

# Giving Back...a Pointer way of life

Albert Einstein once said, "The value of a man resides in what he gives and not what he is capable of receiving."

This holds true for many Pointers who have given back to their communities, their alma mater and their future fellow alumni on both a small and global scale. Whether its providing for those in need, being a mentor or conserving natural resources, UWSP alumni are using their education at Point to make a difference in the lives of others.

Here's just a sampling of Pointers who are giving back, but there are countless more. If you know of an alumnus or alumna who makes a difference, we'd love to hear about it at [alumni@uwsp.edu](mailto:alumni@uwsp.edu).

## List Fellowship offers alumni experiences money can't buy

A tenured professor of economics at the University of Chicago, **John List**, '92, Flossmoor, Ill., has been described by the *New York Times* as an "emerging star" within the growing field of the economics of philanthropy. The 2008 winner of the UWSP Distinguished Alumnus Award has also been recognized for his pioneering use of field experiments to explore economic behavior.

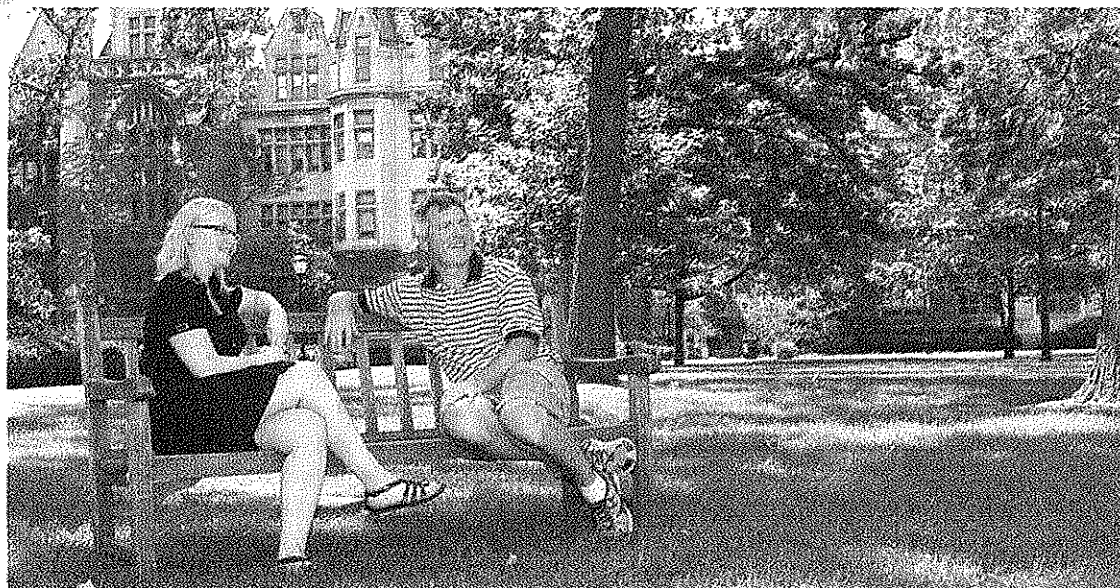
List is now using that expertise to offer UWSP graduates a spot on his economic research team at the University of Chicago. The List Fellowship gives promising UWSP economics students the chance to work with List and his colleague Steve Levitt, best-selling author of *Freakonomics* and *Superfreakonomics*, on hands-on economic research concerning timely issues such as high urban dropout rates and the wage gap between men and women.

The first List Fellow, **Dana (Krueger) Ganter**, '09, Chicago, has been working with List since she graduated and has worked her way up to being a project manager. A double major in mathematics and economics at UWSP, Ganter stood out for the fellowship due to her natural curiosity and analytical point of view.

"She's a brilliant writer and very creative, she's taken on writing first drafts of textbooks as well as research," said List. She also manages field experiments and hires team members, he added. "She's contributed to the group in ways she doesn't even know."

"I've learned more from John than I can even think of at the moment," Ganter said, "but mainly it's that perseverance and confidence can get you anywhere you want to go. Just looking at John and all he's accomplished at a young age, I can't imagine doing half of what he's done."

List created the fellowship to give back to UWSP after realizing he had something unique that Point students could use—experience that money could not buy.



**Dana (Krueger) Ganter and her mentor, Economics Professor John List, enjoy a warm day in the University of Chicago campus square.**

"Bringing someone here to the University of Chicago could be a big benefit," he said. "We have Nobel Prize winners walking up and down the halls of our department, and fellow Pointers could have a chance to rub elbows with the very best minds in the world. That was something I could give back, and along the way (the fellows) could learn something about economics and use what they've learned here to help their careers in the future."

List says the future of the fellowship is quite bright and he'd like to see three or four more come to Chicago next year. He hopes more talented economic majors will see what Ganter has done and want to follow in her footsteps.

Ganter will work with List for another year then plans on attending graduate school. Her ultimate goal is to return to UWSP. "I'd actually be happiest being a teacher and coming back to Stevens Point because I love it so much," she says. "I'd like to inspire people like me to go out and do great things."

List's next project will take him to the Gulf Coast, where he will conduct research in order to advise the government on the value of ecosystem damages from the BP oil spill. Ganter will assist him on the project.

It was his focus on environmental economics that originally brought List to UWSP, where the College of Natural Resources was a big draw.

"Point taught me a lot about economics and how efforts yield outcomes that are unimaginable. Point gives you the tools to work your way up," says List. "It's only right to give back to the place that has given me so much."

"I'm still a Pointer because part of my heart will always be in Stevens Point," he continued. "That part will always drive me to continue to try to make Point a better place to go to school. I believe in public education and I believe Point is second to none in providing public education."