

I am Herb Nichols. I graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in Mathematics. My expectation to receive a great education in Mathematics when I enrolled at the University was far exceeded. The mathematics curriculum and the professors who taught it were truly outstanding. My great education at the University enabled me to lead a productive career at what is now called Voya Financial, from which I retired after 45 years of service this past July. With the help of matching contributions from Voya, my wife Annette and I were able to establish an endowment for the Herb and Annette Nichols Undergraduate Scholarship in Mathematics in appreciation for the education which I received at the University. What I hadn't expected to receive when I enrolled at the University was a life long appreciation for and love of distance running. Gopher's Track and Cross Country coach Roy Griak allowed me to join the team even though I had absolutely no credentials as a high school distance runner, and I participated with the same kinds of support and encouragement from Coach Griak that he provided to Olympic athletes who were my teammates. I continued distance running through all of my 45 years of work at Voya, including running the Twin Cities Marathon, Grandmas Marathon and the Boston Marathon. When I went to work following graduation, one of the first things I did was to form a company running team for the Corporate Running Series in which many of my co-workers participated. Voya still had a running team and training facilities for it's employees until the pandemic closed our office downtown. The same Coaches and athletes are involved in Indoor Track as in Outdoor Track for both men and woman, but today only woman athletes have the benefit of an Indoor Track team. I can attest that given the weather we have in Minnesota during January and February, the Indoor Track and Field season was a really valuable part of my education at the University. I hope that the Indoor Track team for men can be restored as a result of your committee's review.

Thank you.

Herb Nichols

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