Congratulations to Misty Cracraft, who was just promoted to Senior Research and Instrument Analyst!

I’d like to welcome three new members of the Diversity, Remi Soummer, Dave Soderblom, and Marco Chiaberge. Your help and your viewpoints will be greatly appreciated by all.

HST news:

- The HST Project approved the effort to purge the cooling loop in the NICMOS Cryocooler System. This will take place in mid January, and HST will be safed for about a day while this happens. With a successful purge, we are hopeful that we can do cold restarts of the NCS in the future, eliminate extended cycles of warming and cooling, and return NICMOS to operation more quickly.
- 39 proposals were submitted for the Multi-Cycle Treasury Program. The TAC will meet at the Colonnade on Jan. 8&9, 2010.

Planning has started for the calibration workshop in the summer of 2010. It will be held here on Jul. 21-23, 2010. Sessions will cover both HST and JWST. Thanks to Susana Deustua and Cristina Oliveira for agreeing to co-chair the organizing committee. They will be in touch with the other committee members to set up a planning meeting after the AAS meeting.

Remember---the division holiday party is TODAY at noon in the Boardroom. Happy Holidays!