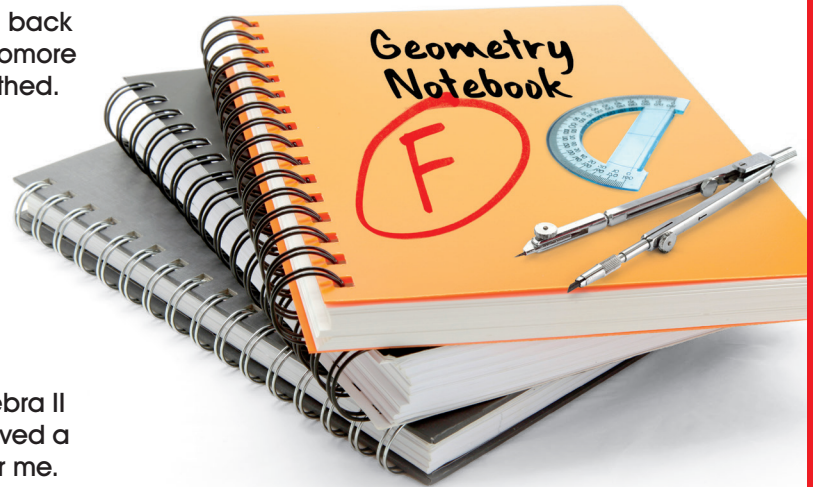


Ds and Fs

I attended a large, suburban Chicago high school back in the day. There were 1,000 kids in my class. Sophomore year, I ended up in a geometry class that I just loathed. We had to do a notebook on geometry, as if the course itself wasn't bad enough. I developed a mutinous stance, refusing to do this awful notebook. Not only did I flunk the tests, but by not doing the notebook, I got a **big fat F**. In those days, you made up your F by repeating the course in summer school. So off I went. My parents were furious.



As a junior the following year, I got stuck in an algebra II class. Obviously, math was not my thing and I received a second semester D. Off to summer school again for me.

In college, my husband, Dick, had some of the same trials and rites of passage – or what is commonly called "growing up." College got more interesting, and life moved on. Dick and I started Uline about 10 years after we were married. We had three little kids at the time.

We have 9 grandchildren now and, in talking to them, they have never received a D or an F. A number of them took geometry and algebra before high school. Listening to them, I don't think teachers give many Ds and Fs anymore.

EARLY SUCCESS

Early on, my father-in-law and my older cousin developed a great friendship. They shared a mutual love of fishing, especially for muskie, in northern Wisconsin. We all got together over the holidays.

One of the best memories I have is seeing the two of them in our office, looking up at the wall with all the pictures of Uline products that were heading into the catalog. My father-in-law turned to my cousin and said, "Who would have ever thought a successful company would come from these two?" It was just a defining moment for me. One that I'll always remember. Even with that success, my thoughts always return to my first defining moment: that geometry notebook and the F I got!



Everyone has defining moments that shape their lives. What are yours?

Liz Uihlein

