

SOFIA Lunch Talk

Date: June 5, 2006

Speaker: Steve Charnley

Title: "Molecules in Comets"

Abstract:

Comets provide important clues on the processes that occurred during the formation and early evolution of the Solar System. Space-based and ground-based observations of cometary comae show that comets appear to contain a mixture of the products of both interstellar and nebular chemistries. A major observational challenge in cometary science is therefore to quantify the extent to which cometary molecules can be associated with pristine interstellar matter. This talk will summarize what is known about the origin and chemical composition of comets and their relation to interstellar material.