

Safe Haven

Christine Krahlung is an integral part of Chadwick Residence, which is supporting homeless women, providing housing and teaching life and parenting skills. See page 4.

Photo by Rick Policastro



Calories Don't Count at Disney!

An MCC student club, “Middlesex, Math and the Mouse,” recently visited the Disney attractions in Florida for research purposes. They have been investigating ways to use statistics to predict wait times for rides, and in the fall semester, heard from Len Testa, who has written



books on the subject. The club was created to provide students a nonthreatening, practical application of material

taught in Statistics courses at MCC by allowing students to analyze and gather real data at Walt Disney World. Club members learned there's no reason to count calories when you're on vacation there. The data suggest that adult women can eat over 3,700 calories per day and lose weight, if they are over 150 lbs. and spend six hours actively touring the parks. Another research project involved predicting the wait times of lines and creating a plan to avoid waiting in the longest ones. Club members were able to complete a challenge of four parks in one day, which requires visits to all four parks and completion of at least two-thirds of the major attractions in each park in less than 12 hours. The club is in the process of creating a searchable database that will allow students and faculty to access all of the data gathered from the trip.



From left: club advisor Patty Kiernan, with students Shayne Judge, Alyssa Capone, Lauren Sutphen and Claudia Brzoza.



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Top, Eric He and Julissa Gesumaria prepare Wendy Wu for the test; above, Ms. Wu completes a puzzle; and at right, she dribbles two basketballs.

Student Selected for Brain Waves Research Project

An MCC student, Julissa Gesumaria, was selected to participate in the Governor’s STEM Scholars research project, a program to encourage high school and college students to go into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers. Ms. Gesumaria, a Biology major, is conducting research on the effects of specific physical activities on brain waves and cognitive performance. She plans to go into the field of neurology.

“Studies suggest that bi-manual coordination, using two hands to complete a task simultaneously, can enhance brain activity,” said Carmo Ferreira, research coordinator at the College who is working with the students. “Using electroencephalography (EEG), she is testing the effects that mental activities have on the brain’s alpha wave frequencies before and after a test subject performs various two-handed physical activities such as dribbling two basketballs – one in each hand.”

Ms. Gesumaria recorded the brain waves of high school student Wendy Wu as she completed a puzzle in two minutes, dribbled two basketballs, and did other tasks.

Ms. Gesumaria is also testing how a subject performs at a mental activity after completing a more physical one. “We’re trying to have these students see the effect on the brain when we do these types of activities,” Ms. Ferreira said. “In fact, Julissa is also currently testing the effects that relaxation has on brain wave patterns. It’s fascinating and really helps the students learn about brain function.”

Notables

Patrick Madama, vice president for institutional advancement, was recognized for 25 years of outstanding service to the advancement profession at the annual District II CASE Conference in Baltimore in February. Other achievement award winners included Barbara Capsouras of the County College of Morris and Donna Salmon of the University of Rochester.

A woman will be seeing her child off to school at the bus stop, and their predawn waves of goodbye will stay in Christine A. Krahling's mind for the rest of the morning. Who are they

and what circumstances led them here – these are thoughts Ms. Krahling has pondered long after she's parked her car and gotten to work. After all, the fate of mother and child are, in many ways, entwined with hers.

Ms. Krahling '86 works at the Chadwick Residence, a onetime-nunnery-turned-safe haven for women living in crisis in and around Syracuse, N.Y. It has been a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit, dorm-style final refuge for hundreds of women with bruised bodies and shattered dreams. They're often fleeing abusive relationships, struggling with substance abuse, suffering from mental health issues and looking for a place to call home. Sometimes, they have children in tow.

As Ms. Krahling goes about her daily duties in the newly created position as grant writer, fundraiser and public relations specialist at the Chadwick Residence, the images of the woman and child at the bus stop will often linger in her thoughts. So will the hope that they will become another of the program's success stories.

"You look at them and wonder, 'How did they get here? Who were they and at some point, what kind of life did they have that brought them here?'" Ms. Krahling said. "Everybody has a story, and that's what we are hoping to share with the community as we increase our public relations effort, to tell the stories of our women and their success stories as well, not just the tragedies that brought them to Chadwick, but their successes.

"We have a 95 percent success rate that we're very proud of. Just 5 percent of the women who go through the program return to homelessness."

For more information or to make a donation to the Chadwick Residence, visit chadwickresidence.org or call 315-476-6554.

Long before she was writing grants, seeking sponsorships and asking for donations, Ms. Krahling was a student at J.P. Stevens High School in Edison. Like many at the crossroads of their lives, she was unsure of which path to take. Middlesex County College welcomed her with open arms.

She harbored dreams of being a writer, and enjoyed her Children's Literature class. She worked hard to keep up in her Spanish honors classes. She learned how to balance her studies and a job. After graduating, she returned to get her certificate in public relations at MCC.

It has served her well in her 15 years in the field, whether she worked for the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, a Catholic high school in Pennsylvania or the Ronald McDonald House in Syracuse.



Jenni Gratien (left), executive director at the Chadwick Residence with Christine Krahling and Administrative Assistant Anne Gannon. Photo by Rick Policastro.

She moved to the Syracuse area about five years ago, and discovered that the Chadwick Residence's mission resonates with her.

"It's not a homeless shelter, it's a supportive housing facility," Ms. Krahling said. "We offer them professional services and things like parenting skills and how to write a check and practical life skills to get them back out and contributing to society. It's not a homeless shelter-revolving door type of thing."

It's also not cheap, so she has to be determined, unabashed and even resourceful. For instance, on-air radio personalities from 93.1-FM WNTQ have been recruited

to take part in a celebrity bartender night at a restaurant in the Syracuse area. The money raised at the event at the end of March is crucial. You see, the Chadwick Residence procured a grant, but it's a matching grant. That means Ms. Krahling and her colleagues must raise \$15,000. The \$30,000 would go to sprucing up the residence. It needs some fresh coats of paint, new pillows, window treatments, new dining room furniture and more.

Ms. Krahling knows it will be a tall task, but there are women in crisis who are counting on her.

"Fundraising isn't without its challenges, but I kind of thrive on that," she said. "It's nice to get out there and meet other people in the community and share what Chadwick does in hopes that they might partner with us for a one-time donation whether they want to sponsor an event or for a long-term relationship. It helps them, it helps us. It's a win-win for both of us."

Jenni Gratien, executive director at the Chadwick Residence, said Ms. Krahling's dedication is exceptional.

"Anybody can go out there and find a job writing grants or doing marketing or fundraising, but her passion and interest in the program, what we do, that is really what sold us," she said.



When Professor Christine Harrington published "Student Success in College: Doing What Works!" she took some of the royalties and established a scholarship for students. She invited those taking Student Success 101 classes to create posters summarizing research findings from a journal article. The three winners were honored at a ceremony in December. From left: Professor Albert Joy, whose Student Success classes yielded all three winners; Joann La Perla-Morales, College president; Humberto Marmolejo, first place winner (\$1,500) whose poster focused on motivation and academic success; Ashley Abreu, second place winner (\$800), who looked at time management; Crysol Lopez-Perez, third place winner (\$500), who highlighted how entering college affects health; and Dr. Harrington.



College Inks Agreement with East Brunswick Schools

MCC and East Brunswick Public Schools signed an agreement officially launching the MCC/East Brunswick High School College Pathways program. This initiative provides East Brunswick High School students the opportunity to earn an Associate Degree by taking college courses while still in high school. At present, more than 450 East Brunswick High School students have registered for 40 classes. Courses include mathematics, English, public speaking, accounting, computer science, natural sciences, history, political science and psychology, and world languages. From left, seated: Mark McCormick, MCC's vice president for academic and student affairs; Joann La Perla-Morales, College president; Victor Valeski, East Brunswick superintendent; and Vicki Becker, vice president of the Board of Education. Standing: Marla Brinson, MCC's dean of student affairs; Patrick Madama, vice president for institutional advancement; Michael Vinella, East Brunswick High School principal; Deborah Gulick, director of curriculum; and Evelyn Ogden, assistant superintendent.

In Memoriam

Mary Reilly, professor emeritus and founding member of the MCC community.

Neil Storm, assistant professor, English as a Second Language and World Languages.

Eleanor Mott Kane, retired administrative assistant in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

James Kahora, retired professor of Health and Physical Education, and a former intercollegiate coach.



Pink Night Scores Big Win for Cancer Charity

“Pink Night,” a program in which the Middlesex County College and Brookdale Community College basketball teams supported cancer awareness, was held at Middlesex on February 21. The men’s and women’s teams from both schools wore special warm-up t-shirts and members of the MCC women’s team organized a bake sale and collected donations for a cancer charity. Before the women’s game, Corine Mogenis, a thyroid cancer survivor, officiated at a ceremonial tipoff. She is tossing the ball, and is flanked by Middlesex forward Kaitlyn Johnsen (left) and Brookdale’s Kristina Dellanno. In the background, from left, Middlesex President Joann La Perla-Morales; Michel Powell, MCC head coach; and Rich Brunson, Brookdale head coach. The fundraising effort raised \$250, which was donated to Peppermints & Ginger, an organization that provides comfort kits to chemotherapy patients.



Students, faculty and staff in the Nursing Program participated in the “National Wear Red Day” campaign on Thursday, February 16, promoted by the American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. They were asked to wear red on that day, since red is a color that stands out. Everyone was given a Heart Health Information Packet and asked to share it with someone they knew who could benefit from it. This was a wonderful community outreach activity.



The children in MCC’s Kindergarten class recently visited the College Center to create their own pizzas for a hands-on lesson and cooking activity. Math was also incorporated into the lesson; the pizzas were cut in half and then quarters, as Debra Stoler, the kindergarten teacher, explained basic fractions. The children were able to visualize the math lesson they had been working on throughout the week. And they enjoyed eating the pizzas. At left, Jayahni Alvarez adds cheese to her pie; below, Chloe Jencik works on her creation.

Of Campus & Commerce

By Nick DeMatteo



Providing comprehensive services to thousands of New Jersey residents for over 40 years, The Puerto Rican Association for Human Development (PRAHD) is dedicated to “developing human potential and promoting self-sufficiency through programs designed to improve the social, economic health and educational status of the community in a culturally sensitive environment.”

Serving Middlesex County and the surrounding area from headquarters located in Perth Amboy, PRAHD

A structured, well-planned and on-going professional development program is an absolute necessity.

Yvonne Lopez,
Executive Director and CEO of PRAHD

operates 10 programs that target education, housing, benefits access, youth development, preventative health, senior services, and respite home care for individuals with developmental disabilities. The organizational vision is to “empower the individual to reach their highest potential and to participate meaningfully in their community.”

In this capacity, the staff and management team at PRAHD must possess a diverse skill set, be extremely adaptive and demonstrate a high level of professionalism. In order to maintain a vibrant organization and foster the personal growth of the staff, Yvonne Lopez, executive director and CEO at PRAHD, believes that a structured, well-planned and on-going professional development program is an absolute necessity.

To facilitate this, PRAHD partners with the Corporate Education and Training team at Middlesex County College to provide professional development workshops for its staff in Perth Amboy on a monthly basis. Workshop schedules are developed based on need and cover diverse

topics such as developing good management skills, teambuilding, problem-solving, business writing and

verbal communications. As a community service, PRAHD opens these workshops to associated local organizations. The PRAHD workshops are frequently attended by staff from organizations such as the Raritan Bay YMCA and others in Perth Amboy. Utilizing the NJBIA Basic Skills Training grant program, MCC is able to provide these programs for PRAHD as grant funded events.

The organizational mission at PRAHD is to provide community service to residents in every stage of life. For the very young, PRAHD operates the Mi Escuelita Preschool Early Childhood Center as part of the Perth Amboy Board of Education Public Schools. Operating five full days per week throughout the school year, credentialed teachers lead 75 students in a bilingual and bicultural environment. PRAHD’s Senior Services Center provides case management, individual health insurance counseling, transportation, assistance with benefits access applications, language translation and interpretation, workshops on wellness, legal, health, housing and insurance; among other services to seniors throughout Middlesex County.

PRAHD works to improve the lives of area residents in many ways. Among its most recent achievements is the implementation of a pre-apprenticeship training program. In collaboration with the Carpenter Contractor Trust, PRAHD developed a program to recruit, screen, and provide preliminary training for candidates wishing to enter the carpenter’s apprenticeship program. This program is designed to provide candidates a preview of the carpentry curriculum and a vision of the carpenter’s life. This program has become recognized nationally as a “Best Practices” model for social service organizations seeking to create career opportunities for their constituency.

Providing services across such a broad spectrum of needs requires dynamic leadership and an effective organization. Middlesex County College is proud to play a role in helping PRAHD to grow and remain a valuable service provider in our community.

Of Campus & Commerce is a column written by MCC’s director of Corporate Education and Training, Nick DeMatteo. It addresses training issues at New Jersey’s businesses and organizations. His email is NDeMatteo@middlesexcc.edu.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Betty Whalen, MPA, '87 generously donated \$1,500 for the **Betty Whalen Health Technologies Annual Scholarship**. This scholarship supports a deserving Hispanic female student enrolled in Health Technologies, with financial need but who is ineligible for federal financial aid.

Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. '80 continued their support of the **Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. Endowed Scholarship**. Established in 2015, the scholarship is awarded to students 25 years or older who are pursuing a degree in liberal arts and/or humanities, with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and require financial support but may be ineligible for federal or state financial aid.

Robert Ciatto, MCC Foundation Board member since 1980, made a generous contribution of \$10,000 to the **Robert J. and Elaine L. Ciatto Endowed Scholarship**. Established in 2002, the scholarship is awarded to a business major, raised by a single parent, with a GPA of 2.5 or better and financial need.

MCC Foundation Trustee Brian Daugherty and his wife, Catherine, are establishing **The Daugherty Family Endowed Scholarship**, and made the first contribution of \$5,000. The scholarship honors Brian's long and distinguished service on the Board of Trustees of the MCC Foundation beginning in 1989 and continuing to the present. During his tenure Brian served as treasurer and chairman of the Finance & Allocations Committee, and led the Board as its chairman from 2008 to 2015.

Dr. Rush Holt and Dr. Margaret Lancefield renewed their commitment to the **Congressman Rush Holt and Dr. Margaret Lancefield Annual Scholarship**. The scholarship benefits part-time students who work, have family obligations and reside in New Jersey's 12th Congressional District.

The **Dr. Margarete K. M. Driver Memorial Endowed Scholarship** was established in 2016 with a bequest of \$25,000 from Dr. Driver who passed away July 30, 2016. The scholarship honors the long and distinguished service of Dr. Driver who joined the faculty in 1966, serving until her retirement in 2005 when she was recognized as professor emerita. The scholarship will be awarded to students majoring in Spanish, Italian, German or French, having completed at least one semester.

Mary and Theodore Petti established **The Newman Petti Family Endowed Scholarship** with a donation of \$25,000. An adjunct instructor at MCC and a former nurse and health instructor, Mary adheres to the words of Brigham Young: "You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation." The Newman Petti Family Endowed Scholarship seeks to address the unique challenges many women face on their educational journey and will be awarded to females entering or returning to college at 25 years of age or more, with a minimum GPA of 2.5 and demonstrated financial need.



The Veterans Club at Renaissance at Monroe made a generous contribution of \$3,000 for the Center for Veterans Services Student Assistance Fund. Funds from the grant are made available to student-veterans pursuing a degree-granting academic program who are in need of emergency personal funding. From left: Noel Schleifman, club secretary/treasurer; Bob Friedman, vice president; Abe Adams, president; College President Joann La Perla-Morales; Richard Feldman, MCC's coordinator of Veterans Services; and Joe Barracato, club vice president.

The **New Jersey Council for the Humanities** has generously provided \$20,000 for the Employing Humanities to Cultivate Human Rights in Central New Jersey program presented by the Holocaust and Human Rights Center at Middlesex County College. This project seeks to elucidate the human experience – the foundation of the humanities. It combines history, art and sociology to bring genocide awareness and human rights abuse prevention to MCC.

Jayne Zall made a generous contribution to **The Shirley Zall Memorial Endowed Scholarship**, established in 2011 in memory of her mother, Shirley Zall. The scholarship is awarded to a single mother raising children while attending MCC full time with demonstrated financial need.

Infineum USA, L.P. and **Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery** each made a generous contribution of \$5,000 to the Process Technology program. The funds make it possible to purchase equipment to facilitate education, research and training for students enrolled in the Process Technology program.



Barbra Siperstein (center) is establishing The Barbra Siperstein Endowed Scholarship and has made the first contribution of \$13,000. Previously, Ms. Siperstein established The Carol A. Siperstein Memorial Endowed Scholarship and The Morris and Mildred Siperstein Memorial Endowed Scholarship. The Foundation is tremendously grateful to Ms. Siperstein for supporting a third endowed scholarship at MCC and for her loyal and generous support of MCC students. She is shown with the Carol A. Siperstein Memorial Endowed Scholarship recipients at the Annual Scholarship Reception last October.

Paige and Nicky L'Hommedieu once again extended their loyal and generous support of MCC students. Contributions for 2017 include sponsorship of the 6th Annual Casino Night, operational support of the MCC Foundation, and underwriting for the 50th Commencement to be held May 23, 2017.



The Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women has renewed its commitment to the Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women Annual Scholarship to provide support to a female student majoring in Political Science who intends to further her studies after MCC. From left: Representatives from the Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women, Daria Ludas, left, June Dungee, second right, and Jennie Ludas, right, with scholarship recipient Jecenia Garcia at the Annual Scholarship Reception last October.

Foundation Mission Partners

Mission Partners enhance the Foundation's resources and help it meet the challenge of providing financial opportunities for students to fulfill their educational and career goals:

- Johnson & Johnson
- Investors Foundation
- The Provident Bank Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital
- Stewart Business Systems

Please Support the Annual Fund

Your donation to the Annual Fund helps the MCC Foundation fulfill its mission of providing scholarships and raising funds for select College programs. All gifts make a difference! Please make your gift online at www.mcc-foundation.org or call 732-906-2564. Thank you.

Jackpot for Education!

More than 220 guests enjoyed an evening of make-believe gambling roulette, craps, blackjack and poker at Casino Night in February, helping to raise net proceeds of over \$35,000 to support the mission of the MCC Foundation.

Generous sponsorship support was received from numerous individuals, corporations and foundations including: *Casino Hosts:* Investors Foundation, Paige and Elizabeth L'Hommedieu, The Provident Bank Foundation, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; *Buffet Sponsor:* New Brunswick Plating Inc.; *Dessert Sponsors:* CulinArt Inc., Stewart Business Systems, Summit Associates Inc., and Whispering Knoll Assisted Living; *Dessert Co-Sponsors:* Donald Drost, Joann La Perla-Morales, Patrick Madama, Mark McCormick, Bradley Morton and Susan Perkins; *Gaming Table Sponsors:* Roseanne Bucciarelli, Frank and Joan Deiner, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 456, J & R Telecom, Middlesex County Building & Construction Trades Council, Middlesex and Somerset Counties Central Labor Council, Peter and Kate Mitnacht, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union No. 9, Starbrad Realty, LLC, Universal Mailing Service Inc./Colleen and Michael

A. Maroney, Jr., Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. and Theresa Young; *Queen of Hearts Sponsors:* Mark Banyacski, Barbara Bernard, CDI Architects Group, LLC, Til and Kathy Dallavalle, Falk and Flotteron, LLC, Joanne Fillweber, Firstech Environmental, Johnson & Urban LLC, Magyar Bank, Margaret Przygoda, McGraw Hill Education, Saker ShopRites, Inc. and Kim Silva-Martinez.

The Foundation also thanks its Mission partners for their loyal commitment to students: Investors Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, The Provident Bank Foundation and Stewart Business Systems.

Mark Banyacski chaired the event, assisted by MCC Foundation trustees Genette Falk, Joanne Fillweber '82 and DeAngelina Inman, together with several faculty and staff members. Restaurants, theatres, hotels, sports teams, and numerous businesses and individuals donated Tricky Tray items. Disc jockey Luis Reyes entertained the guests throughout the evening.



ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

AlumNotes

Rev. Dr. Edward Lamp '70 (Nursing) received his BSN from Saint Anselm College; MSN from Liberty University; MA from Saint Mark Seminary; and an MBA and Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) from Graduate Theological Foundation.

Robert Fedor '76 (Accounting) obtained a position with Ronpak through MCC's job placement program. Almost 41 years later he is still employed with Ronpak in South Plainfield where he is business manager/plant controller.



James J. Gazzale

James J. Gazzale '76 (Civil Engineering) was promoted to department head for the geotechnical division at Dewberry Engineers in Parsippany and Bloomfield. With over 35 years of experience, his expertise includes determining the appropriate methods and procedures for subsurface investigations and foundation design. Jim earned his BS and MS in Geotechnical Engineering from NJIT and is a licensed professional engineer and land surveyor.

Edwin S. Skrobacz, Jr. PE '81 (Engineering) has a new position as supervising senior structural engineer with WSP Corporation in New York, a company he has been with for over 26 years. He serves as structural steel design lead for a signature 3.5 mile long bridge over the Pensacola Bay in Northern Florida. Edward earned his BSC, MSCE from NJIT and is a licensed professional engineer in three states.

Michael Lupola '94 & '95 (Business Administration and Hospitality) fondly

remembers his time on campus and the activities he participated in such as wrestling and becoming a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Sreenivasan Manivannan '09 (Mathematics) published a book entitled "Earth 2066 AD," a popular science book, written with the general populous in mind. The book spans a variety of subjects, including but not limited to physics, biology, philosophy, politics and technology. "The book is precise and to the point and it has been written with great passion," Sreenivasan says. "I hope the future generations of mankind cherish it as a treasure."

Robert Smolarski '13 (Business) is manager of global e-commerce, B2B, entrepreneurial and consumer solutions at Newel Brands in Hoboken.

Cheyenne Nelson '15 (Liberal Arts) is a police officer for Essex County, while he eagerly anticipates his April, 2017 graduation to become an Essex County deputy sheriff officer. He has already focused his sights on joining the K-9 unit or Emergency Services Unit (ESU). In addition to his work on the force, Cheyenne is a volunteer firefighter for the Franklin Park Fire Department. His future goals consist of obtaining a master's and EMT certification, as well as starting a family and traveling. In his downtime he enjoys fitness related activities and home improvement projects.

Nicole Risoli '15, (Paralegal Studies), an Alumni Association trustee and the class valedictorian, welcomed baby girl Raeya Nicole Risoli into the world on January 10, 2017 at 5:36 a.m. Raeya couldn't wait and was delivered with the help of her dad, Jason Risoli, on the way to the hospital. Big brothers Anthony and Carmine were along for the ride! Everyone is healthy and fine. They will always have a story of a lifetime for their little girl.



Raeya Nicole Risoli



Katherine Owens

Katherine Owens '16 (Business Administration) is currently studying communications at Kean University. She is also pursuing entrepreneurship opportunities in event management and planning.

Melissa Nieves '16 (Liberal Arts) is currently enrolled in a dual degree program at NJIT, studying architecture and infrastructure with a minor in environmental studies and sustainability. Last year, she was nominated

by the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, an honors organization that recognizes and elevates high achievers. Melissa was recently named Scholar of the Week for outstanding representation of the society. She also belongs to the Society of Hispanic Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers, EOP, American Institute of Architecture Students, Freedom by Design, and National Organization of Minority Architect Students, where she serves as chapter president. "I am proud of the strides I made at Middlesex County College," Melissa said. "Those strides made it possible for me to be where I am today."



Melissa Nieves

In Memoriam

Tracey Kent '86

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Change Service Requested



An art exhibition by Richmond Garrick '96 opened with a reception, in which he shared his story and his vision with the capacity crowd. The artist, a native of Sierra Leone, displayed his work that included vivid scenes of his native land, including during its civil war, as well as 13 portraits of noted black luminaries. Mr. Garrick is donating the portraits to the College, which will permanently display them in West Hall. Mr. Garrick is a teacher at Williamstown High School, and many of his students and colleagues attended the reception. He spoke with high school students Maggie O'Donnell (center) and Samantha Ancello about his painting, "Wife's Parents."