

THE BUSINESS ADVOCATE

Volume 7 | Issue 7

A publication of the Business Council of Alabama

Stars Fell on Alabama

The Business Council of Alabama's 2016 Governmental Affairs Conference held Aug. 5-7 featured updates on legislative action, important education efforts, an entertaining keynote speech by the inspiration for the television series *Scandal*, and on the economic relationship with Canada.

GAC 2016 at the Marriott Grand Hotel and Spa at Point Clear was the latest annual conference hosted by the BCA for members, elected officials, and honored guests.

Awards were announced and the Business Education Alliance of Alabama released its third white paper on education improvement - "Exceeding Expectations: Keys to Alabama's Student Success."

BCA Chairman Tommy Lee, president and CEO of Vulcan Inc. in Foley, presided over the Aug. 5 board of directors meeting.

BCA First Vice President and ProgressPAC Chairman Jeff Coleman, president and CEO of Coleman Worldwide Moving, reminded board members of the BCA Chairman's Dinner on Sept. 21 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. "We're very excited to announce (two-time Super Bowl winner) Peyton Manning as our chairman's dinner speaker," Coleman said. (*see page 4 for details*)

Coleman also outlined the importance of ProgressPAC for the 2018 election cycle.

COVER: Crisis manager Judy A. Smith, the inspiration for the television drama, *Scandal*, entertained and informed the 2016 BCA Governmental Affairs Conference in Point Clear.

TOP LEFT: Business Education Alliance of Alabama Chairman and President Joe Morton, Ph.D, presented the BEA's third "white paper" report, "Exceeding Expectations: The Keys to Alabama's Student Success."

TOP MIDDLE: Jim Page, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama and spokesman for the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure, gave an informative talk on "The Cost of Doing Nothing: Alabama's Infrastructure Crisis."

BOTTOM LEFT: BCA First Vice President and ProgressPAC Chairman Jeff Coleman, president and CEO of Coleman Worldwide Moving, reminded board members of the BCA Chairman's Dinner on Sept. 21 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

TOP RIGHT: HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology Vice President of Economic Development Carter Wells presented work being done in Huntsville.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Consul General of Canada Louise Blais spoke on Alabama's trade relationship with Canada, Alabama's No. 1 trade customer.



The BCA recognized long-time BCA board member Don Morgan of Cullman and former state Rep. Mike Hill with BCA Distinguished Leader Awards. Former U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner received the Spirit of Leadership Award.

Lee and Canary announced release of the BCA's 2016 book, *Unfinished Business*, a 267-page historical record of the BCA's substantial work during the second year of the 2014-18 legislative quadrennium.

"Unfinished Business is the seventh annual book to chronicle our enduring commitment to the legislative process," Canary said. "The BCA continues to look to the future to create a climate in Alabama for new

and existing businesses to locate or expand."

Unfinished Business highlights the important relationship between the BCA and its national partners, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, and the enduring grassroots link with the Chamber of Commerce Association of Alabama.

"Our state and national partners are important to the overall success of our endeavors in the State House and in Congress," Canary said.

"The 2016 session started strong with several key pro-business priorities advancing, but it is what was left unfinished that defined its overall result has become its legacy," Lee said.

Judy A. Smith, whose work inspired the television drama, *Scandal*, entertained and informed conference participants about her handling of political, celebrity, and entertainment clients who face challenging issues, including the President Bill Clinton and White House intern Monica Lewinsky sex scandal.

Her advice as a crisis manager: "You always want to control the message if you can."

Consul General of Canada Louise Blais

spoke on the trade relationship with Canada, Alabama's No. 1 trade customer: 111,200 jobs depend on trade with Canada.

"Canada's impact on Alabama is tremendous," Blais said. "There is room to grow it."

Jim Page, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama and spokesman for the Alliance for Alabama's Infrastructure, gave an informative talk on "The Cost of Doing Nothing: Alabama's Infrastructure Crisis."

"Investing (in infrastructure) will spark economic growth," he said.

Joe Morton, Ph.D., chairman and president of the Business Education Alliance of Alabama, presented the BEA's third "white paper" report, "Exceeding Expectations: The Keys to Alabama's Student Success," that makes use of new measures of student achievement adopted to judge progress toward Plan 2020's goals.

The book builds on two previously released BEA reports: the 2014 BEA research report, Plan 2020, Obstacles Into Opportunities, and the 2015 BEA report, Teachers Matter: Rethinking How Public Education Recruits, Rewards, and Retains Great Educators.



Carter Wells, vice president of economic development with HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, introduced a video of the groundbreaking work being done at HudsonAlpha in Huntsville which started small but now has 700 men and women working on life sciences.

"Many of our goals match your goals," Wells told conference participants. **TBADV**



THE BUSINESS
ADVOCATE



Previous issues available
at bcatoday.org.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR:

Nancy Wall Hewston

MANAGING EDITOR:

Dana Beyerle

ART DIRECTOR:

Joshua Vaughn

The Business Advocate is published by the Business Council of Alabama, Alabama's foremost voice for business. The BCA is a non-partisan statewide business association representing the interest and concerns of three-quarters of a million working Alabamians through its member companies, and is Alabama's exclusive representative to the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. For information on becoming a member of BCA, contact Elaine Fincannon, 334.240.8749, or elainef@bcatoday.org. For more information, visit bcatoday.org.

