



## Southeastern RLRI @ UGA February 23-24, 2024

### Featured Speakers *(alphabetical order)*



#### **Lauren Charles, DVM**

Dr. Lauren Charles is an Auburn grad, class of 2005. After private practice for three years and a year at Banfield, she lived and served with CVM in Bolivia for three years. There she quickly went from being single to having a family of four, including her handsome husband, Jon, beautiful Bolivian daughter, Angie, and their Bolivian Labrador, Ruby. Her growing family brought her back to the U.S., where she's currently based out of Louisville, KY. She's since added two sons, a daughter, and most recently a son-in-law to their family. She serves as CVM's Workplace and Student Ministries Director and also oversees the Mideast region of the US. Email: [lcharles@cvm.org](mailto:lcharles@cvm.org)



#### **Curtis Clark**

Pastor Curtis Clark heard of the Apache Youth Ministries while attending Milligan College. Curtis moved to Arizona in 2017. He served as an intern for a year, and once his internship was done, he accepted the position of youth pastor at White Mountain Apache Christian Church. Curtis was able to connect to many of the students in the community while he taught for the Whiteriver Unified School District for six years. He and his wife Jordan, who he met on a mission trip in Whiteriver, enjoy serving the Apache people in the ways God has equipped them. Curtis transitioned from being a full-time teacher to the role of Executive Director of AYM in 2023. Email: [curtisjclark23@gmail.com](mailto:curtisjclark23@gmail.com)



#### **Jordan (Linahan) Clark, DVM**

Dr. Jordan Linahan Raised in Hahira, Georgia on a horse farm, Dr. Jordan Clark attended the University of Georgia (GoDawgs!) for veterinary school and graduated in 2020. She now lives in Lakeside, Arizona working as a veterinarian at Blue Ridge Pet Clinic, practicing primarily small animal medicine. Christian Veterinary Mission has been an integral part of her veterinary journey and led her to do missions on the Apache and Navajo reservations. She now lives near the White Mountain Apache Tribe and does ministry alongside her husband Curtis and daughter Hannalin. In their free time they love to enjoy the outdoors with their two beloved res dog rescues! Email: [jlinahan2012@gmail.com](mailto:jlinahan2012@gmail.com)



**Sara Croft, DVM**

Dr. Sara Croft is a large animal veterinarian south of Atlanta, GA. She is from Griffin, GA. She received a Bachelors degree in Biology from Gordon College in 2015. Sara then went in to receive her DVM from the University of Georgia in 2019. She returned home after vet school to work as an associate for her mentor. Dr. Sara shares her home with her two dogs, Rue, 7, who was adopted in vet school, and Ollie, 2. Outside of work, Sara enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking and kayaking with her pups, crafting, and watching college football. Dr. Sara has been a part

of CVM's UGA Navajo/Apache mission team since her first year of vet school and co-led the trip with Dr. Mary Peter in 2021. Email: [slcroft72@gmail.com](mailto:slcroft72@gmail.com)



**Ryan Jeffers**

Mr. Ryan Jeffers serves as the Short-Term Missions Coordinator at CVM. He is responsible for facilitating new opportunities, maintaining current host relationships, and educating volunteers about domestic and international short-term missions. He attended Liberty University where he obtained his M.Div. and Ed.S. degrees. Before joining CVM, Ryan lived and served in East Asia for five years. While there, he helped start and lead an international school for expat children. He also has experience

serving as Head of School for a non-profit school and ministry center as well as leading more than 15 international mission trips. Ryan and his wife, Alyssa, along with their three young children (Lydia, Abel, and Juliana), live in Louisville, KY. Email: [rjeffers@cvm.org](mailto:rjeffers@cvm.org)



**Nancy Moore, DVM, MA**

Dr. Moore is a Nebraska native. Scholastic blessings led her to the University of Florida for vet school, graduating in 1995. Small animal private practice and a love for the Lord propelled her into short-term missionary work with CVM's Native American Reservations and Urban Outreach. In obedience to the Lord, she completed a Master Degree in Ministerial Leadership at Southeastern University in 2020. She is married to Carnell, and they have five precious children: Ebriana, Jordan, Logan, Damian and Reagan. They're also home to a small handful of rescued cats! While Dr.

Moore continues with CVM as a short-term missionary, she also serves with CVM as the US West Region Representative. She connects and ministers to veterinarians, professors, vet students, technicians, donors and prayer partners encouraging them to fix their eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. In addition, she helps leverage them in their positions to love the Lord and others through veterinary medicine across her region of nine states. She is blessed to witness how the Lord multiplies His power through His people for His Kingdom. You may also see her husband Carnell serving and speaking at CVM events. Email: [nmoore@cvm.org](mailto:nmoore@cvm.org)



**Lee Myers, DVM, MPH, ACVPH, DHS/FEMA-MEP**

Dr. Lee Myers joined Christian Veterinary Mission as the Chief Executive Officer in January 2022. Dr. Lee's first mission trip was to Nepal in 1994 with Dr. Peter and Mary Quesenberry. While on her second CVM short-term mission trip to Mongolia (1997), her teammate, Dr. Billy Myers, proposed and they were married the following year. The Myers have led CVM student

short-term mission trips to the Navajo and Apache reservations for a decade and continue to serve as advocates for the University of Georgia CVM Fellowship. They served as CVM Associates in 2015 and moved to Europe to inspire veterinary students to form Christian clubs in Romania, Moldova, and Bulgaria. They continue to mentor, encourage, and support Eastern Europe Christian student clubs and the newly formed Romanian Christian Veterinary Association. Dr. Lee graduated from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine and received a Masters in Public Health from Emory University. She is board certified in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and received a Master Exercise Practitioner certification from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency. Before joining CVM as CEO, she served in a variety of leadership positions in the Georgia Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations where she managed the Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health. The Myers are active members of the First Baptist Church in Monroe, Georgia and enjoy living the country life on their farm. Email: [lmyers@cvm.org](mailto:lmyers@cvm.org)



**Mary Peter, DVM**

Dr. Mary Peter is a 2013 graduate of Iowa State University Veterinary school. A native of Nebraska, she went to Georgia after vet school for a one-year equine internship and ended up staying for 10 years. While in Georgia she worked on equine exclusively for 8 years then did mixed animal for 2 years. She also acted as an advisor to the UGA CVF group and had the honor of leading the group's mission trip to the Navajo and Apache reservations each summer. Now back in Nebraska to be close to her family, she is working in

small animal only and enjoying family time and working on her small acreage. Email: [mary\\_petero8@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_petero8@yahoo.com)



**Amy Piper, DVM**

Dr. Amy Piper is a 2018 University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine graduate. She has participated in the CVM Navajo and Lakota Sioux trips. She currently works in the Tampa area overseeing multiple locations of a corporate veterinary practice. She has participated in three CVM urban outreaches in the Tampa Bay area. She has also led three rural outreaches with her corporation. When she's not at work she's probably chasing her two young boys or her herd of small ruminants. Amy loves women's ministry, volunteering, Boston Terriers, and going for hikes. Email:

[smithamy1992@gmail.com](mailto:smithamy1992@gmail.com)



**Tim Rupard**

Minister Tim Rupard is a non-denominational, ordained minister. His ministry background includes missions ministry and personal heart conviction for discipleship ministry in the lives of men. He is an accomplished author of two books, one for adults and one for children. He is a devoted speaker at churches, schools, and retirement homes to embrace the calling to share Christ through his and his family's story and personal testimony, The Winston Story. Tim is a husband, a father of four and a grandfather of five. In Tim's free time, he is an avid outdoorsman

and would rather be outside than inside! Email: [gooddogreads@gmail.com](mailto:gooddogreads@gmail.com)



### **Patty Scharko, DVM, MPH**

Dr. Patty Scharko earned a D.V.M. in 1983 from University of Georgia and a Masters in Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill. She completed an internship at Tufts University Ambulatory and a residency in production medicine at North Carolina State University. Patty was on faculty at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Canada in the Ambulatory section. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine in 1994. In 1995, Patty became employed as the extension ruminant veterinarian at the University of Kentucky, Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center. In 2008, she joined Clemson University as an extension/field veterinarian at Livestock Poultry Health in Columbia, SC. She is currently involved with cattle, goats and sheep production/management/herd health. Patty is past president for AABP (American Association of Bovine Practitioners), ACVPM (American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine), AASRP (American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners), and AAEV (American Association of Extension Veterinarians). She served on Christian Veterinary Mission board of advisors and did a short term CVM shuttle to Mongolia and Haiti to teach about livestock health. When not behind a computer, Patty enjoys gardening at the office and home, and "Disney bounding" in Orlando with family. Email: [pschark@clemson.edu](mailto:pschark@clemson.edu)



### **Bliss Steele**

Pastor Bliss Steele lives in Lancaster SC with his wife, Jessica, their son and seven dogs. Bliss has worked with teenagers and adults for nearly three decades in both the church and corporate world. Bliss is currently the Corporate Chaplain for Nutramax Laboratories in Lancaster, SC serving their nearly 800 employees. Bliss uses his unique experiences from growing up on the mission field traveling the world, to serving in the local church, along with his years as a dog trainer to combine biblical truths and practical application showing what it means to be in an obedient and dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. Email: [bliss.steele@gmail.com](mailto:bliss.steele@gmail.com)



### **Lew Sterrett, DVM**

For over 30 years Dr. Lew has combined his expertise as a professional horse trainer, a certified youth and family counselor, a licensed pastor, and a successful business executive to produce one of the most unique events in the Christian realm. As he trains the horse, you will vividly see yourself, your spouse, your child, your co-worker or employer. The needs of the heart will be clearly illustrated and the steps to meeting those needs will be evidenced as the horse overcomes his resistance to change and finds success and fulfillment in his relationship with the trainer. These events vary in length from thirty minutes to two hours. But no matter what the length, you will be so captivated that you will be astonished the session is over so soon. As a relationship specialist, Dr. Lew has lived and understands real life issues, accurate and truthful solutions and clear application for daily living. If you are tired of status quo living and are looking for gut-level truth and development of core values based on truth from the Word of God, you don't want to miss this one-

of-a-kind event. You will find yourself fascinated even if you don't like or understand horses. You will feel encouraged, focused, and challenged to greater excellence in your life. You will clearly see the simple steps of application for your complex life issues resulting in a positive effect, both now and for future generations. Email: [SOTMoffice@gmail.com](mailto:SOTMoffice@gmail.com)



**Laurel Tipps**

Ms. Laurel Tipps is a senior vet student at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Her professional study emphasis is large animal medicine and surgery. Prior to veterinary school, she completed a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Health Sciences from Lincoln Memorial University in 2020. Laurel loves cows. Stay tuned for where her veterinary career takes her! Email: [Laurel.tipps@uga.edu](mailto:Laurel.tipps@uga.edu)



**Mitsie Vargas, MS, DVM, CCRV, CVMM, FFAVA, FACVBM**

Dr. Mitsie Vargas graduated from Tuskegee University in 1994. In 1996 she established her AAHA hospital which evolved into an integrative practice. She is a Certified Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM) Practitioner and certified in Veterinary Medical Manipulation, Canine Rehabilitation and Veterinary Balance Method Acupuncture. She is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture and the American Academy of Veterinary Botanical Medicine. She holds a Master's degree in TCVM from the Chi University. Dr. Vargas is an author, bilingual lecturer and teacher for Chi University of USA, Peru and Costa Rica. She was named America's Favorite Veterinarian in 2015 and Florida's Veterinarian of the Year in 2018. She shares her passion for TCVM on her podcast The Pet Healer. Since coming to Christ she completed an associate degree in Chaplaincy and offers her services freely. Her main hobbies are reading, traveling, volunteering especially at Jail ministry and planning her local CVM meetings. She lives in Winter Haven, FL with her husband, two daughters and a menagerie of pets. Email: [drmitsie@gmail.com](mailto:drmitsie@gmail.com)



**Page Wages, DVM, MA**

Dr. Page Wages is the lead veterinarian at Care First Animal Hospital; a busy, progressive small animal practice in Raleigh, NC. She graduated veterinary school at NC State in 2005, completed her Masters in Executive Leadership through Liberty University in 2014, and a Bachelors in 2001 from St. Lawrence University. Dr. Wages is passionate about rescue animals and has been actively involved in community service; serving as the overseeing veterinarian for Second Chance Pet Adoptions and intermittently for the Wake County SPCA. She is also highly involved with the veterinary students at NC State, as the Advisor of the Christian Veterinary Mission Fellowship group. She has been leading trips through Christian Veterinary Mission for the last 22 years to the Navajo Nation, to Cherokee in North Carolina, and serving the Yup'ik Eskimo Villages in Alaska. She is currently serving as the past Chairman of the Board for Christian Veterinary Mission. For fun, Dr. Wages has a little Funny Farm of 92 animals including 2 pigs, 12 dogs, 4 ducks, 7 peacocks, 7 rabbits, 70 something chickens, 4 goats, a handful of fish, and a crazy parrot -many of the animals have special medical needs and keep her busy at home! She was nominated 2 years in a row and won 3rd place as

America's Favorite Veterinarian and recently won 2nd place in Raleigh's Favorite Veterinarian. Email: [drwages@gmail.com](mailto:drwages@gmail.com)



**Dustin Weaver, DVM, MPH**

Dr. Weaver received his DVM from Colorado State University and MPH from Colorado School of Public Health. He is most interested in preventive medicine and was boarded in preventive medicine in 2018. Currently Dr Weaver serves as the Deputy State Vet for GA Dept of Agriculture. Prior to that managed a large cattle ranch in eastern Colorado. Outside of work Dr Weaver serves as an elder in his local church and helps to coordinate missions and outreach for the church Covenant Park Church in Madison GA. He is a father of three children Creed 6, Breindel 12, and Havily 17.

Married to his bride Janeahs for 20 years. They are well acquainted with CVM, Dustin was president of his local CVF club while on vet school and has spoken at different RLRI events in the West. Email: [dr.dustin.weaver@gmail.com](mailto:dr.dustin.weaver@gmail.com)



**Sarah Wentworth, DVM**

Dr. Sarah Wentworth is a 2004 graduate from Auburn University. She has worked in three different small animal clinics, traveled on several short-term missions trips, and served long-term in Uganda for as a long term missionary for three years. In her free time, she loves singing in the car & choir, basking in God's creation on walks with friends, and playing her ukulele. Email: [wentwsk@gmail.com](mailto:wentwsk@gmail.com)



**Susan Williams, DVM, PhD, ACPV**

Dr. Susan Williams is a 1994 DVM graduate from Tuskegee University. She earned a PhD in Veterinary Pathology studying avian leukosis virus in chickens. She is a diplomat of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians. She is a professor in the department of Population Health at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center at UGA CVM. She is the club advisor for UGA CVF. She currently serves as Interim Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the college. Her husband Orlando is also a veterinarian, who does small animal private practice in metro ATL.

She is a "foodie" because she likes to try new foods and different restaurants. Email: [smwillia@uga.edu](mailto:smwillia@uga.edu)



**Joesph Wright, DVM**

Dr. Joe Wright is a graduate of Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. He lives on a farm in the foothills of NC with his wife Linnie. They are both active in their home church where Joe serves as a deacon. They have two grown children and one granddaughter. Joe's veterinary career spans 30 years as a practice owner and clinician. He now serves as the supervising inspector for the NC Veterinary Medical Board. For the past ten years he has been actively involved in CVM's Native American Ministry to the

Cherokee, Navajo and Sioux Nations as well as a participant in Real Life Real Impact and professional

conferences on behalf of the organization. This past year Joe has led as our chair of the CVM Board of Directors. Email: [JoeWright160@hotmail.com](mailto:JoeWright160@hotmail.com)

