

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS**

**COLLOQUIUM**

Friday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008

4:00 pm

PHY 130

**We Are All Stardust**

**Ethan Deneault**

**Department of Chemistry and Physics**

**University of Tampa, Tampa FL**

**ABSTRACT**

About fourteen billion years ago, the energy of the Big Bang created Hydrogen and Helium. Life as we know it is dependent on the chemistry of organic molecules, yet most of the chemical elements that make up these molecules were completely absent at the beginning of the Universe. One of the greatest philosophical questions of human civilization is "Where did we come from?" The answer can be found simply by looking upwards on a cool, clear night when the stars are visible.