STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATION:

Title: Ascension of the Armies: The Impact of Ballooning during the Civil War

Faculty Mentors:
- Minh Nguyen
- Lisa Bosley

Student Presenters: Nathaniel Schattner

Whether the Poster Should Be Entered in the Poster Award Competition:
Yes

Brief Presentation Content Description for the Program Book:
The military usage of balloons was a new phenomenon during the American Civil War. Ballooning faced many challenges, yet nevertheless provided strategic military advantages and spurred further technological innovation.

Longer Abstract or Summary of the Proposed Presentation:
While much is discussed about the naval and land fronts of the Union and Confederate armies during the American Civil War, little is mentioned about the growth of aviation, specifically ballooning. My research explores the nascent emergence of aerial reconnaissance during the Civil War by analyzing efforts by both sides to develop a balloon corps. However, since the Union’s efforts were much more successful than those of the Confederates, I primarily focused on the advantages and challenges of the Union’s Balloon Corps. I also examined how the development of such an entity concurrently spurred other innovations and laid the foundations for the technology we have today. Planning the logistics of a new medium of war was certainly no small feat, and neither were the contributions that arose from such a development. Truly, those who were involved with the development of the U.S. Army’s Balloon Corps, such as founder T.S.C. Lowe, made no little plans.

Audience Type: Student General Interest

Area: SBS - Social & Behavioral Sciences (Psychology, sociology, history, political science, anthropology, social work, etc.)