

Lac, Wisconsin, is living and working in Villa Clementine, a nineteenth-century former home in Wiesbaden, Germany. The villa is used by the Hessen [Germany] Literary Society, which selected Sergi for the residency as part of its efforts to build cultural ties between the German state of Hessen and its sister state, Wisconsin. Sergi's stipend and free lodging are allowing her to work on a book-length manuscript of poems and to participate in workshops, readings, and school visits as a cultural ambassador.

**David Clay '76** and **Sharon Pendzick-Clay '77** have earned applause from the plant science department at South Dakota State University in Brookings. David, specializing in soil and water, received the 2004 F.O. Butler Foundation Award for Excellence in Research for his work in soil science. Sharon also won that honor in 1997, and this year garnered the 2005 Griffith Faculty Research Award. She specializes in weeds and pest management.

In honor of his late mother, **George Patterson III '76** recently gave \$50,000 to the UW School of Pharmacy to establish the Doris Patterson Alzheimers Research Fund. The donation is designated to Associate Professor **Jeff Johnson** for the genetic Alzheimers disease project. Patterson, VP of Robertson Ryan & Associates in Waukesha, Wisconsin, is also exploring opportunities and investments involving biotech discoveries.

**Stephen Youngerman '76, JD'78** of Santa Monica, California, shared with us the accomplishments of his late father, **Henry Youngerman '33, MA'36, PhD'40**. After several university teaching positions, the elder Youngerman settled at the SUNY College at Fredonia in 1953. There he founded the Henry C. Youngerman Center for

Communication Disorders in 1955 — a training and outpatient facility offering a large range of hearing and speech-language services. The college held a fiftieth anniversary celebration of the center in May.

"Apparently a memoir of one family, one mother, this story encompasses the brave, sad, fantastic tale of the Jewish struggle in America," wrote one reviewer about *Who She Was: My Search for My Mother's Life* (Simon & Schuster) — "a rare and objective work about a deeply personal subject" and the fifth book by **Samuel Freedman '77**. The author is a professor of journalism at Columbia University in

New York City and writes regularly for the *New York Times*. He also wrote for the *Daily Cardinal* as a student, and part of *Who She Was* takes place in Madison. Freedman spoke on the UW campus in March as part of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies' Jewish Heritage Lecture Series.

What does it take to head the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Insectary? **Daniel Bean MS'78, PhD'83** is finding out. Formerly the state agriculture department's biocontrol specialist and a researcher for the USDA's A.R.S. Exotic and Invasive Weeds program, Bean plans to establish the Palisade, Colorado-based facility as a pre-

mier center for weed biocontrol — using beneficial insects in place of chemical pest control.

"Roll over, Voltaire," says playwright **Danielle Dresden '78, MA'85** wryly about *Source Code. Candide*, her new, two-act "satirical play for today" that "tackles fundamentalists of all stripes." The work made its world debut in April at Madison's Overture Center, and marked the twentieth anniversary season of TAPIT/new works, the Madison tap-dance and theater studio where Dresden and Donna Peckett serve as producing artistic directors.

Though the mighty Badgers we may be, few among us can claim this accomplishment by

## Chattin' with the Chicks

It's true, ladies: sometimes we all need to engage in the kind of dishing and venting that only our girlfriends can understand, and **Lara Solomon '91** gets two full hours of it every weekday. She's a host, as Lara Dyan, of *ChickChat Radio* ([www.chickchatradio.com](http://www.chickchatradio.com)), whose motto is, "Where it's girls' night out every day..."

Dyan launched *ChickChat* with her good friend and co-host Heidi Hanzel in 2002, and today, it's an industry pioneer as one of the only nationally syndicated, non-political, female-hosted talk-radio shows — in short, radio talk shows by and for women. Dyan and Hanzel are achieving success while leading this new genre: the show was chosen last fall as a "rising star" by the radio trade journal *Radio c3 Records*, and Dyan was recently elected to the board of the New York City chapter of American Women in Radio & Television.

*ChickChat's* focus and strength come from the two women's very different perspectives: Dyan talks about her life as a dating single in the Big Apple, while Hanzel, from a separate studio outside Washington, D.C., gives her take on life as a suburban mother of two who rejects that very label — the "suburban-housewife soccer mom." In addition, the duo welcomes guests who are "in the know" on a variety of subjects; they take live calls from listeners; and they believe that no subject is too raw or off limits — they'd rather have some fun with taboos than preach or get political.

So you can bet it's entertaining. "We like to describe it as *Cosmopolitan* magazine meets *Sex and the City*, and maybe a little *Desperate Housewives*," says Dyan — but it's much more than that. *ChickChat* wants to empower women to be themselves, to have fun, and to live beyond stereotypes.

The show runs live on weekdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Sirius Satellite Radio channel 131; via the Internet at [www.lifestyletalkradio.com](http://www.lifestyletalkradio.com); and at various times on local stations across the country. When you tune in, Dyan says "you'll get a little laughing and maybe a little learning about how women think, but mostly, we just want it to be fun for listeners."

"The best part of all this," she concludes, "is that I get to talk to one of my closest friends in the whole world every day for a couple of hours, almost completely spontaneously. I actually hate it when the show comes to a close. We could keep going on forever." And, if Dyan and Hanzel are truly the trailblazers that radio-industry execs seem to think they are, they just might.

— P.A.



Here's a toast to Lara Solomon: as *ChickChat Radio's* Lara Dyan, she's been elected to the board of NYC's chapter of American Women in Radio & Television.