

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Jean Ellen Shehan Professorship and Directorship

The Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and Directorship was established in 1966 through a gift to the Virginia Tech Foundation from Mrs. Jean Ellen Shehan of South Miami, Florida. Mrs. Shehan was a lifelong horsewoman of international stature and she was the niece of Mrs. Marion duPont Scott, whose generosity made possible the construction of the Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia. Mrs. Shehan was a longtime friend and supporter of the Equine Medical Center, serving as the chair of its advisory council for several years; and

Dr. Nathaniel A. White II was named as the Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and Director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center from August 2004 until his retirement from the university in June 2013. Upon Dr. White's retirement, Dr. Michael D. Erskine was hired as the Director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, first on an interim basis from June 2013 through April 2015, then as the full-time Director on April 25, 2015.

Dr. Erskine is a two-time alumnus of Virginia Tech where he earned his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 1988 and his undergraduate degree in biology in 1984. Dr. Erskine achieved Diplomate certification by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (Equine Practice) in 1996. He has been a veterinary practitioner owner for over 25 years and has been a strong supporter of the Equine Medical Center as both a referring clinician and a member of the EMC Council and Veterinary Advisory Board.

Dr. Erskine was elected President of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association in 2000, becoming the first alum of the college to be chosen by his peers as head of a state association. He has also served as chair of the Maryland Veterinary Foundation. Under his leadership, the Equine Medical Center has made substantial progress in implementing a new plan for transitioning the EMC to a sustainable business operation that meets the clinical service, educational, and research needs of the College.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Michael D. Erskine be appointed as the Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and Director, Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center effective September 11, 2017, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment and if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

September 10, 2017