When the New Year holidays were over and everybody returned to the lab, Natalie had almost finished her project. She wired the lab computers together and created a local intranet. From now on, any type of data transfer and computer communication in the lab becomes much easier and far user-friendlier. What a great job!

Tracy Williams is a well-trained AFM user already. As a graduate student at NSU, she continues her work on the magnetic properties of thin films and uses our AFM to characterize her samples on a regular basis. She also helps other students learn how to use the AFM. On the right, she is pictured with Brooke Lesley-Hunter, who is training to use the AFM. Brooke is working towards earning a Master's Degree in Material Science at Norfolk State University in May 2006.

Dr. Soobum Choi is another devoted user of our AFM. He works for the NSU Center for Material Research and is investigating new polymer materials to be used in electronics.

Dee Dee (Christine) Hopkins successfully completed her M.S. in Applied Science at the end of December 2005. She is continuing to work in our lab on a project on biological applications of ToF-SIMS.

But on Friday, the 13th of January, Dee Dee was informed that an official request for hiring her as a Patent Examiner was submitted to Human Resources at the USPTO (United States Patent and Trademark Office). Great news sometimes comes even on Friday, the 13th! We all wish Dee Dee good luck and great success in her future life.

On Saturday, the 7th of January, most of the lab employees and a lot of other ARC inhabitants joined together to celebrate Amy Wilkerson's 50th Birthday. Relatives, friends and coworkers all felt like members of one big family at Amy's house. Amy and Harry met guests joyfully and made everyone feel at home and have a lot of fun.

We all enjoyed live music, delicious food, and great company. Happy Birthday, Amy, and thank you very much for such a good time!

Editor/Photographer: Amy Wilkerson, Olga Trofimova, Natalie Pearcy.