani McGuire (current ME student).