



'Great new writer'

After working as a bankruptcy counselor, radio announcer and fly-fishing guide, **Stephen Byler (C 92)** landed a book deal. The William Morrow Company released his literary debut, *Searching for Intruders: A Novel in Stories*, in January, and Byler began a three-month promotional tour.

The tour is taking Byler from New York to California, with many stops in between, including EMU, where he was scheduled to be part of the "Writers Read" series on Mar. 21.

"*Searching for Intruders* is a stunning and innovative novel," says author Maureen Howard. "At times harrowing, at times tender, Byler's stories gather the life of a young man striving for emotional honesty in a bewildering and often brutal world."

Byler's academic career, after graduating from EMU, included studying philosophy at Princeton University, earning a master's in religion and literature at Yale University, and receiving a Master of Fine Arts in fiction from Columbia University.

Byler now divides his time between Pennsylvania, New York City and Montana. He is currently working on his second novel, set in Cuba.

Late last year, Barnes & Noble Bookstores selected Byler for its "Discover Great New Writers" program.

Bob Brenneman (C 97) took a position as interim director of the CASAS intercultural program of Semilla, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary. Wife Gabriela (Gaby) will graduate from the Universidad Rafael Landívar with a degree in political science in November.

Chadd Charles (C 97), Nashville, Tenn., works for Perexel International as an investigational medicine researcher with new oncology and cardiovascular drugs. His wife, Shannon is a senior marketing director and events coordinator at a golf course and country club.

Benjamin Stutzman (S 97) was ordained last November as pastor of Blooming Glen (Pa.) Mennonite Church.

Myron Bontreger (C 98) was licensed and installed last September as youth pastor at First Mennonite Church of Middlebury, Ind.

Carey Keyes (C 98), Elkton, Va., employed by nTelos since 1998, has been promoted to a retail channel manager's position. The company is an integrated communications provider based in Waynesboro.

Krista Moyer (C 98) is in her third year of a three-year assignment in Haiti. Her work is in agriculture.

Babu Ayindo (G 98) is now a part-time research director for the Amani People's Theater in Nairobi, Kenya.

Anna Creech (C 98) moved to Lexington, Ky., to take a job at Eastern Kentucky University as a serials/database cataloger. She graduated from James Madison University last August with a master's in library and information science.

Tad Williams (C 98) will graduate from American University in Washington, D.C., in May with a master's in public policy.

Ryan Hess (C 98) works in shipping in the family business, Hess Brothers Fruit Co.

Joseph Bradford (S 99), Ringgold, Va., is pastor of Rock Springs United Methodist Church.

World premiere

The New York Genesee Symphony Orchestra performed the world premiere of *Rockingham Fair* by **Anthony VanPelt (C 99)** of Harrisonburg in December. This is the second composition premiered by the orchestra, whose conductor met VanPelt when the EMU student was studying composition and conducting in Italy. Both pieces have been recorded by the National Opera Orchestra of Beijing, China—another contact made in Italy. In March, a full orchestra performed VanPelt's master's thesis composition at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, Va., where he is a graduate student.

James "Jimmy" Miller (C 99) is enrolled in James Madison University's counseling program.

Virginia Mason (ADCP 99) and husband Steve moved to Goshen, Ind., last May. Ginny works at Goshen General Hospital for "Nurse on Call." Steve is pastor of Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren.

Deb Kihfer (C 99) is in Lushnje, Albania, serving as an intern in agricultural development. She also assists in church planting, teaching English and working with a church youth group.

Hunt Dekle (ADCP 99), Fishersville, Va., was promoted from commissary manager to inmate counselor at Augusta Correctional Center.

Gilbert Perez (C 99) is a mental-health social worker at Mennonite General Hospital in Aibonito, Puerto Rico. He hopes to pursue a doctorate in social work.

Nathan Barge (G 99) is director of the Restorative Justice Initiative Program at Community Mediation Center in Harrisonburg.

2000-01

C. Marie Shearer (ADCP 00) has accepted a position with Harrisonburg High School as instructional aide in the English as a Second Language Program.

Christina Smith (C 00) and **Nevin Mast (C 00)** are beginning a three-year assignment in Mozambique under Mennonite Central Committee. They are community development workers. Nevin previously served with MCC in Jamaica.

Jeremy Yoder (C 00) and **Bethany Kirby (C 01)** moved to Boston last September. Jeremy is in a three-year violin-making program at North Bennet Street School. Bethany is a management aide for Boston Housing Authority, helping low-income people find housing.

Mindi Roland (C 00) is a Bible and social studies teacher at Christopher Dock Mennonite High School, Lansdale, Pa.

Brittany Culbertson (C 00), Harrisonburg, Va., works at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage as the branch manager's assistant.

Laura Hess (C 00) is an emergency-room nurse at Lancaster (Pa.) General Hospital.

Quincy Longacre (C 00), Telford, Pa., is a field consultant and salesman for Farm & Home Oil Co.

Carrie Rogers (C 00) is a social worker with East Hardy Schools in Baker, W.Va.