



South Central RLRI 2024 Featured Speakers – College Station, TX

Friday Evening

February 16

Rocky Lindsey, DVM

Dr. Rocky Lindsey (LSU '98) and his wife, Alicia, live in southeast Arkansas. They have two adult sons, Isaac and Jonah. Dr. Lindsey previously owned and operated two busy small animal practices in which his goal was to offer high quality veterinary medicine at an affordable price. He is an active Associate with Christian Veterinary Mission in which he previously served as the South Central Region Representative. Dr. Lindsey currently still practices veterinary medicine, teaches pre-veterinary courses at the University of Arkansas at Monticello, operates a small farm, and serves with his family at Pauline Baptist Church in Monticello, Arkansas.

Saturday

February 17

Devotion

Wendy Bray, DVM

Wendy is a wife, mom, veterinarian, and certified Christian life coach. Wendy earned her BA in Psychology in 1991 and spent four years working in a children's psychiatric hospital before attending Oklahoma State University CVM. Wendy married her husband (of 29 years) and started vet school in 1994, all within a four day period (that's another story for another time). Wendy received her DVM in 1998. She worked emergency medicine for six years - 3 years as a technician while in vet school and 3 years as a veterinarian. She purchased a small animal clinic in 2001. During her tenure as a practice owner, she and her husband raised 3 children and Wendy had the privilege of loving on her staff, clients, and patients and making them part of her extended family. Soon after selling her practice in 2018, Wendy became interested in life coaching. Through her own transformation, Wendy saw the need for this positive, empowering, forward-thinking mindset in veterinary medicine. With her background in Psychology, love for the Lord, love for helping others, and love for this profession, Wendy set out to become a life coach for the veterinary profession. Helping others deepen their relationship with the Lord, helping them to truly know who they are in Christ, helping them learn life changing life skills, and seeing them transform their mindset brings her so much joy!

Session I

Michelle Kurkowski, DVM

Michelle Kurkowski is an Aggie vet from the class of 2018. She worked in mixed animal medicine for 5 years and completed her Master of Public Health in May 2023. She is currently teaching Clinical Pathology at the Blinn Veterinary Technology Program as well as working part time in private

practice. She was a member of CVF as a student and attended short term trips with CVM to Haiti and Belize before serving as a trip leader in the Dominican Republic in 2023. She is passionate about One Health, working with veterinary students and mental health in the veterinary profession.

Clay Ashley, DVM

Dr. Clay Ashley is married to Tracy Ashley and has two daughters, Maiya and Jade. He graduated from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 1991. He worked in private practice as a mixed animal veterinarian in two different high quality mixed animal practices in the states of Texas and Washington. In between his two stints in private practice, Dr. Ashley served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force as a Military Public Health Officer stationed at McChord Air Force Base, Washington. In 2000, Dr. Ashley, his wife Tracy, and daughter Maiya moved to Mongolia with Christian Veterinary Mission to serve as field workers with Vet Net Mongolia. They lived there for 3 years. During their time in Mongolia, they added Jade to their family. In 2003, the Ashleys moved to China as CVM fieldworkers. During their time in China, they worked with an Australian group to start a beef cattle ranch in a southern Chinese province. In 2008, the Ashleys returned to the U.S. In 2009, Dr. Ashley started his career with Texas A&M University as Director of the Vet Med Park, a large animal research facility in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Ashley served on the board of Christian Veterinary Mission from 2016-2020. In 2019, Dr. Ashley became the Associate Executive Director of the Texas A&M Comparative Medicine Program where he works with a great team of laboratory animal veterinarians, technicians, and staff.

Amber Pierce

Amber Pierce is from Dallas, Texas and graduated from UAM in Monticello, Arkansas with her BS in Animal Science and Plant and Soil Science. She has been a vet tech for 11 years and is currently working towards her LVT. Amber started in general practice and found her way into emergency medicine, where she ultimately found her niche. She has a passion for critical care ICU and teaching others the skills required for these patients. Amber attends Lavon Drive Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. Her free time is spent with her husband Garrett, and their 3-year-old son Parker Rowdy.

Amber Pierce is from Dallas, Texas and graduated from UAM in Monticello, Arkansas with her BS in Animal Science and Plant and Soil Science. She has been a vet tech for 11 years and is currently working towards her LVT. Amber started in general practice and found her way into emergency medicine, where she ultimately found her niche. She has a passion for critical care ICU and teaching others the skills required for these patients. Amber attends Lavon Drive Baptist Church in Garland, Texas. Her free time is spent with her husband Garrett, and their 3-year-old son Parker Rowdy.

Lunch

Paul Yurksaitis

Paul Yurksaitis and his wife Sydney live on their small homestead south of Charlotte, NC with their 5 children, 3 dogs, 6 cats, chickens, turkeys, rabbits and sheep. Since graduating with a Biblical Studies degree in 2001 from Liberty University, Paul has been in ministry in different churches and organizations from New Hampshire to North Carolina. Paul's desire is to continue to be transformed into the image of Christ staying faithful to His Word and help as many people as possible do the same. Paul also enjoys gardening, fruit trees, hunting and performing on stage at Narroway Productions in Fort Mill, SC.

Session II

Bethany Schilling, DVM

Beau Schilling, DVM, MS and Bethany Schilling, DVM, MA celebrate 14 years of marriage this year. Beau practices small animal medicine and Bethany teaches at TTU SVM. They have 3 children ages 5 to 11. They both grew up in different regions of rural Texas. Beau's faith became real to him during graduate school in 2005 in a true desert experience. It is his joy to testify of the power of God in his life and his family's life, to call out the evil one, and to encourage his brothers and sisters to be in scripture. Bethany has had to pivot many times in her life and career. From mixed animal practice to clinical teaching at Texas A&M SA VMTH to small animal private practice/partnership to now teaching at Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine. As one of the founding faculty, she has witnessed much transformation. While she loves teaching, her true heart beats for mentoring and discipling the next generation of veterinarians and believers.

Sara-Louise Newcomer, DVM

Sara-Louise Newcomer became a follower of Jesus while in veterinary school at the University of Florida. Through that decision and her DVM, God combined her faith and profession in a way that the two cannot be separated. Her career has included time as a small animal practitioner, a CVM employee, and a faculty member at Auburn University, and now West Texas A&M University. She is currently the Director and Long Professor of Companion Animal Studies at WTAMU. Her second-best decision was marrying BJ Newcomer, a dairy vet, whom she also met at UF. Their family includes two double-named Labradors, Willow Kate and Calla Jo, and a wild feline, LC Newcomer. They live in the Texas Panhandle.

Dr. E

Dr. E is a long-term missions candidate preparing to serve alongside CVM in West Africa. She is a recent graduate of Mississippi State University and passionate about mobilizing others to join in the work God is doing around the world to call people to Him.

Session III

Catherine Shoemake, DVM, MS, DACVP (Clinical)

Catherine is married to Brian Shoemake, whom she met in vet school. She is a 2011 graduate from the University of Tennessee CVM, where she took time to explore international veterinary missions. She started in private practice, worked in industry, completed a clinical pathology residency at the University of Missouri CVM, has had life completely flip on its head a few times from various causes, and now works remotely for Zoetis Global Diagnostics. She also takes every opportunity she can to tell vet students that they do not have to have their entire career trajectory planned out by graduation, and that your mission field is right where you are right now.

Katie Blount, LVT

Katie is a licensed veterinary technician from Texas who grew up working with livestock. Growing up she learned the importance of using all the animal products whether waste, milk, or offspring. Katie has been working in a small animal practice for several years but felt God's calling to do more. She found the CVM booth at a conference and felt the call to missions. Katie has served some missions

with church and a short-term mission with CVM. She went to Short Course with CVM to learn more about Long-Term missions and found the need to work overseas in Rwanda.

Beau Schilling, DVM

Beau Schilling, DVM, MS and Bethany Schilling, DVM, MA celebrate 14 years of marriage this year. Beau practices small animal medicine and Bethany teaches at TTU SVM. They have 3 children aged 5 to 11. They both grew up in different regions of rural Texas. Beau's faith became real to him during graduate school in 2005 in a true desert experience. It is his joy to testify of the power of God in his life and his family's life, to call out the evil one, and to encourage his brothers and sisters to be in scripture.

Session IV

Dan Posey, DVM, DABVP

Dan Posey graduated from Texas A&M University in 1982. He served as rural practitioner in Madison County for 20 years prior to his teaching career at Texas A&M University. In Madisonville, he became a member of the First Methodist Church. There was tremendous spiritual growth through his 20-year ministry in Madisonville and served as the lay leader of the church. When his career moved to teaching, he found his ministry through the Christian Veterinary Fellowship. Dan is blessed to be married to Timmye Posey for 47 years. They are blessed with their two daughters, Abra and Rachel, son-in-law Heath and two granddaughters, Addie and Ameila.

Brian M. Shoemake, DVM, MS, DACVIM – LAIM

Brian is married to his beautiful wife, Catherine Shoemake, whom he met in vet school. He is a 2011 graduate of the University of Tennessee CVM. He initially started working in mixed animal private practice before completing a food animal internal & production medicine residency at the University of Missouri CVM. Brian tries to encourage students to take care of themselves and each other upon graduation to be the presence of Christ wherever they are.

Taylor Hood, DVM

Taylor Hood is a small animal general practitioner in Fort Worth, Texas. She attended University of North Texas for undergraduate degree (go Mean Green!) and attended veterinary school at Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Taylor has been involved with college ministry throughout her time in undergrad and served in leadership positions with the TAMU Christian Veterinary Fellowship as a veterinary student. She has also attended two short-term mission trips with CVM during vet school, and absolutely loves mission work! Taylor loves the field of veterinary medicine and enjoys using her career as a vehicle for her faith to show others the love of Christ and the light He brings to her life.

Session V

Jay Griffen, DVM

Dr. Jay Griffin became a follower of Jesus Christ in vet school in 2001. He graduated from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 2004 and finished his radiology residency at Texas A&M in 2010. He

married Sarah (a veterinarian) in 2005 and lives in College Station with his 3 kids (ages 3-10). He is now an Associate Professor in Radiology at Texas A&M. He enjoys spending time with his family, his church family, and his students.

Coalson Lacey, DVM

Coalson currently serves as an Associate to Latin America with CVM and VetRed - CVM's Latin American Affiliate. Prior to transitioning to serving as a CVM Associate, he served for 6 years as a Long-Term Fieldworker in Bolivia. While in Bolivia, he was engaged with student and professional ministry as he taught at a regional veterinary school. He currently lives in Dallas, Texas where he works as a relief veterinarian and enjoys time with his 4.5-year-old daughter (Rosella) and French bulldog (Diego). He was actively engaged in the TAMU CVF group and served on numerous short-term trips before transitioning to a long-term fieldworker in 2013.

Mack Boyd, DVM

Dr. Mack Boyd is a native of Navarro County, Texas and graduated with his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Texas A&M in 1983. He has been in mixed practice in Ennis, Texas for many years but his 6-doctor practice has moved to 100% small animal recently. He and his wife Molly have been married for 37 years and have 2 kids and 1 perfect granddaughter. In his spare time, he manages their 500-acre family farm, where they have about 100 head of Angus/Brangus cows. Dr. Mack enjoys photography, hunting, fishing and volunteering annually as a trail veterinarian for the Iditarod Sled Dog race in Alaska. For many years he has enjoyed sharing his veterinary skills and knowledge with impoverished people around the world through CVM short-term mission trips. He is passionate about sharing accounts of the impact that can be seen through short-term missions.

Lauren Hoerster, DVM

Lauren Hoerster was born in England. Her family was military and they did a couple of tours in Europe. She was blessed to grow up in a Christian home and became a believer at 7 yrs of age. She was also indoctrinated at an early age to become an Aggie. By middle school she knew she wanted to be a veterinarian. Lauren graduated from Texas A&M veterinary school in 1999. She began her career in a rural mixed practice, then, swine production medicine, then small-animal general practice, and finally has settled into relief practice. She has been on numerous short-term mission trips to Honduras and Nicaragua. She married her husband Ken 10 years ago and they fostered a little boy for almost 2 years. She is also a cancer survivor.

Evening Challenge

Paul Kline, DVM

Paul received his DVM from Texas A&M University in 1986. After almost 9 years of private practice, he spent 8 years living and working in Mongolia with Christian Veterinary Mission as both a fieldworker and Executive Director of Joint Christian Services, International. Following his return to the USA, Paul worked as an independent, private consultant for 2 years prior to becoming Vice President of Sales and Operations for Animal Care Technologies, where he worked for 6 years. During that same time period, Paul also served as a CVM board member for 8 years. In February 2011 Paul joined CityVet companies as CVO, managing overall operations, serving as the Medical Director, and reporting directly to the President/CEO to implement the CityVet strategic plan and business

model. Paul and his wife, Amanda of 36 years live in Denton, TX and have three children Ian, Hannah, and Matthew.

Sunday

February 18

Nancy Krutzsch, CVPM

Nancy has been working in the veterinary industry both as a Certified Veterinary Practice Manager and a veterinary manufacturer sales representative for over 12 years. A CVM Short-Term Mission trip to Haiti led to a transformed relationship with God. Nancy's involvement with CVM grew through Real Life Real Impact (RLRI) participation and multiple short-term mission trips to Honduras. Her passion for workplace ministry and short-term missions drew her full-time to CVM as the South Central Region Rep. Nancy's free time is spent working on the farm with her husband Jonathan and visits from her three grown sons.

