Mid South RLRI 2027 Featured Speakers – Starkville, MS

Friday February 12

Shane Rootes, CVM CEO

Shane Rootes is a global executive leader and provocative voice on purpose and leadership. As CEO of Christian Veterinary Mission, he challenges comfortable assumptions and calls people into the costly space between awareness and responsibility. His conviction is simple: leadership is not measured by what we see or intend, but by what changes because we were there.

Saturday February 13

Devotion

Rocky Lindsey, DVM

Dr. Rocky Lindsey (LSU '98) and wife, Alicia, live in rural Arkansas. Dr. Lindsey owned and operated Warren Animal Clinic and Monticello Animal Clinic for over 10 years where he practiced high quality medicine at an affordable price to serve his economically depressed community. He sold his successful practices and became a Region Representative with Christian Veterinary Mission of which he still remains as an Associate. He currently teaches and advises pre-veterinary students at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and works as a relief veterinarian.

Session I

Julie White, DVM

Dr. Julie White is an East Tennessee native with a heart for large animals. After graduating from Lincoln Memorial University, she completed an equine internship (Lexington, KY) and residency in large animal internal medicine (Michigan State University). Dr. White returned to her southern roots in August 2022 as Assistant Clinical Professor of Large Animal Medicine at Mississippi State University. Dr. White participated in three CVM mission trips to Central Kentucky as a student and looks forward to returning as a veterinarian. She enjoys spending time with her dog, Red, attempting DIY projects around the house, and sewing.

Kelly Crowdis, DVM

Kelly is a 2000 graduate of Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine. Kelly first engaged with CVM as a veterinary student in 1996 and later as a member of short-term trips before going to Haiti full-time where she served for 17 years. Kelly and her son Ronald are now serving from Wichita, Kansas as Deputy Missions Director for the Americas. When she's not working or at church you can find Kelly at Ronald's soccer games or in the garden.

Session II

Lauren Charles, DVM

Dr. Lauren Charles is a graduate of Auburn University, College of Veterinary Medicine, class of 2005. She grew up in Louisville, KY and lives there again now. After a number of short-term mission trips to Latin American countries, she lived and served in Bolivia from 2009-2012 with Christian Veterinary Mission, working primarily with veterinary students. Lauren adopted her daughter in Bolivia, then got married and came back to the US. They now also have 3 biological children, a son-in-law, and a granddaughter! She enjoys serving as CVM's Workplace and Student Ministries Director.

Drs. Isaac & Tyler Jumper

Isaac and Tyler Jumper are both faculty within the Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University. Tyler works as a clinician in the Food Animal Hospital, while Isaac is a large animal ambulatory clinician. Isaac is originally from Paragould, AR and is a 2018 graduate of MSU CVM. Following graduation he completed both a residency and PhD in Population Medicine, he became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) in 2023, and a diplomate of the ACVPM Epidemiology specialty in 2024. Tyler is originally from Flowood, MS, and is a 2022 graduate MSU CVM. Following graduation, she completed a residency in Population Medicine, became an ACVPM diplomate in 2025, and a diplomate of the ACVPM Epidemiology Specialty in 2026. Tyler and Isaac have been married for 3 years, and have a son, Asa, as well as two Corgis (Lincoln and Tesla) and a Border Collie (Gus).

Session III

Rob Goodman, DVM

Dr. Rob Goodman is a veterinarian, an Army veteran, a priest in the Anglican tradition, a spiritual director, and a rancher. Rob is passionate about transformation and spiritual wellbeing. He believes that our practices link our identity to our hope. Our practices, the things we do every day either intentionally or unintentionally, reveal the truths about who we really are and the lies that we have believed. Our practices also have the power to lead us to live as we truly are and become who we were meant to be. Paradoxically, our transformation results in becoming what we have always been - Beloved.

Rob is a spiritual director at Horizons (https://www.horizons-sa.org/) and the Canon for Spiritual Direction and Spiritual Formation for the Anglican Diocese of All Nations. He provides quarterly workshop on resilience for the San Antonio Bridges to Care program (https://www.nami-sat.org/bridges-to-care) and works closely with Christian Veterinary Mission providing teaching and pastoral care.

Phil Bushby, DVM

Phil Bushby, graduated from the University of Illinois CVM in 1972. He completed an internship and surgical residency at the Henry Bergh Memorial Hospital of the ASPCA and a second surgical residency and Masters' degree at Auburn University. A Board-Certified Surgeon, Phil has served on the Mississippi State University CVM faculty for over 49 years. He has participated in mission trips to Honduras (non-veterinary) and mission trips to Belize with Christian Veterinary Missions.

Session IV

Bliss Steele

Bliss Steele lives in Lancaster SC with his wife, Jessica, and seven dogs. Bliss has worked with teenagers and adults for over three decades in both the church and corporate world. Bliss is currently the Sr. Corporate Chaplain for Nutramax Laboratories in Lancaster, SC serving their 900 employees. Bliss uses his unique experiences from growing up on the mission field traveling the world, to serving in the local church and corporate world, 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.

Kaylee Cooper, DVM

Dr. Kaylee Cooper is a 2025 graduate of Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed a Large Animal Rotating Internship at MSU CVM in June 2026. She is currently an Associate Veterinarian at Vet Med of Corinth, as well as the owner of Cooper Veterinary Services, the large animal ambulatory practice that she opened upon completion of her internship. She was involved in Christian Veterinary Fellowship during all four years of veterinary school, as well as during her internship year. Her special interests in veterinary medicine are equine sports medicine & lameness.

Session V

Skip Jack, DVM, MS, PhD

People who know call me "Skip" (a nick-name I've had since birth). And I don't like to advertise all those letters behind my name, except that the two most important women (mother and wife) in my life paid for them. Trained as a pathologist at Purdue ADDL, he retired from Mississippi State CVM a couple years ago, having taught here since 1989. Over the past 15 or 18 years, he's been CVF advisor and participated in multiple short term (national and international) missions and has stories from each one.

First Years Out Panel

Join a group of recent graduates to ask questions and hear from them about what has surprised them since starting out in the real world.

Evening Challenge

Johanna Choate, DVM

Johanna is a 2011 graduate of Auburn University. Originally from Kentucky, she first connected with CVM during vet school where she was active in the local CVF group. After graduation, she returned to Kentucky and worked in a mixed animal practice for over a decade before transitioning to academia, where she taught in a veterinary technology program until God called her to full-time ministry with CVM as the Mideast Region Rep. She currently resides in Kentucky with her husband Luke and their three beautiful children.