A Study of Z Mic, an RR Lyrae Star\textsuperscript{1} JOSHUA MICKELEN, Westminster College (Utah) — The ability to measure the distance to stars has shown to have a lot of error that differs among the method used. A Cepheid variable star is used as a standard candle through a known period-luminosity relationship but it is unknown if RR Lyrae stars can also be used as standard candles through their own theoretical period-luminosity relationship. The focus of this project was to determine if the distance derived from a theoretical period-luminosity relation matches the distance measured by the GAIA survey using stellar parallax. Concerning the star Z Mic, the distance obtained from the period-luminosity relation was found to be in agreement with the GAIA survey, showing that in some cases the period-luminosity relation of RR Lyrae stars can be used to find the distance to standard candles.

\textsuperscript{1}Special thanks to GSLI, UNSGC, Dr. Kamenetzky, and Dr. Fitzgerald