

President Welty Reflections

**Ten Years in sixty seconds** ( April 24, 2013, Honors Graduation Dinner)

The first years were a flurry of emails between President Welty, Bernie Vinovrski, Joe Hueston and myself, getting the wording correct on the letters of invitation, acceptance, and the alternate letters. Hmm, he left the wording of the “sorry” letters to me.

At that time, and throughout the decade, he was always, almost instantly, available to help with the details of the rollout of the Honors College.

My favorite part of the decade was the parties, “receptions,” that he attended and hosted for the students, faculty and staff of the Smittcamp Family Honors College: the Welcome Dinners, the Holiday Receptions, the Graduation Dinners (like tonight) and the first Alumni Reception. He did not have to do all this!!

I must say he was always available with advice, without micromanaging.

He also, I am sure, did not pass on a few calls he received from distraught parents about their child not receiving the correct letter from the Honors College.

How did he successfully pull this off? A quote from Colin Powell: “ Leadership is the art of accomplishing more than the science of management says is possible.” President Welty accomplished more than was possible for the Smittcamp Family Honors College, as well as in other minor areas.

So, now we have a over a decade of students and future leaders that are proud to be called “President’s Scholars!”

Thank you, Dr. Welty.