Joseph Young is a Lamar alumnus and currently a PhD candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Rice University specializing in nanophotonics and device physics. Joseph discussed the use of physics in his interdisciplinary graduate research environment and how physics is currently being used to combat cancer as it pertains to his research. Joseph also discussed things one should know before applying to graduate school, how to find funding opportunities and what it is like to be a graduate student.

Physics STAIRSTEP students Nick Lanning and William Ware, Bryan Neal, Spencer Wigginton and Chris Lee attended the seminar along with 30 other students and faculty. After the presentation Joseph answered a host of questions from the audience and stayed longer to talk one on one with interested students.
“I am very pleased to have attended Joseph’s presentation. I got to learn about his physics research in the field photonics that is targeted toward isolating and destroying cancerous tumors with nanoparticles and laser light. After the presentation Joseph stayed to answer questions about his current research and previous experience as an engineer in industry which led him to decide to return to school and pursue his doctoral studies. He was full of excellent advice and encouraged me to pursue my studies in ways I hadn’t considered. For example, he encouraged me to search for summer sponsorship at the graduate school that I choose for the fall 2012 semester. The extra 3 months of experience would smooth the transition into graduate school and aid in writing proposals for external fellowships. I learned that being awarded an external fellowship allows one to have more flexibility with whom they work with inside the department.”

-Nick Lanning

“It is encouraging to see an alumnus from Lamar University working cooperatively, and competitively, with many fields of science to achieve a goal as important finding an effective and minimally invasion treatment for cancer.”

-Brian Neal

“Mr. Young’s presentation was extremely well presented, and very informative. His research involving optical response of nanoparticles kept the attention of the audience throughout his presentation. Towards the end of the presentation, and during the question and answer section, Mr. Young discussed the opportunities presented by graduate school. This information was very useful for those considering furthering their education.”

-Chris Lee