

Remarks by Dr. Mark Mullenbach during the dinner on Friday, March 7, 2025.

On behalf of my colleagues at UCA, I would like to congratulate [Clay] for being chosen for this year's ArkPSA Distinguished Scholar Award! Just to highlight some of Clay's many accomplishments in the areas of teaching, research, and service, I will paraphrase from the nomination letter that was submitted to the Distinguished Scholar Award committee this past fall.

“[Clay] earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in political science from the University of South Carolina (1977 and 1981) and his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Arizona (1988). In his teaching and research, [Clay] has specialized in contemporary social and political theory, water politics and institutions, environmental political thought, and U.S. politics and public policy. [Clay] previously taught political science as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Texas-Arlington from 1987 to 1989 and as a tenure-track and tenured professor at Emporia State University in Kansas from 1989 to 2005. While at Emporia State University, [Clay's] manuscript, *Rethinking Moral Economy*, was published in the *American Political Science Review* in 2001. This article, which was reprinted in the edited book in 2010, has since been cited 290 times by scholars in their published articles and books.”

“Since Fall 2005, [Clay] has served with distinction as chair of the Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies (formerly Political Science) at UCA, where he is currently the longest-serving department chair. For nearly 20 years, [Clay] has effectively and professionally supervised a department of ten faculty members and bachelor's degree programs in political science, public administration, and international studies. Notably, [Clay] has been an active member of the ArkPSA since 2005, including presenting papers on political theory

panels and participating in roundtable discussions during annual meetings. [Clay] has also served as section chair and panel chair/discussant on several occasions during ArkPSA annual meetings, and he has served on the Editorial Board of the *Midsouth Political Science Review* since 2007.”

“[Clay] has had an active research agenda while serving as department chair during the past 20 years, resulting in five publications in academic journals and books. His research has focused on political theory, the politics of water and moral economy, and executive power in the war on terrorism. His most recent manuscript, Machiavelli’s Deceptions, was published in the journal *History of Political Thought* in 2023. [Clay’s] manuscript on Machiavelli's Deceptions was recognized with the Best Faculty Paper Award following the 2023 annual meeting of the ArkPSA.”

“[Clay] has continued to regularly teach a wide range of political theory and public policy courses during his tenure as chair at UCA, including U.S. Government & Politics, American Political Theory, Environmental Policy, Political Ethics, and Political Theory I & II. He has also taught seminar courses on political corruption and revolutions. In 2018, [Clay] was awarded a grant from the UCA Foundation to develop the UCA Citizens Academy, which was a 13-week program emphasizing civic engagement at the local and regional level. The UCA Citizens Academy met one evening per week during the 2019 fall semester and included discussions of local and regional governments, finance, economic development, transportation, safety, ecology and sanitation, and human services.

In his capacity as department chair, [Clay] has always been supportive of the department faculty and staff in achieving their professional goals. Despite difficult budget circumstances, he has diligently made efforts to secure travel and other professional development funds for faculty members.” [And on a personal note, I would add that Clay has been very supportive of me over these past 20 years. I have learned a lot from him. I owed him a huge debt of gratitude.]

Finally, as some of you may know, Clay will be retiring at the end of June this summer. We are going to miss Clay’s leadership in the office. He is always welcome to come back and visit....when he is not fly-fishing or hiking in Colorado. Thank you Clay for a job well-done. And, again, congratulations!