

Aaron Jagdfeld was recently promoted to chief executive officer of Generac Power Systems Inc., based in Genesee.

Bill Shepherd was named stage manager of "Finding Nemo – The Musical" at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Ray Stetter has joined ThePort Network as vice president of product development. The Atlanta-based company is a social media solutions business that helps clients build online communities.

1994

Dave Langemak, president of the Plymouth office of Community Bank and Trust, will also lead the Elkhart office.

1996

John Christian graduated from Central Michigan University with a master's degree in educational instruction. He was appointed to the board of the National Catholic Band Association and is teaching music courses at Southern Catholic College in Dawsonville, Ga.

1997

Eric Morones is the lead saxophone player for the Brian Setzer Orchestra.

Gunn Polparsi was named dean of the School of Business Administration, Dusit Thani College, Bangkok, Thailand.

1998

Army majors **Aaron and Monica Radtke** have been promoted together for the fourth time. They used video teleconferencing to have a joint promotion ceremony while he was in Iraq and she was at the Pentagon.

Stacey Nash worked for NBC during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, producing gymnastics for nbcolympics.com

1999

Jacqueline Davies premiered the staged reading of her new play "Resistance" at the Missoula Writer's Colony in Missoula, Mont.

Jamie Page-Stadler has been named director of the Office of Career Services at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Andrew Vance is the master electrician for the Alley Theatre in Houston.

Mary Wimmer '85

PSYCHOLOGIST EXPLORES HERITAGE AND LOSS

As a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Mary Wimmer was fascinated by the array of areas open to school psychologists.

On her own, she found another: Writing fiction.

Inspired by her mother's Irish ancestry, her daughter's involvement in Irish dance, and the true story of a tragedy said to have orphaned hundreds of children of Irish immigrants in Milwaukee's Third Ward, Wimmer wrote the award-winning novel for young adults "Reaching Shore," which she co-published in 2007 with Goblin Fern Press of Madison.

"It's historical fiction," says Wimmer, 50, a "history geek" in high school who was later drawn to psychology and earned a master's degree in school psychology in 1982.

Like her book's main character -- a high school junior named Maggie -- Wimmer researched the sinking of the Lady Elgin on Lake Michigan in 1860, poring through original accounts of the disaster involving members of Milwaukee's Irish Union Guard, who took the steamer to Chicago to hear a speech by Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln's presidential rival.

While returning, the ship was rammed by the schooner Augusta, leaving more than 400 people to die.

"Looking into your heritage and the importance of culture, I think, is really reflected in the book," says Wimmer, whose fiction debut was

named best young adult novel by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association in 2008. Her curriculum guide for teachers is available at www.reachingshore.com.

Before writing the novel, Wimmer wrote "School Refusal: Assessment and Intervention Within School Settings," dealing with children who won't go to school because of emotional reasons, such as anxiety or depression.

In "Reaching Shore," Maggie, a violinist, deals with performance anxiety, the subject of Wimmer's doctoral dissertation at Marquette University.

Her novel also explores "the idea of loss and what happens after we die and the connections we have with people who have died," says Wimmer, who's now working on an adult novel.

Now in her first year at Pershing School in West Milwaukee after more than 18 years at Bristol School in Kenosha County, Wimmer hasn't lost enthusiasm for being a school psychologist.

"The field is just always changing," she says, adding, "There's a shortage right now. There are jobs."



Mary Wimmer

—Sandy Cullen