

# Zweig

Memorial Fund News Capsule

No. 38 December 2004

A report from the Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University



**Robert Gilbert, associate dean of the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, presents Anna Zweig with a gift of SteubenGlass crystal as a token of appreciation for her sustained commitment to fostering the very best in equine research.**

**O**n October 1, 50 guests joined the family of the late Harry M. Zweig at the Gideon Putnam Resort in Saratoga Springs, New York, to honor the 25th year of The Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research.

Guests from Cornell University, the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding and Development Fund, the New York State Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, the Harness Horse Breeders of New York State, local equine veterinarians, and members of the Zweig family paid tribute to the efforts of the man fondly remembered as “Doc.”

John Hardy, a long-time friend of Zweig, was also recognized for his initiative and leadership in creating the fund that, for a quarter century, has provided competitive support for projects benefiting every aspect of equine health.

Hardy, Anna Zweig, and Michael Hoblock, chair of the New York State Racing and Wagering Board, offered remarks in honor of Zweig’s memory.

Special events continuing through 2005 will further highlight the fund’s accomplishments.

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Zweig Fund and its partnership with Cornell University, the following events have been planned. Each event will be held on campus at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, New York.

**March 2005:** Research presentations by faculty supported by the fund and a lecture will be held in conjunction with the college’s program to foster graduate education in veterinary medicine.

**June 2005:** This occasion will include special events and tours of the college’s research facilities demonstrating advances made in equine health.

**November 2005:** A special capstone lecture and reception will be held at the Equine Practitioners’ Meeting to conclude the 25th-anniversary celebration.

For additional information, visit our web site: [www.vet.cornell.edu/public/research/Zweig](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/public/research/Zweig)

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# A Grand Gathering at the Gideon Putnam



More than 50 guests attended the October 1 gala.



Harry Zweig's daughter-in-law Sylke, son Brian, widow and committee member Anna, and daughter Susan



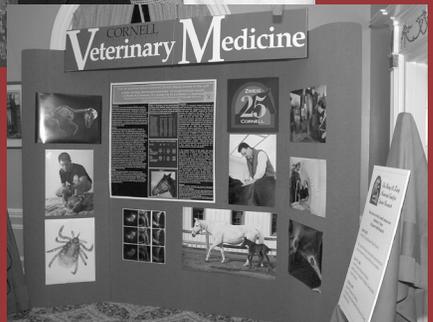
Cornell faculty members Sylvia Bedford-Guass and Klaus Osterrieder pay tribute to the Zweig Fund.



Left to right: The Zweigs' friends Audrey Lowe, John Jagar '74, Suzanne Jagar, Jack Lowe '59, and Mark Chmielewicz '85 attended.



Left to right: New Faculty members Joanne Messick and Tracy Stokol join Kathleen Gilbert and Anina LaCour '80 in recognizing Harry Zweig's efforts.



A collage of equine accomplishments served as a remembrance of the program.

## Committee Member Profile—F. Richard Lesser

Equine practitioner F. Richard Lesser DVM '81 became a new member of the Zweig Committee in 2004. Lesser and his wife, Marilyn Schmidt DVM '78, own and operate the Equine Clinic at OakenCroft in Ravena, New York. The clinic employs five staff veterinarians, an intern, and numerous support staff who provide ambulatory and in-house services to performance horses, broodmares, and pleasure horses.

Lesser is dedicated to the betterment of equine practice. He chairs the Veterinary Management Group VII, a group of 21 veterinarians with similar equine practices around the country who work to improve their profession. He also

is an active member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, serving as the chair of the Equine Technicians Task Force. In addition, he facilitates the Practice Management Forum and is a member of the Student Relations Committee.

On the teaching side, Lesser holds an adjunct position at SUNY Cobleskill where he teaches courses in equine health. He recently has served as an adviser to the Curriculum Committee at the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine and is a frequent speaker to veterinarians and veterinary students around the country on management issues facing equine practice. ■



**Lesser and his family, who operate a 153 acre farm, enjoy a variety of horse disciplines including huntseat, roping, and trail riding.**

## John L. Hardy Remembers Harry M. Zweig

When John Hardy met Harry Zweig in 1963, “Doc,” as Zweig was known, was president of the Harness Horse Breeders of New York State. He was also working his own horses.

“Doc would jog his horses down the road from his farm to a little track in the town of Nassau that had formerly been a dog track,” Hardy recalls of the man who he says was as savvy a politician as he was a hands-on horse trainer. “Doc

had a passion for and understanding of what harness racing meant in the agrarian communities of New York State because he came from a farm and raced horses himself.”

From the start, it was apparent Zweig was ardent in his conviction that the racing industry, particularly harness racing, should be able to carry on.

“Doc had this idea that if a small percentage of the purses from horse racing were diverted into breeders’ funds, the racing industry could benefit directly,” Hardy recalls.

Not only did Zweig have an innovative idea but the tenacity to see it through.

“In the halls of the state capital, Zweig was a perfect gentleman,”

Hardy recalls, adding, “He just wouldn’t let it go.”

Hardy, who at the time was chief of staff of the New York Assembly Ways and Means Committee, first met Zweig in the latter’s veterinary examining room where Hardy had come seeking the veterinarian’s care for his pets. Their mutual love of horses was the foundation of a deep friendship. To ease his grief at Zweig’s unexpected death in 1977, Hardy spearheaded the effort to honor Zweig’s contribution to the state’s racing industry. Hardy wrote and midwifed the passage of the bill to establish the Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research. He and Anna Zweig are original members of the fund’s steering committee.

“From the start, it has been the committee’s intention that the Zweig Fund be permanent,” says Hardy. “While there were times early on when maybe we could have spent more money on worthwhile projects, we always chose the conservative approach—saving money every year as well as spending it.”

Today the fund is on the soundest of fiscal footing. Harry Zweig would be pleased. ■



**Jack Hardy and his wife, Diane, enjoy seeing old friends.**

**T**he Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research honors the late Dr. Harry M. Zweig, a distinguished veterinarian, and his numerous contributions to the state's equine industry. In 1979, by amendment to the pari-mutuel revenue laws, the New York State legislature created the Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund to promote equine research at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University. The Harry M. Zweig Committee is established for the purpose of administering the fund and is composed of individuals in specified state agencies and equine industry positions and others who represent equine breeders, owners, trainers, and veterinarians.

### 2004 Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund Committee

Jean Brown  
*Blue Chip Farms, Inc., Walkkill, NY*

Peter Goold  
*Executive Director of the Agriculture  
and NYS Horse Breeding  
Development Fund, Albany, NY*

John L. Hardy  
*Featherstonhaugh, Conway,  
Wiley & Clyne, LLP, Albany, NY*

Mike Hoblock  
*Chairman, NYS Racing and  
Wagering Board, Albany, NY*

John E. Jagar, DVM  
*Millbrook, NY*

F. Richard Lesser, DVM  
*Ravena, NY*

Paul C. Mountan, DVM  
*Rhinebeck, NY*

Donald F. Smith, DVM  
*Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary  
Medicine, College of Veterinary  
Medicine, Cornell University,  
Ithaca, NY*

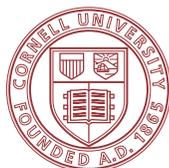
Philip Trowbridge  
*NYS Thoroughbred Breeding &  
Development Fund Corp., Ghent, NY*

Patricia Wehle  
*Fairport, NY*

William Wilmot, DVM  
*Saratoga Springs, NY*

Anna Zweig  
*Middlebrook Farm, Nassau, NY*

*Correction:* Dr. Harry M. Zweig enjoyed a long career as a veterinarian in Nassau, New York, not Nassau County as we indicated in the Zweig News Capsule #37 (August 2004).



## Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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