RLRI Mid South 2027 Program Summary – MS State

Friday Evening February 12

CVM Hosts **Dr. Johanna Choate & Dr. Lauren Charles**

"See To It" **Shane Rootes**
We live surrounded by need, yet somewhere we lost the question of what separates noticing something from being changed by it. In the way Jesus saw people (Matthew 9:36), we discover that Kingdom seeing has never been passive; it moves from "I see" to "I'll see to it," from observation to stewardship. In the clinic, the classroom, and the mission field, the invitation is the same: Onward, to Encourage, Love, and Do. We cannot unsee what we have truly seen; the only question is whether we will let it remake us.

Worship/Prayer **Jake Shively & New Horizons Worship Band**

Saturday February 13

Devotional and Worship 8:30am

"When doing the "wrong" thing is sometimes the "right" thing" **– Dr. Rocky Lindsay**

Session One 9:30am
"Tackling Mental Health Stigmas" **Dr. Julie White**
Veterinary professionals often neglect and stigmatize self-care, though many veterinary professionals struggle with mental health disorders. Add in a global pandemic, and the environment is ripe for burnout and compassion fatigue across the profession. Methods for addressing stress, advocating for personal mental health, and identifying at-risk behaviors in colleagues will be discussed.

"Short-term Missions" **Dr. Kelly Crowdis**
As CVM"s Deputy Mission's Director for the America's, Dr. Kelly Crowdis brings a wealth of experience to this session on short term missions.

Session Two 10:30am

***"Hurry or Love, You Choose"* – Dr. Lauren Charles**

If hurry and love are incompatible, it's up to us to decide how we'll live. Obviously easier said than done, but if God moves at the speed of love, then we should as well. In this session, we will assess the way we use our time so that we can find a healthier, holier lifestyle.

***"Grace Amid the Chaos"* – Drs. Isaac & Tyler Jumper**

Grace can be described as freely giving a person something they do not deserve or have not earned. As early career veterinarians, junior faculty, and new parents, the chaos of life provides many opportunities for us to extend grace to one another. The ultimate example of grace we have in the Bible is that which was extended to us by our Savior, Jesus Christ through His death. Living each day in the reality of this grace should alter how we interact with our spouses, coworkers, fellow students, etc. As Paul told the church in Ephesus, "it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God…" (Eph. 2:8). A gift we were freely given when we did not deserve it should itself be freely extended to others; and it is by these actions that those who see us would know we are servants of Christ. In this session, we will discuss our faith, our journey, and our attempt to extend grace amid the chaos of daily life.

Session Three 11:30am

***"We Had Hoped… Recognizing the Presence of Christ in our disappointment"* – Dr. Rob Goodman**

Like Cleopas and his friend on the road to Emmaus, I often find myself too occupied by my disappointment to recognize the presence of Christ walking with me. During this session we will explore how we might welcome the presence of Christ in our disappointment and encourage others to look for Jesus as they journey through disappointment.

***"The difference between a veterinarian who happens to be a Christian and a Christian who happens to be a veterinarian."* - Dr. Phil Bushby**

After his resurrection Jesus Christ commanded his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations." If you are a Christian, that command applies to you as well. How do we do that as a veterinary student; as a veterinarian? Scripture provides all the resources and encouragement we need. We must be intentional about our faith, about how Jesus has changed our lives. When we demonstrate our faith through our actions, the words become so much easier to say.

Lunch 12:30pm

Session Four 2:30pm

***"Keeping Balance – When Good Things Get Out of Place"* – Dr. Bliss Steele**

Can you have too much of a good thing? Absolutely! Work, money, food, technology, and even hobbies are gifts that can become burdens when they take the wrong place in our lives. Through biblical wisdom and practical, everyday examples, we'll discover how to recognize when enough is enough, refuse to be controlled by our appetites, and find lasting contentment in Christ. Because the secret to a balanced life isn't doing everything equally—it's keeping first things first!

***"Faithfulness in the Ordinary"* – Dr. Kaylee Cooper**
You don't have to do extraordinary things to make an eternal impact! You can honor God through the way you care for animals, serve people, handle uncertainty, and show up when someone needs you.

Session Five 3:30pm
***"Follow THE Leader (what's your leadership style?)"* – Dr. Skip Jack**
But Dr. Skip, I want to be a veterinarian, not a leader! Too bad, that responsibility comes with the degree. No matter what field of veterinary medicine you pursue, you will be called upon to lead. The question is "what will be your leadership style?". So, why not model the greatest servant leader of all-time, i.e. Jesus Christ.

Short Term Missions Panel
Join a group of short-term missionaries to ask questions and hear their stories from times in the field.

Vet School Tours /
Fellowship Time 4:30pm

Dinner 6:30pm

Evening Challenge 8:00pm
***"Need to be Near"* - Dr. Johanna Choate**
As believers, we're called to abide in Christ, but what does that actually mean? As we wrap up our RLRI weekend, join in as we explore what it means to "be near" and why it's vital that we do so!

Worship and Prayer 9:00pm

Sunday February 14

Visit Area Churches

Christian Veterinary Mission