RLRI SGU 2027 Featured Speakers – St. George's University

Friday March 12

Briana Blackwelder, DVM

Dr.Bri is a 2025 graduate of NC State. She has been very active with CVM, including multiple Real Life Real Impact events like this one! Bri has also been part of short term mission trips through CVM. In school, Bri was an equine focused vet student. Before starting vet school she worked for several years as a physical therapist assistant. She started and continues to run her own equine body work business. Bri was very active at NC State, sat on the E-board for several clubs, the student body government, and hosted a weekly devotions meeting.

Saturday March 13

Opening Session

Shane Rootes, PhD

Shane Rootes serves as CEO of Christian Veterinary Mission, inspiring veterinarians worldwide to live out their calling where faith and skill meet in service. A transformational leader with more than two decades of global experience, he is passionate about advancing mission, mentorship, and impact through the veterinary profession. Shane Rootes serves as the CEO of Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM), bringing over 25 years of global nonprofit leadership to the role. A visionary grounded in compassion, Shane has walked alongside communities in crisis, led cross-cultural teams, and witnessed the power of faith in action.He believes leadership begins with listening and that healing starts with presence. Whether in a remote village or a boardroom, Shane's heart beats for holistic care, courageous collaboration, and building what lasts. Shane is married to Miriam, and together they are raising four incredible children who remind him daily of what truly matters. He's passionate about equipping others to live out their calling while guiding CVM's growth with integrity, humility, and bold vision. Now leading CVM into its next chapter of global impact, Shane remains committed to honoring the sacred mission of Christ-centered veterinary service; because love leaves a legacy, and service speaks louder than words.

Session I

John Mauterer, DVM

Dr. Mauterer graduated from LSU in 1987. He completed a small animal surgical residency at The Ohio State and became a board-certified surgeon. He has worked in university and private practice

settings for 30 years. He was raised in New Orleans in the Presbyterian faith. At the age of 39 he had a life-changing experience with Holy Spirit. He has since worked with CVM and his local church in using veterinary medicine in mission work locally and around the world.

Deb Mauterer, DVM

Deb Mauterer earned her Degree of Veterinary Medicine in 1989 from Iowa State University. After finishing her Small Animal Internship at Kansas State University, she completed a Residency in Small Animal Surgery at Ohio State University in 1993. She practiced small animal surgery in Louisiana for several years before she moved into a management position where she oversees their two practices for the past 7 years. In her free time she is a breeder of English Cocker Spaniels, and enjoys showing her own dogs. She has been on several short term mission trips including Costa Rica, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, India, Haiti and Thailand.

Session 2

Bliss Steele

Bliss 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.

Sunday March 14

Worship with CSA on campus

Curtiss Gibbs, M.Div

Curtiss Gibbs joined the CVM team as a Region Rep in 2017. He serves as our West Region Rep, after having spent 5 years serving as the Northeast Rep. Previously, Curtiss served in pastoral ministry for 13 years in the local church, mostly focused on youth, college students, and missions. He studied at the University of Georgia for his undergraduate degree and at Fuller Theological Seminary for his Master of Divinity. Curtiss loves connecting people to their calling and working to see individuals and groups thrive as they serve God. He and his wife, Shannon, have been married since 2003, and love to spend time outdoors and in the company of family and friends.