



glamorous jobs, he was able to land a position writing for a cable sitcom. As his experience grew so did opportunity, and over the years he has earned credits on several television series, including *Weird Science*; *Honey, I Shrank the Kids*; and *Sabrina, the Animated Series*.

In 1999, Murphy collaborated with Drew classmate Dan Studney C'89 in a musical adaptation of the 1936 antimarijuana film *Reefer Madness*. The production nearly swept the 1999 Ovation Awards, winning in five of its six nominated categories.

These days, Murphy is involved with a different kind of madness—the type that emanates from the sudden overwhelming success of a new venture; in this case, the prime-time soap opera, “Desperate Housewives.” As co-executive producer of the ABC production, Murphy has been enjoying the warm glow that accompanies a No. 2-rated hit show. A brainchild of “Golden Girls” veteran Marc Cherry, “Housewives” quirky, capricious, and sometimes sizzling storylines have all but taken over Sunday evenings. Though the episodes are

jointly developed, Murphy especially enjoys writing for the character Lynette, portrayed by Felicity Huffman. A divorcee and single mom, Lynette will use whatever extraordinary and unconventional methods are necessary to provide for her family and find what’s missing in her life.

Extraordinary and unconventional—sounds like a political science/theater arts major.



Somewhere on the other side of the television-media universe is the Disney Channel’s *JoJo’s Circus*, currently one of the most popular animated children’s series that “encourages preschool learning through an interactive mix of movement, music and fun.”

Co-director of *JoJo’s Circus* is John Schnall C’83, animator and independent filmmaker. Schnall is legendary in animating circles and his films have been seen at festivals all over the world and in theaters throughout the U.S.—pretty much everywhere short films are shown.

During his 20-year animating career, Schnall has experimented with a vast arsenal of animating techniques, from drawn figures to stop-motion photography to pixilated live characters; he is always searching for new, untried methods. His talent and skill have helped make him prolific among animated film producers; while others are talking, John Schnall is doing. Perhaps Drew shares some blame here, too. ~ D.P.R.

Seminary Hall Sports a New Addition



Anyone visiting the University during the past year has become aware of the extensive work being done on Seminary Hall. The Theological School’s faculty and staff have probably been more cognizant than most as they have been temporarily relocated into every available nook and cranny on the space-hungry Drew campus.

A Survivor Remembers

The Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study presented its annual *Yom HaShoah, Day of Remembrance*, in April.

The program featured the Academy Award-winning documentary, *One Survivor Remembers*, a film based on Holocaust survivor Gerda Klein’s memoir, *All But My Life*.

Klein (pictured, right) introduced the film and held a question and answer session afterwards. She was joined by Richard Tisch (left), a Chatham, N.J., resident who, as a member of the 42nd Infantry Division, 7th U.S. Army, helped to liberate the Dachau concentration camp in Germany. This year, nine schools with more than 600 students joined attendees at the event. Each school was given a copy of both the film and the book, along with associated instructional materials.



Photo by Dave Hollander



"It's been a trial for all of us," says Maxine Beach, vice president and dean of the Theological School. "But the Drew community has been wonderfully supportive, making this difficult period much easier to bear."

The work on the 106-year-old Seminary Hall encompasses three phases: structural addition and elevator installation, building renovation, and chapel addition. The first two phases began as classes ended in the spring of 2004 and, if all remains on schedule, will be near enough to completion to allow reoccupation before the fall 2005 semester begins.

The following is a breakdown of the major renovation/addition work:

- Structural addition which includes new classroom and administrative spaces.
- Installation of an elevator to improve building access.
- Sprinkler system installation.
- Window replacement.
- External brick and stone restoration.
- Roof repairs and restoration.
- Flooring and interior finishes.
- Associated infrastructure repairs, improvements, and renovations, including electrical, ductwork, plumbing, and partition work.

Work on phase three, the new chapel facility, will be scheduled in the near future. ~ D.P.R.

Babylift Alumna Returns to Vietnam



It took 30 years, but Jennifer Nguyen Noone C'97 has come full circle. An orphaned 5-week-old infant, she came to this country in 1975 aboard the last flight of Operation Babylift, a rescue mission mounted at the very end of the Vietnam War that brought close to 2,000 Vietnamese children to America.

In June, Noone and 20 other war orphans of Operation Babylift boarded a World Airways flight to Vietnam. The trip was Noone's first visit to her birth country; it was also the first such visit to be officially sanctioned by the U.S. and Vietnamese governments. The returning 21 had less than two full days to tour Ho Chi Minh City, formerly the South Vietnamese capital, Saigon.

In comments published in *Newsday*, Noone praised her adoptive parents, who she said, "could not have been more loving or caring or supportive." She had also recently written a letter to former president Gerald Ford thanking him for authorizing Operation Babylift and thus saving her life: "I'm a very lucky person." ~ D.P.R.

BRIEFINGS

Drew University Methodist Library has recently completed a digitization project of nearly 300 Drew-owned manuscripts. A sampling of the digitized manuscripts and an explanation of the digitization process were on display in the Drew Library. The project was supported by a grant from the American Theological Library Association's Cooperative Digital Resources Initiative.

Islamic Culture Week was celebrated April 18–22. Festivities included Islamic Culture and Spirituality Theme House Chat, lecture on "Religion and Culture in Politics," traditional food, and information tables in the U.C. that featured different Islamic regions of the world.

The Drew Library and the Caspersen School will host a Willa Cather colloquium this fall. The two-day colloquium will be held at Drew from Sept. 30 to Oct. 1. Established Cather scholars, as well as students who have researched materials in the Caspersen collection, will report on their new findings. All who are interested in Willa Cather are invited to attend.

This summer, Drew University and Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association sponsored the annual weeklong program, titled this year "Faith in Film: The Gospel in Popular Culture." The program was held at Ocean Grove from July 10–15.