December of 2006 was one of the busiest months of the year. One of the most exciting events was the visit by Paula Neely and Steve Archer on the 20th of December. Paula represents National Geographic, and Steve is an archaeobotanist for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and a W&M faculty member. They came to use our lab's equipment, the HiROX optical microscope, to characterize some amazing artifacts discovered in a Jamestown well, which, after serving as the fort’s water supply seemed to have become some what of a garbage can. Luckily for researchers, it was a great environment for preserving these seeds.

Details of this archeological discovery were widely published. Those publications were illustrated with the images, obtained in our lab, by means of the HiROX microscope. Below are two links to the web sites dedicated to this discovery:

http://historicjamestowne.org/news/tobacco_seed.php

Editors/photographers: Amy Wilkerson, Olga Trofimova, Natalie Pearcy.