On Friday, November 12th, Bernadette Kulas was surprised for her birthday by Natalie, Amy, Olga, and Dee Dee.

**PhD Thesis Defense**

Christine Conrad, a graduate student at the Virginia Institute for Marine Science, is set to give her Ph.D. defense on December 14th, 2004. Her research was on the investigation of molecular-level interactions between heavy metals and environmentally important reactive phases.

**JLab Visitor**

Eugene Chudakov, a Jlab Hall A Physicist took a tour of our lab. He is pictured here with Natalie who was explaining the operation of the ToF-SIMS.

On November 9th, high school students from all over eastern Virginia came out to ASM’s annual Students’ Night. Students and teachers enjoyed dinner and a lecture entitled “Fun in Metals”, which answered questions such as: what is a metal? Where do metals come from? Can metals make noise? Can they remember? The lecture was written by Robert Pond, a professor at Johns Hopkins, and was presented by his son, Dr. Robert Pond Jr., the chair of the Engineering Science Department at Loyola College in Maryland.

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