UNFORTUNATELY THE RESEARCH IS QUITE CONCLUSIVE SIR...
YOUR HORSES ARE JUST VERY SLOW
What do you give the President and celebrated author when he retires?  
A BOOK.
No ordinary book, but a tribute book.  
You have impacted many lives and worn many titles over the years.  
Your retirement is nothing short of a glorious achievement.  
Not every leader can retire with such grace, dignity, respect and a teary eyed farewell from
The Jockey Club.

Congratulations Ed!

Edward L. Bowen
President,
Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation (GJCRF)
1994-2018
“I had always admired Ed’s reverence for racing, racing people and the horses long before we worked together at Grayson. Ed has done a tremendous job for the foundation because of this and his affable disposition. Lucky for all of us who live in Kentucky that he lives here as well so that we can be around his wit and wisdom whenever he finds time for us in his retirement!

Dell Hancock,
Chairman of the Board, GJCRF

“It has been an honor and privilege for me to have worked with Ed for the last 20 years. There is no one in our industry who is more knowledgeable than Ed when it comes to the history of Thoroughbred racing and breeding. He is a genuinely caring and extremely witty man and I am honored to call him my friend. Ed, you have had an amazing career and I thank you for all you have done for me, personally, and for Grayson. Congratulations on your retirement.”

Nancy Kelly,
Vice President of Development, GJCRF
“It has been a honor to work alongside Ed Bowen for the past 13 years. As a long-time reader of the BloodHorse, I was familiar with Ed’s tremendous knowledge and passion for Thoroughbred racing – especially its rich history, which he told so well. But it was our time together at The Jockey Club where Ed’s dedication to the health and lives of Thoroughbreds indelibly impressed me. Congratulations, Ed, on a career of distinction.”

Jim Gagliano,
President, The Jockey Club

“Ed has enjoyed a number of successful careers in our industry, but none of more lasting value than as the head of Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. The job has combined his sense of history, superb writing skills, love of the horse and ability to relate to the broad range of people that populate our sport. The Foundation is the great beneficiary of Ed’s talents and now it is time to say “thank you so much Ed, it has been a great run.”

Stuart S. Janney III,
Chairman, The Jockey Club
“It doesn’t seem that long ago I showed up in Ed’s office for the interview. It is now past a decade and has been a good ride. We have had a pleasurable symbiotic relationship during those years. Ed leaned on me for scientific terms and definitions and I sat at the “Word Master’s” knee trying, in vain I’m afraid, to improve my command of the English language. We have been traveling companions on many Research Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings and Board meetings. They were often fun and adventurous at the same time. Ed would normally drive and I would navigate. That worked well until we found ourselves deep in conversation about people we both knew years ago in the Florida Thoroughbred business and found that we had missed our turn about three intersections ago. So many times at RAC meetings we were mistaken for each other. I don’t know how, he is taller than me! I finally sent a letter to all of the RAC before Ft. Worth that I was the bald guy with the Wranglers on. I will miss our driving adventures and our stays in the Miller’s bunkhouse. You have been awfully kind to the incurable redneck from Louisiana. Thanks for the memories.”

Dr. Johnny Mac Smith,
Veterinary Consultant GJCRF

“I am so proud to have been a part of Ed’s team for so many years. I will admit, at first it was intimidating to work with such a witty linguist. I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to keep up, but Ed is such a kind and caring soul that my fears were for naught. He has shared with me in all of my joys and sorrows. I am indebted to him as a mentor and count him always as a dear friend. I wish you the best in everything!”

Resia Ayres,
Operations Manager, GJCRF
“It has been an honor to work with Ed. His wisdom, encouragement, and kind nature has made for a wonderful mentor. One of my favorite things, and some sound advice Ed told me early on in my career with Grayson was something he himself had learned years ago. And that was to relate fundraising to fishing---have to throw out a lot of lines and keep doing it. Sometime you get nibbles and once in a while a shark swims by. Grayson has prospered under Ed’s leadership and I hope we can continue that same great work. With that Ed, I know you will only be an email or a phone call away when we need a little witty humor, although you may be out fishing…. Cheers to a happy retirement!”

Holly White,
Director of Development, GJCRF

“Ed Bowen is a man of letters, a master of the English language, writer, reporter, author, poet, essayist, historian and biographer. And that doesn’t include a few of his other pursuits, collaborator and emcee of the Racing Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, the moderator of the GJCRF Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit, and of course, as the longtime President of the GJCRF. His Christmas poem in the BloodHorse was a highlight of the holiday season. His 25 years at Grayson under the Chairmanship of John Hettinger and Dell Hancock has seen it triple the endowment and establish it as the foremost research organization dedicated to the horse worldwide. Indeed, his contributions to the industry, both literary and philanthropically, are uniquely Ed Bowen. Oh, did I mention he was also an editor!”

Doc Lavin,
Chairman of the Board, GJCRF
“Under Ed’s guidance the foundation has seen tremendous growth and funded numerous projects that have a direct impact on the health of all horses. His leadership and contributions to the equine research community have allowed veterinarians and investigators to focus their efforts on the horse and the foundation, industry and horse are all better served from Ed’s career. Thank you.”

Jamie Haydon,
Vice President, GJCRF

“During Ed’s tenure as president of the Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation the foundation progressed from a somewhat disorganized “also ran” equine research funder to the premier equine research foundation. The Foundation is now the generally recognized leader for research funding for the horse and other species. The selection of research and documentation of results serves as the model other organizations now use as a guide to their own credibility. His tenure as president was the touchstone for where the Foundation has come. Congratulations and best of luck Ed in your new tenure as a full time author.”

Dr. Larry R. Bramlage
GJCRF Board of Director

“Few notes of congratulations or appreciation have been more cherished than yours. Your unique writing style captures the essence of emotion and the thrill of the racing and I always looked forward to reading them. Readers living and feeling through your words have not only been cherished blessings to myself, but also significant contributions to the industry. I sincerely hope that you continue to write for many years to come.

Congratulations on your retirement and I will always treasure your friendship.”

Adele Dilschneider,
GJCRF Board of Director
“My heartfelt congratulations to Ed Bowen for a stellar, multifaceted career. I first met Ed 45 years ago, walking the Arc course at Longchamp. Despite the incline, Ed still had breath enough to regale us with historical nuances of past renewals, but I remember only the brash plaid trousers he was sporting that day. Mon Dieu! Decades later, I remain in awe of his talents and his efforts for the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, and ever grateful for his friendship. Ed will always bail you out of a writing tangle, but never, ever challenge him with any racing trivia!”

Charlsie Cantey
GJCRF Board of Director

“Ed is the absolute kindest and interesting person who has been totally supportive of our (at times) schizophrenic breeding and racing efforts. His passion for the long stream of equine history is completely amazing. When our MR STARDUST (GER) came in Second to Godolphin’s HISTORIC FIND (GB) in the Prix Bend’Or at Saint Cloud, Ed relived for us the illustrious history of the fabulous BEND D’OR.”

Anastasie O’Connor,
Horse Owner, Breeder and Supporter

“One of the O’Connor’s mares with foal

“Dear Ed, Your time as a leader of Grayson has been marvelously productive. For you to look at what its primary corpus was when you took over compared to what is now is astounding with very special gifts including those from Mr. Mellon, The Jockey Club and Jack Oxley. All of these have worked together to create a financially sound and credible undertaking. I do think the Veterinary Committee that has worked with us has seen essential to its success and uses some of the best of the National Institutes of Health standards for evaluating competitive grant applications.

You have had a most positive impact on my life through your leadership roles and I hope you and your family enjoy the best possible kind of retirement and that I will continue to see you frequently.

Dr. Hiram C. Polk,
GJCRF Board of Director
“Ed Bowen, racing’s gentle historian, whose reverence for our sport and the health and well-being of the horse is unparalleled in the annals of Grayson-Jockey Club. His quiet demeanor and dedicated pursuit of funding for research is marked by increased industry support and internationally acclaimed excellence for the quality of research. Best wishes always.”

Ted Bassett,
former President, Chairman of the Board & Trustee of Keeneland

“Ed Bowen is one of those people that has the respect of everyone in the equine industry. We all know that Ed always has the best interest of the horse in mind in everything he does. He is an outstanding representative of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation.”

Dr. Tom Riddle,
Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital

“Kind, gracious, caring, impeccable, unassuming, honest – an exemplary individual – I was awed in his presence. Thank-you for all you have done for horses and mankind.”

Dr. Sue Stover,
University of California-Davis

“Dear Ed, we wish you all the best in your retirement. Throughout the years we have had the pleasure of having some wonderful and rewarding conversations with you which we will always cherish. Your knowledge of the history of the horses and people in our sport is greatly appreciated by us. We will continue to enjoy reading all the wonderful books you authored. Hoping to see you many times in the future. Blessings,”

Don & Irene Dizney
GJCRF Board of Director
“Congratulations on your retirement from the Grayson board Ed, and thank you for all that you have done for Grayson and the industry as a whole. Your passion and enthusiasm for our sport is unmatched. One of my fondest memories in racing was my first Derby in 2003 when you gave me the tip on Funny Cide. I’ve been hooked ever since.”

Perry Bass,
GJCRF Board of Director

“Ed Bowen’s service over many years as President of Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has been exemplary. He has contributed historic continuity as well as positive foresight to the growth of Grayson, which in turn has been a powerful benefit to the thoroughbred industry. Ed’s wisdom, intellect and talent will be sorely missed. We all wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.”

John C. Oxley,
GJCRF Board of Director

“In 2007, we started what became a traditional dinner and sleepover for many of the Grayson group in our Florida house before the meeting each year. Eventually, it became known as “Camp Barton”, the name of our street. The first year Ed was very polite when he was shown our guest cottage with three small bedrooms. It then became known as the boy’s bunk house. Within there is one room that is larger and much more comfortable than the other two. We had no idea what a track star Ed is. Every year thereafter, immediately upon arrival, he dashed across the lawn to get the best room as if he wanted to win the Breeders’ Cup Sprint. It was clear that Ed can run as well as he writes when the stakes are high enough. We love that time we have with him and trust that retirement does not preclude him from his yearly grass dash.”

Best, Lev and Linda Miller,
GJCRF Board of Director
“There is no better go-to person in the Thoroughbred business than Ed Bowen. His wealth of knowledge combined with his passion for the people and horses is unmatched, as is his service in heading the Foundation. I want to give Ed a large “Thank You” and “Well Done” for his leadership and ensuring that the Foundation will continue its work in helping Thoroughbreds.”

Lenny Shulman,  
*The Blood Horse*

“I have not had the privilege of working with Ed Bowen for as long as many of my colleagues have but I have been inspired by his tremendous support of equine research. Ed has his "finger on the pulse" of both the equine industry and the most cutting-edge research in equine medicine and surgery. He has the impressive skill of matching the needs of the industry with the top researchers in the field and providing the necessary support to move the field forward. Please extend my sincere gratitude to Ed for all his efforts to support the health of the horse.”

Dr. Carrie Finno,  
*University of California-Davis*

“Ed, the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has had no greater friend than you over the past many, many years. I was sad to learn that you will be retiring soon but trust that life will have a plethora of pleasurable ventures in store for you. Thanks for all you’ve done for everyone at the GJCRF and the horses. Be well.”

Donna Brothers  
*NBC Correspondent*
“Ed Bowen’s commitment to the Thoroughbred industry helped to shape and improve it in ways too numerous to count. Our horses are healthier, important institutions are run better and both fans and horsemen are better informed because of his words, his deeds and his leadership. He can enter upon his retirement with the satisfaction of knowing that the foundation he built at the Foundation he served will last for years to come.”

**William Lear, Esq.**  
*Stoll Kennon Ogden PLLC*

“Congratulations on your retirement, Ed. You have been a true pillar in the sport and the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame owes a great debt to you for all your tireless and exceptional work as a leader in our organization. We look forward to continuing to work with you for many years to come.”

**Brien Bouyea,**  
*Communications Director, National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame*

“Having Ed Bowen at the helm of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has meant so much to me as an equine researcher and advocate for the horse. I have been lucky enough to watch Ed at work while serving on the Research Advisory Committee for 3 years. I was particularly impressed with Ed's ability to keep the conversation on point, directly related to GJCRF’s mission, and fund the absolute best grants from the United States and around world. Ed was always a powerful and steadying force in the background, and now having been funded by the GJCRF to study medications to improve survival in horses with colic, I feel so lucky to have been a part of the GJCRF under Ed's guidance.”

**Dr. Anthony Blikslager,**  
*North Carolina State University*
“I feel so lucky to have been able to know Mr. Bowen. Growing up, I had read some of the books he'd written about great racehorses. Being an avid reader, I loved the precise and lucid way he brought me to feel as though I experienced first-hand those horses and their associated people. So I was always a bit in awe of Ed Bowen.

Mr. Bowen has overseen the distribution and monitoring of hundreds of grants for millions of dollars. His leadership has brought transparency, rigor, and a honed focus on addressing problems of the health and welfare of racing (and other) horses. Beyond that, Mr. Bowen always had a bearing of dignity, wit, and kindness. I am so grateful to have had the chance to work with him when I served on the scientific advisory board for the Foundation.”

Dr. Noah D. Cohen,  
Texas A&M University
Congratulations, Ed! We will miss you very much and hope to have you back again someday soon. Thanks for all your contributions and hard work.

Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

- Carol

Ed,

It has been such a pleasure to see your smiling face at TJC over the years. We will miss the office will be missed. We will miss the positive energy you bring to the office.

Ed, we will all miss you. We will miss your enthusiasm and your contributions to the office.

Congratulations, Ed! We will miss you very much.

- Sherry

I wish you the best in your retirement. You have been a blessing to know. I have enjoyed your sense of humor most of all. You will be greatly missed.

Ed, you will be greatly missed.

- John

Congratulations on your retirement. Enjoy!

- Emily

Ed, we will miss you very much when I first started.

- Sarah

I have enjoyed your writing and your enthusiasm for teaching. Thank you for your many years of service. I hope you enjoy your retirement.

- Melissa

Sharon Franklin

Ed, I wish you the best in your retirement. You have been a blessing to know.

Many years of health and happiness and fulfillment.

God bless you.

- Carole
Congratulations Ed.... but who am I going to have my "did you see that horse race?!" discussions with now? I’ve so enjoyed working and talking with you, and am happy to see you taking a well deserved retirement. I know you’ll never stop working, but now it’s at your pace! We’ll keep in touch. Janet Hope whatever is next is awesome! I enjoyed working with you over the years. All the best Marka.

You will be greatly missed!

Travel, relax and enjoy life

Congrats from all of us

Todd Beam

Thanks Ed for all your service to TJC. Now it’s time to have some fun. The best of everything! Travel! Jim McGown

Happy days ahead!
Have some fun, you will be missed. x Stephen

I hope you enjoy your element. You will be missed!! I don’t have anyone to talk soccer with now Ed!! Patti

Congratulations Ed!
Enjoy the Next Chapter

Michael Horton

Best wishes in all your future endeavors...

Cathy

You will be missed.

Pat

Ed, we sure will miss you! But we’re very happy for you! Enjoy your time day all the things you want to do. And remember, if you get bored, Blockbuster readers would love to read your stories! Wishing you all the best Susan


Ed, we sure will miss you! But we’re very happy for you! Enjoy your time day all the things you want to do. And remember, if you get bored, Blockbuster readers would love to read your stories! Wishing you all the best Susan


It has been a pleasure to know you! Keep on smilling Carlyn

Hope you won’t lose your blueberries!!

Martin

Don’t change!!

We’ll miss you.

Juliette

Eva

Work doesn’t end here Ed – your new job is to ensure that you enjoy being retired, with flexible hours and peaceful days of relaxation. Wishing you happiness and good health as you begin your new adventure. All the best with your retirement!!

Caren Callahan
Congratulations!

Will really miss our UK-UT parking lot conversations!
CONGRATULATIONS Ed!

Enjoy retirement!
– Jordan Holt

Congratulations! Have a blast!
– Josh Estur

Congratulations Ed!
– Minaba

Congratulations, Ed!
– Greg H.

Congratulations, Ed!
– John Hane

Congratulations, Ed!
– Jeff Miller

Congratulations Ed!
– Tony Revel

Congratulations Ed!
– Brian Moore

Thank you for the many years of success, wisdom and knowledge. Enjoy retirement, you've earned it! Best wishes.
– Harold

Have fun!
– Jon

Congratulations on retirement!
– David Miller

Congratulations! Enjoy!
– Rheta Rendel

Congratulations on retirement!
– Susan Wheelock

Congratulations Ed!
– Sheri

All the best!
– Alex Green

Congratulations!
– Sharon
Mr. Bowen,

You have made such a difference in the lives of your co-workers and those within the industry. While we have had only a few opportunities to work together, it is clear the positive impact you have had on our company. Your optimism and enthusiasm are staples that you brought into the office each day. Wishing you all the best during your retirement. I know that you will be greatly missed.

- Congratulations!
  *Suances*
Congratulations!

Mr. Bowen,

Cheers to you on your well-deserved retirement. Here's to many years of a flexible schedule.

Greg Charbonneau

Congratulations on your retirement, Ed! You have been a true treasure to the Thoroughbred industry and your work will have a lasting impact through your words and the many people you have influenced.

Mike Curry

Congrats on your retirement. I have thoroughly enjoyed working of your trivia information. Enjoy.

Meredith Helm

Congrats on an amazing career Ed. I will miss hearing your perspective and comments on the many topics we consider.

All the best!

Maddie

Thank you for your incredible devotion and knowledge of the Industry. Enjoy retirement. - Eee-Carmondy
Congratulations!

Thanks for all your dedication to Bragg over the years. Enjoy retirement.
Cathy O'Neal

Best wishes on your much-deserved retirement.
We will miss seeing you at TJC.
Rick Y. Bailey

It's been wonderful working with you, Ed. I will miss your witty emails and always smiling attitude.
Enjoy your retirement.
Shannon

Congrats on your well-deserved retirement.
Looking forward to learn and hear what the next year's will bring!
Leann Chesser

I hope you enjoy your retirement.
Laura

Happy Retirement!
Enjoy your time.
Angie

A round of applause!
For jobs well done!
Enjoy retirement.
Betsy

Congratulations! Hope you enjoy a wonderful retirement!
Jamaica

Best wishes on your new chapter in life!
Gracie and Tyler

Congrats on your retirement. I'll miss our football talks. Enjoy - Kim

Edged every minute!
You will be missed by so many of us.
TJ
Ed,
Thanks for hiring me straight out of Midway College at the BH all those years ago and starting my path in this industry. It's been a honor to work with you at TSC as well. Thanks for being a mentor and a friend. All the best in retirement!
Rhonda Wiberg

Ed,
Congratulations on the many years of service in the industry. I've always enjoyed hearing your insights and respect everything you have accomplished over the years. Best of luck to you on your upcoming retirement!
Gina Pedahles

Ed,
I'll miss our spur of the moment conversations about racing, I will always fondly recall our trip to Kentucky. I hope you have an awesome time with everything you do going forward.
Ellis

Ed,
Your contributions to the industry are notable and greatly appreciated by many. You will be missed at 821 and we hope you will pay us a visit from time to time. Best wishes to you for a well deserved retirement.
Kelley Murray

Dear Ed,
I have so enjoyed working with you, despite in different areas! We will miss having you here, in addition to all the obvious professional ways, particularly at Halloween - when the Chamber Music Festival is on.
Enjoy your retirement!
Carlie

Happy Retirement!
Enjoy, Amy

Ed - well wishes on your retirement! We won't say you've been put out to pasture, but I hope you get to enjoy the free time!
Jeanne Stirn

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Congratulations!

Ed,
Wishing you a happy retirement!
Emily Owen

Ed,
Wishing you a happy retirement! You are going to be missed by all.
Evan Jones

Best wishes on your retirement
Jill Oakes

Ed,
You are a lucky guy!
I wish you the best of luck in the future!
Tony Evans

Wishing you well on your well-deserved retirement!
Stephen Hill

Best of luck! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!
Evelyn Cook

Ed, we all hope you have a happy retirement!
Steve

Ed, Happy Retirement!
Enjoy!
Darlene Greene

Ed, Best wishes!
Budget Wood

Wishing you a great retirement with many happy days ahead!
Erin Shea

Ed,
Congratulations on an incredible career.
Best wishes on your retirement.
Tom Rourke
Ed-

Wishing you the best in retirement.
It has been an absolute pleasure working with you.
Best-
Shannon.

Ed-

Enjoy the spoils of a well-deserved retirement. Hope to see you at the races in 2019.
Best - Stephen

Ed-

I've enjoyed working with you and spending time at the races - whether it be the tram to Churchill or the seats at Belmont. I hope to see you all many more.
Best, Jason

Ed-

Congrats on your retirement! Sounds good working with you. You will be greatly missed.
-McNeil Smith

Ed,

Congrats and enjoy your retirement.
By all means let me know which golf courses to avoid!!!

Ed, 

Thank you for your dedication and passion for all aspects of the sport of horse racing and like, whisky. Wishing you a wonderful retirement!
-Dan

Ed,

It's been a pleasure getting to know and work with you over the years and I wish you much happiness as you enter this next chapter. The thoroughbred industry has benefited the benefit of your knowledge all these years and we will miss your wisdom and your grace. All the best!
-Laura

Dear Ed,

I am so very pleased to have been your colleague and to have learned from you over the past decade.
Your extraordinary service to The Jockey Club, Thoroughbred Racing, and the Thoroughbred Horse Industry, will leave all better off and with a sound foundation for future success.

Best regards,
Laura
Ed played a key role in the development of our book division starting in the late 1990s. He authored numerous titles for BloodHorse and then Eclipse Press, penning Man o’ War, the first in our Thoroughbred Legends series, as well as such popular titles as Matriarchs: Great Mares of the 20th Century. Many others followed.

Ed has an unsurpassed knowledge of Thoroughbred history, both equine and human. His intellect, professionalism, and gentlemanly nature have made him a delight to work with on our many book and magazine projects. We hope he continues to contribute to the Thoroughbred literature.

Jacqueline Duke,
Editor, Keeneland magazine

“I’ve treasured my friendship with Ed since we became colleagues in 1998, but I’ve admired him as an author and racing historian much longer than that. His knowledge of the sport and his passion for it were always evident, whether he was writing a terrific book or column or speaking so eloquently at the Welfare and Safety of the Racehorse Summit or some other Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation event.

I will miss our frequent conversations about the media landscape, his beloved New York Yankees and his son George’s football career.

I wish him health and happiness in retirement and I hope we still get to read or hear his words in the days ahead.”

Bob Curran Jr.,
Former VP of Corporate Communications for The Jockey Club
“So- Ed Bowen is retiring from the Foundation. He will obviously be missed, but he won't ever be forgotten. His words will live with us forever. And such wonderful words, big books, small books, even articles... a rich history of well chosen enlightening, humorous, instructive, descriptive and memorable words. My favorite is "Legacies of the Turf," no wait I also like, "At the Wire," Oh, I forgot the book about Nashua. Let me stop and say Ed is a historian. He has added wonderfully to the lessons and stories of Thoroughbred Racing. That is important; but to me it is more important that I am able to call him "Friend!"

Tommy Roberts,
Former VP & General Manager, Hialeah Park, Broadcast Pioneer Hall of Fame

“The lion share of equine research in the US is made possible because of the level of support provided by the Grayson Jockey-Club Research Foundation. After serving 4 years on the Research Advisory Committee, it became apparent that Ed Bowen is a major driving force behind the high quality of science selected for funding and the impact it may have on the horse industry. I was also impressed by Ed’s commitment to raising additional funds in order to help raise the bar to fund additional meritorious proposals. Finally, Ed has to be commended for going beyond his passion for the horse and devoting his time and energy to help improve the horse’s health through research. He will leave “big shoes” to fill…”

I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and THANK YOU!”

Dr. Laurent Couetil,
Purdue University
“Ed, Congratulations with your retirement. You have served the thoroughbred industry with Grade 1 class and dignity. You are a pillar of the turf indeed. On behalf of three generations of the Hirsch Family, we salute and wish you all the best.

Most sincerely,

Bill Hirsch
The Hirschinator

“Ed Bowen has been the ultimate leader of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation for the past 24 years and the growth seen by the Foundation is a huge feat to be celebrated! The kindness and support Ed has shown me in the short amount of time I have known him is truly touching and will not be forgotten. These traits and his unending dedication to Grayson are what have made him an ultimate champion in this industry. Enjoy your retirement Ed, it is well deserved!”

Jodie Vella-Gregory
Breeders’ Cup

“Ed, Congratulations with your retirement. You have served the thoroughbred industry with Grade 1 class and dignity. You are a pillar of the turf indeed. On behalf of three generations of the Hirsch Family, we salute and wish you all the best.

Most sincerely,”

Bill Hirsch
The Hirschinator

“I would just like to say how supportive Ed has always been with respect to the Equine Injury Database initiative as a whole and in particular our endeavors from across the pond aimed at minimizing the risk for the Thoroughbred while racing in North America. A fantastic role model and leader for all involved in equine research funding over the years.”

Best wishes, Dr. Tim Parkin,
University of Glasgow
“I’m delighted to have this opportunity to share a few words at this time, as we celebrate Ed Bowen’s accomplishments during his remarkable tenure at the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. Like many, I first encountered Ed through a letter of rejection for a grant. I was not enormously happy about this initial relationship, but when I finally got an acceptance after some years, I decided he was a wonderful chap and looked forward to meeting him!

Ultimately I was lucky enough to work with Ed for many years as a member, and sometime chair, of the Research Advisory Committee. It was a wonderful experience and Ed proved to be a great counsel, and a very good friend. Ed has been a wonderful servant to the horse, and to racing, and has also fostered the career of many investigators, both young and more senior. I sincerely believe he has played a very significant role in advancing equine science for many, many years. I cannot believe the horse or the Grayson-Jockey Club could have had a better servant, or more effective leader.”

Dr. D. Paul Lunn,
Dean, North Carolina State University
“As for so many veterinary scientists in equine research, “having a Grayson” has been of enormous importance to my colleagues and me as we seek support for our work. Accolades have always been a hard-won and disappointments not infrequent in such a competitive field. During Ed Bowen’s presidency of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, support has always extended beyond the financial; Ed conveys a sharing of our enthusiasm when our applications succeed and an understanding of our remorse when they don’t! Behind such empathy is his belief in the vital importance of the research enterprise. This he has shown by conducting scrupulously fair competitions for grant awards, and advocating so tirelessly and successfully to the equine industry for their funding. Ed’s monetary achievements for our cause speak for themselves through the millions that he has raised; I want him to know how much his worthy stewardship of the GJCRF has been appreciated by those of us who strive to put that funding to good use. We will miss you, Ed, and wish you a long, continuing, but more relaxed association with all that is good about Equus caballus!”

Dr. Keith J. Betteridge,
*Ontario Veterinary College*
“I have had the opportunity to serve on the RAC three times over the past 30 years and consider it a privilege to work with Ed.

Ed Bowen is one of my heroes. Heroes never proclaim themselves and always enhance others! Ed Bowen contributes to the Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation in so many ways starting with how he treats his work more like an honor rather than a duty. His ability to make every member of the research review committee feel welcome, puts new members at ease and for those doing a second term to feel like his friend.

Ed’s ability to take the composite reviews and turn the detailed information into well scripted prose that allows the investigator to know he or she has been treated fairly even when not successful with their application is not only compassionate for the applicant but valuable to GJCRF to assure repeat submissions. One of the things I enjoy most about being with Ed is his breath of knowledge; whether you are talking about college football, art, world history or horse breeding and racing Ed knows details!! No matter the topic his depth of understanding and enthusiasm makes you think that must be the focus of his work. Probably the most important thing that Ed does for the foundation and I feel certain will continue following his retirement is to create friendships that lead to commitments both personal and financial. These friendships are an integral part of the backbone of GJCRF and open doors for others to enter and help continue to build the Financial Corpus.

Congratulations Ed! What a wonderful journey, you can be very proud to know that under your leadership more than 350 grants totaling more than 26 million dollars have been awarded to help horses, owners, veterinarians and so many more! Keep writing, so we can enjoy to keep reading! All the best,”

Dr. Steve Reed,
Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital

George Bowen, Quarterback
“When I was asked to serve on the RAC, I remember wondering why they wanted me - a sole practitioner who isn’t associated with any college or research group. I was told Ed understood the importance of getting a diverse group of veterinarians who could all bring something to the table.

Ed ran the meetings so efficiently which made all of us step up and become even more engaged. I remember several lively discussions which he actually encouraged so that the group could hear everyone’s viewpoints. I’m grateful for his leadership.”

**Dr. E. C. “Pug” Hart, Practioneer**

“No one in racing today combines class, knowledge and the tremendous sense of and appreciation for Turf history that Edward L. Bowen possesses. His written work and overall contributions to the equine world will live on for ages. Thanks, Ed, for all you’ve done to improve the breed!”

**Ray Paulick  
Publisher, Paulick Report**

“As a recipient of both a Storm Cat Career Development Award and a research grant from the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, this organization has been vital to my success as an equine researcher. Ed’s enthusiasm and support have been sincerely appreciated and while I have never met him in person, my email exchanges and phone calls with Ed have always indicated someone who cares deeply about the health, wellness, and future of the Thoroughbred race horse. My heartfelt thanks to Ed and his leadership for the past 24 years. Best.”

**Dr. Christianne Magee, Colorado State University**
“I would like to deeply thank Dr. Ed Bowen for all his help, support, advice and encouragement in his role for the Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation. I was one of the early recipients of the Grayson Jockey Club Storm Cat Career Development Award, during my PhD. This was a significant encouragement to stay within a PhD program, at a time when a clinical option in private practice was attractive.

Dr. Bowen was very helpful and encouraging when discussing possible applications and progress on them. He was also patient when he needed to be; he always had the long-time goal of improving horse health, performance and welfare in mind and was always committed to performing the best possible science to support that. I’m deeply greatly for his encouragement.”

Dr. Jonathan Cheetham,
Cornell University
“Edward L. Bowen, that was the name that was on most of the books on my shelf of horse racing books. I’d read them all from cover to cover and pretty much everything I knew from horse racing came from Mr. Bowen’s writing. In 2003 I had the opportunity to attend an event that featured Mr. Bowen as one of the keynote speakers. It was the first time I got to meet him. Who would ever imagine that a decade later, Ed and I would be partnering on a book with his written expertise on horse racing and my artwork of the horses featured in the book, *A Brush With Greatness*. It was a dream come true to work with him during the process of completing the book. However, the best part was the time we spent together; so many lunches, book signings and other events around the sport and across the country. During that time, I gained a wonderful friend who is as versed on a vast variety of topics. What most people don’t know is that behind that buttoned down business demeanor is charming gentleman with a great sense of humor. We never have gotten together without laughing out loud at the stories we have shared. It was an honor when I met him and it’s an even greater honor to know Ed is my friend.”

Robert Clark,
*Artist*
“Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation has been the preeminent organization for funding equine health. Ed Bowen has been the backbone of that effort through his thoughtful organization of key industry leaders, clinicians and scientists. Together they have created a rigorous, but fair review process with the goal of moving the needle on optimizing equine health. Ed has been one of the leading advocates of horse health, and I am grateful to him for inspiring me as a research committee member.”

Dr. Chris Kawcak,
Colorado State University

A scholar of Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding, a master wordsmith, a captivating storyteller, a comprehensive historian of Racing’s people, places and equine participants, are all apt descriptions of Ed Bowen’s talented persona. But more importantly, the description most true, most cherished by so many, is simply “friend”.

When a man of such gifts and grace befriends so many, so readily, for so long, by extension, he captures the admiration of the entire Sport. With individuals so honored and the collective Sport being so fortunate, all are humbled, sincerely recognizing the blessing of association.

No matter how much time passes, Ed Bowen will always be a part of this Sport of Thoroughbred Racing and the business of Thoroughbred Breeding. His works, like the famous equines about which he has written, will remain as an indelible point of interest, a source of understanding and appreciation for this our ageless common passion. How lucky we are; how thankful I am. Ed Bowen our friend, my friend.

John Phillips,
Darby Dan Farm
“Ed had already settled in at his desk at The Blood-Horse by the time I arrived several weeks later in the early fall of 1963. Having worked with horses in Florida, he was a quick learner and he put that talent to good use. It continued to serve him well. Editor Kent Hollingsworth used to marvel at Ed’s skill when covering a big race. He had an uncanny knack to get the perfect interview with exactly the right person, uncovering all sorts of tidbits which were unique to his reporting. Over the years, Ed established himself as quite a known entity. He was a tireless reporter who became so much more. His encyclopedic knowledge of all facets of the Thoroughbred world, his personality, and his determination to always be the best in whatever the task at hand has led to an extraordinary legacy. His 16 books—and counting—have become an indispensable library of the Thoroughbred. Exploring this world of which he is so immensely well-versed, he provides his readers an in-depth look at the lives of many great horses and the men and women who bred, trained and raced them. To have known and worked for more than 50 years with Ed Bowen continues to be a treat I will cherish until the finish line.”

Charlie Stone,  
*The Stone Advisory*

“Ed’s guidance and leadership with the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation since 1994 and his passion for answering the important questions for the horse by good research is an incredible legacy. He has become a personal friend as well as a great friend of the Colorado State University equine programs and his unique mixture of inquisitiveness, encouragement and humbleness is much appreciated by all of us.”

Dr. C. Wayne McIlwraith,  
*Colorado State University*
“I am not aware of anyone in the Thoroughbred industry who has worn as many hats as Ed Bowen has. More importantly, he tackled each and every one of his positions adeptly, consistently and for the love of our sport. We will miss you Ed.

All the best,”

Chris McCarron  
*Retired Jockey*

“Dear Ed, I can't believe you're old enough to retire! Just remember, you're younger than I am. We go all the way back to The Blood-Horse in the 80s.

When I moved from Communications at The Jockey Club, I appreciate that you gave me a chance to move to a new job at Grayson Foundation and were such an understanding and caring boss. The years I spent at Grayson were among the most enjoyable of my career.

You were and are a great guy. I sincerely hope that retirement gives you freedom and opens new doors for the things you want to do.

*But PS: Let Ruthie know that if you drive her crazy she can call!!*

**Rebecca McCloud**  
*Retired, GJCRF Operations Administrator*
From 1994 through 2018, Edward L. Bowen served as full-time president of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, traditionally the leading source of private funding for veterinary research specifically to benefit all horses. Typically the Foundation funds 15-18 specific projects at various universities, and in recent years more $1,000,000 has been provided by Grayson annually for those endeavors. During Bowen’s years with Grayson, he was part of a team which raised $21 million in memberships and donations, not counting the income from fund raising events under the master hand of Nancy Kelly. This has resulted in 277 projects having been funded by Grayson-Jockey Club’s $22 million payments in support of those scientific projects. During the same period, the fiscal restraint prescribed by the board and bylaws, along with the expertise of the Foundation’s investment committee, grew Grayson’s corpus (endowment) from less than $8 million to more than $30 million.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Bowen was a journalist covering racing for 30 years, primarily with The Blood-Horse, where he served as managing editor and then editor-in-chief. He is the author of 20 books on Thoroughbred racing.

Bowen was born in Welsh, West Virginia, grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and attended the University of Florida and University of Kentucky. He was a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army Reserve. He is a life member and past president of the Thoroughbred Club of America and chairman of the Hall of Fame Nominating Committee for the National Museum of Racing. Bowen and his wife, Ruthie, live in Versailles, Ky., and are the parents of George Bowen, a professional (American style) football player in Europe. Bowen also has two grown daughters, Tracy Bowen and Jennifer Schafhauser, and two teenage granddaughters.
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