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Degree objective when research was completed: Bachelor's  
Major: Physics  
College: COS  

Co-presenter(s): Not applicable  

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Session 6: University Library - W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Library  
Time of Presentation: 3:45 PM  

Presentation Type: Oral presentation  

Project Title: The Brood of the Swan: A MultiGenerational Stellar Population in MI7?  

Synopsis: A study of the young stellar populations within the MI7 nebula to determine whether triggered star formation is occurring within the region.  

Abstract: The M17 nebula, one of our galaxy's youngest, brightest, most massive and nearby star formation regions, features a prominent HII region and expansive giant molecular cloud (GMC). The young stellar population in M17 is characterized by a massive, main cluster within the HII region and a more dispersed and extended population enclosed by a large, shell-like structure of the GMC. This two-component population raises the possibility of triggered star formation within the nebula. We have analyzed the X-ray and infrared-excess young stellar populations to assess whether the relative masses and ages of the extended and clustered populations differ and whether this can develop a clearer picture of M17's evolution.