

Sports & Entertainment

# UofM student Christina McKnight shares her story during filming of ‘The College Tour,’ an Amazon Prime Video series

*The College Tour’ Show Comes to the UofM Campus Amazon Prime Video series shares student stories of academics, research, mentorships*

MEMPHIS, TN (February 20, 2024)— The University of Memphis will become among the latest higher ed institutions featured in “The College Tour” when the Amazon Prime Video show streams new episodes later this year.

The series, which began in 2020, is now filming its 12th season highlighting the perks of college life at various universities around the globe. Authentic stories from 10 UofM students comprise the University of Memphis episode, which began filming on campus this week.

Guided by host Alex Boylan, the 30-minute episode tells a story of what life is truly like on and around the University of Memphis, from academics and internships to the campus community and study abroad.

“The idea for “The College Tour” TV series came to me from my 16-year-old niece. Because of the pandemic and fi-



UofM student Christina McKnight shares her story during Monday’s filming of “The College Tour.” (Photo/Courtesy The College Tour and University of Memphis)

nances, she wasn’t able to travel to tour colleges,” said Boylan, who won CBS’s “The Amazing Race” in 2002 and went on to produce and host shows on PBS,

CBS, the Travel Channel and more. “So, using our skills as executive producers we created a series inspired by her and millions of other young people who

are interested in attending college.”

Filmed over one week in February, the episode kicks off with student Christina McKnight.

McKnight, who attends the Lambuth Campus in Jackson, talks about campus life and belonging through her journey to become a Resident Advisor. Following her segment, nine other students share their UofM stories:

- Gage Farris talking about being a first-generation student and now, Peer Mentor
- Caleb Suggs sharing about industry connections and starting an independent film production company
- Ansley Ecker discussing internships and networking through campus organizations
- Donovan McLemore sharing about mentorships and creating Grind City Hoops
- Tony Miles talking about student success and leading at several organizations including the Hooks Africa American Male Initiative
- Charles Ratcliff discussing research and experiential learning at the Community Health Building
- Liliana McKenna sharing about her study abroad experience in Japan
- Sree Malya Bathina talking

about graduate school and transformative experiences found at the UofM

•Suzie Perry discussing access via the Education Support Program

As the episode unfolds, students discuss the extensive and intensive educational environment at the UofM and how collaboration and academics drive many of their rewarding experiences.

“While the ‘The College Tour’ highlights the many incredible features of the UofM and its campus, our students stand out as the true VIPs of this series,” said President Bill Hardgrave. “We are no strangers to their passion, determination and enthusiasm, so we are absolutely thrilled the world gets to be introduced to them now as well.”

“The College Tour” was created by Boylan, Lisa Hennessy and Burton Roberts, a team of successful entrepreneurs in the TV, social media and technology space.

The University of Memphis episode of “The College Tour” will be available to view soon at thecollegietour.com.

# Tennessee State Parks seek volunteers for annual Weed Wrangle as part of national effort to remove invasive plants from public spaces on March 2

NASHVILLE – Tennessee State Parks invite Tennesseans to participate March 2 in the state’s annual Weed Wrangle, part of a national effort to remove invasive plants from public spaces. The state has 36 state parks participating.

The Weed Wrangle is a nationwide movement for volunteers to help rescue public parks and green spaces from non-native invasive species through hands-on

removal of especially harmful trees, vines, and flowering plants. The state is a partner in the Weed Wrangle program with the Garden Club of America.

Examples of the Wrangle this year include wildflower gardening at Cumberland Mountain State Park; clearing bush honeysuckle and privet around the trail head and canoe access at Harpeth River State Park; restoring native

vegetation at Booker T. Washington State Park; and removing Chinese privet at T.O. Fuller State Park.

A link for details of the event at each participating state park can be found at <https://tnstateparks.com>

Harpeth River State Park will hold its Weed Wrangle March 3, and Fort Loudoun State Park will hold its event March 16. Tennessee Promise students

may use the Weed Wrangle for community service requirements for the college financial assistance program.

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# Memphis Grizzlies to retire Marc Gasol’s No. 33 ... from sports page 1

secutive playoff appearances, including the club’s first postseason series victory in 2011 and a trip to the 2013 Western Conference Finals. He is the Grizzlies’ all-time leader in minutes played (25,917), games started (762), field goals made (4,341), free throws made (2,701), defensive rebounds (4,624), total rebounds (5,952) and blocks (1,135) and ranks second in franchise history in games played (769), points (11,684), assists (2,639), offensive rebounds (1,318), double-doubles (194) and triple-doubles (5) and places third in steals (708). Among postseason leaders, he ranks first in minutes played, free throws made, defensive rebounds and blocks and places second in games played, games started, points, rebounds, assists, field goals made, offensive rebounds and total rebounds.

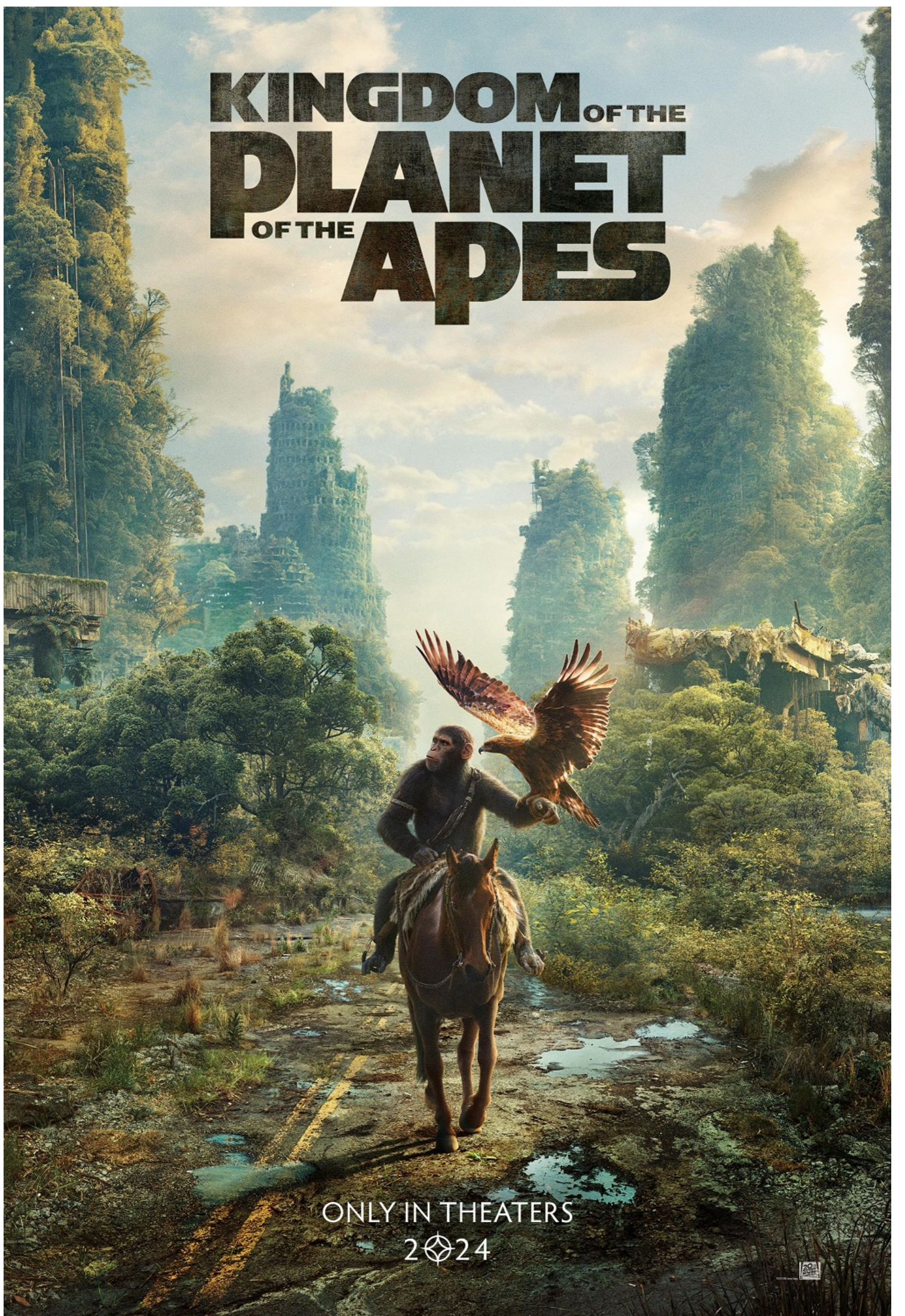
The Barcelona, Spain, native was named the 2012-13 NBA Defensive Player of the Year, becoming the first European-born player to receive the award, after anchoring a Grizzlies defense that allowed a league-low 89.3 points per game to opponents during a franchise-record 56-26 campaign. He was selected to the 2014-15 All-NBA First Team – the only player in franchise history to receive All-NBA First Team honors – and the 2012-13 All-NBA Second Team and All-Defensive Second Team.

In addition, Gasol appeared in a franchise-record three NBA All-

Star Games (2012, 2015, 2017) and became the first player in Grizzlies history to be voted a starter, tipping-off the 2015 All-Star Game against older brother Pau Gasol at Madison Square Garden. To date, the Gasols are the only siblings in NBA history to start in the same All-Star Game. Marc was acquired by the Grizzlies on Feb. 1, 2008 – 16 years ago today – in a trade that saw the Grizzlies send his brother Pau to the Los Angeles Lakers.

Gasol played high school basketball at Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis while his brother Pau was a member of the Grizzlies. Gasol was named Division II’s Mr. Basketball in 2003 following his senior season in which he averaged 26 points, 13 rebounds and six blocks per game. Lausanne retired Gasol’s No. 33 jersey in 2008.

Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2023-24 single game tickets, including Saturday, April 6, when the Grizzlies will retire Gasol’s No. 33 jersey, can do so now by calling (901) 888-HOOP, going online to [grizzlies.com/tickets](http://grizzlies.com/tickets) or through the Official Grizzlies Mobile App. For more information on the Grizzlies, visit [grizzlies.com](http://grizzlies.com), ‘like’ Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on Twitter/X and Instagram.



The Mid-South Tribune’s 29th Annual Black History Month Edition is all about ‘Education, Economics, and Entrepreneurship’.