



POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR AND STUDENT HONORED FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS AT CAPITOL



This year's MVSU HEADWAE honorees are Thaddeus McClinton and Dr. Larry Chappell.

In February, Dr. Larry Wayne Chappell and Thaddeus Vincent McClinton, Jr. attended an event at the state capitol celebrating their academic achievements.

Titled Higher Education Appreciation Day – Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE), the HEADWAE program is an annual event highlighting the success of students and faculty members at Mississippi's institutions for higher education – both public and private. This was the 28th year of the event.

“I think it was a distinct honor to be selected as a HEADWAE recipient this year,” Chappell said.

Governor Bryant welcomed Chappell, McClinton, and the other honorees to the state capitol in Jackson. Members of the state Senate and House also gave remarks, and following the official remarks the honorees were given a tour of the building. They were then taken to the Jackson Marriott for a luncheon.

Blake Wilson, president of the Mississippi Economic Council, is also the chairman of HEADWAE, and he introduced the keynote speaker, President of Ingalls Shipbuilding Brian Cuccias. HEADWAE has several corporate sponsors, such as Ingalls Shipbuilding, AT&T Mississippi, Chevron, Nissan, and others, who were recognized during the luncheon. Following the recognition of the corporate sponsors, honorees' from each school were called to stand in recognition of their academic achievements.

The Mississippi Legislature established HEADWAE as a day of appreciation for the state's academically talented students and faculty members. The program is a way for the legislature to thank the state's brightest minds for their commitment toward the future of Mississippi.

Each school decides who it will nominate for the honor. This year, faculty members at Valley formed a steering committee evaluating the achievements of the various students and professors at MVSU before deciding on Chappell and McClinton.

“I'm especially gratified that my work was reviewed by my peers,” Chappell said, reflecting on the selection process.

Chappell, who is a full professor of political science in the department of social sciences, has had many impressive accomplishments during his tenure at MVSU. In addition to authoring a book on conservative political columnist George Will, he has published multiple articles in peer-reviewed journals of political science.

Additionally, Chappell is the coach for Valley's award-winning mock trial team and an advisor for the pre-law club. He is currently working on a book about citizenship.

McClinton has also been exceptionally engaged while at Valley. He is a ROTC student with three majors: political science, sociology, and criminal justice – and he is considering a fourth major, the newly approved B.A. in PreLaw/Legal Studies degree.

McClinton participates in several extracurricular activities, including the mock trial team, the pre-law club, and as Mr. Senior in the MVSU Royal Court. Despite his numerous academic and extracurricular commitments, he has been able to maintain a 3.7 GPA. After graduation, McClinton hopes to go to law school and is thinking about becoming a judge advocate general (J.A.G.) for the U.S. Army. He was happy to be selected from among his peers for the honor.

“To know that my academic success is being recognized is definitely an honor,” McClinton said.