

Checked Out! Episode 5 Transcript

Michelle Rebaleati: Hello everyone, welcome to the sixth episode of-- Ugh wait

beep

Michelle: Hello, and welcome to the fifth episode of out checked-- Ahh

beep

Michelle: Alright everyone, welcome to the fifth episode of checked out. I'm your virtual host and tour guide for the new 360 tour of campus. Okay, really my name is Michelle Rebaleati, and I'm the manager of events and production in the @One digital media team. Usually I'm the final editor for this checked out podcast, but today I'm doing the intro, and I'm one of the guests. Our team in the @One developed a new 360 degree tour of the university's campus and somebody had to do the voiceover. That somebody was me, and now everyone in my department is calling me the Siri of UNR. Believe it or not, from web development actually thought we used an automated robot voice. I just wanted to go on record saying that no robot was hurt in the making of this 360 tour. Just my ego.

Anyway, working alongside admissions, marketing and communications, and web development, we created a one of a kind virtual tour for new and future students to explore campus, all of campus, from the comfort of their own home. For this episode we interviewed Steven Maples, the director of admissions, to understand why this tour was necessary during a global pandemic. We also chatted with Nick Gapp, the manager of the Dynamic Media Lab, to hear the behind the scenes of how it was made. But without further ado, let's join Sasha and Sean, and I hope you enjoy the show.

Sasha: Thanks, Michelle for that intro and-

Sean: **Laughing**

Sasha: Being here in this intro. It's like some sort of meta intro thing happening right now.

Sean: Right?

Sean: I actually think it's fun that you still thanked her instead of just turning to her and thanking her.

Sasha: No, I gotta like thank her in the ether first, 'cause I gotta thank past Michelle.

Michelle: I feel like I'm really triple-dipping when going into this.

Sasha: Yeah (laughing). So if you guys don't know, you are listening to "Checked Out," a University Library's podcast, and I am one of your regular hosts, I'm Sasha.

Sean: I'm Sean, your other regular host.

Sasha: Uh-huh.

Michelle: And I'm Michelle, your very unregular host.

Sean: **Laughing**

Sasha: But she's always here behind the scenes, so it's...it's like she's a host.

Sean: **Laughing** Yeah

Sasha: Kind of.

Michelle: I like being behind the scenes. I think I'm comfortable triple-dipping in this.

Sean: Yeah, we always- You all know her name. I always thank her in our credits every week, yet here she is. We've...we've...we've jabbed her in the back with little sticks and we're making her step up to the microphone.

Sasha: Yeah, this is against her will. And we're okay with that

Sean: Yeah, yeah entirely not by choice.

Michelle: Especially with all three of them. Like hey, I'm just gonna crash everybody's party.

Sasha: Do all the interviews. Uh, so she's here joining us today 'cause we thought it'd be fun to bring her into the intro because she's had a big role in this whole 365 tour thing. 360 Tour.

Sean: 360.

Michelle: 365 is Office, right?

Sasha: 365 is Office and 365 Learning on campus is the extended studies.

Sean: Yeah.

Michelle: That's right.

Sasha: So it all makes sense. I'm not crazy.

Sean: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. No, no, no. It all just- It all just bleeds together after a little while.

Sasha: Uh-huh.

Michelle: Yeah. It's true, and with 360, it's so uncommon I think for a lot of people, so when you think of 360 and you haven't tried on a virtual reality headset, you're kinda like whaaat? Is going on?

Sean: You mean 365, right?

Sasha: That's how many days there are in a year.

Sasha: ****Laughing**** So I suppose we should talk about what this episode is about and the awesomeness of the 360 virtual tour.

Sean: Yes.

Sasha: So if you guys aren't aware, which you probably aren't unless you're an incoming freshman, and if you're an incoming freshman and listening to this podcast, wow! You're ahead of it! Like...I'm impressed!

Sean: Can I say, as benevolently as possible, nerd!

Sasha: Well, yeah. But also, impressive. Thank you for paying attention to your surroundings.

****Laughing****

Michelle: Yeah. What a... they would be right on top of it. I was never that on top of it as a freshman.

Sasha: No, neither was I. I was like cool. I don't even think I was paying attention during the campus tour, so to have one, a virtual campus tour seems - nice so you can go back to it.

Michelle: It's really like choose your own adventure.

Sasha: Yeah

Sean: Yeah. I might actually take it, just to say I have paid attention in one.

Sasha: Well now, I'm just thinking how awesome it'll be for when they get their schedules and they can be like, bink I need to find this building. Let me walk around, you know.

Sean: Yeah.

Sash: I don't know.

Sean: The best I got was a very unhelpful map.

Michelle: Now you get the Siri of campus to guide you through all the places.

Sean: So, so can you- can you do a robot voice for us real quick? Just, you know, we'll stop jabbing you with the sticks if you do a robot voice.

Michelle: Okay let's see. Hi. Welcome to the University of Nevada, Reno campus tour. I'm your host, the Siri of Reno.

Sean: All right, all right, no more jabby jabbies. Put the stick down.

Michelle: It was tough listening to my voice over, and over again, mispronouncing words,

Sasha: 'Cause we got some names on campus that are just like horrible to pronounce.

Sean: Yeah.

Michelle: Like Fleischmann.

Sasha: Fleischman.

Michelle: I definitely said, "Fleshman" the first time.

Sasha: Scrugham Engineering and Mines, like...

Sean: Yeah.

Sasha: That's so hard.

Sean: Yeah. It's good fun, though. I bet it's good fun, and I get- I bet you will never, ever, ever forget how to pronounce them correctly in the future.

Michelle: Oh, you're so right. ****Laughing****

Sean: So, uh, in addition to Michelle, we also spoke to two people involved with the tour. Uh, we spoke to Steve Maples also known as Steven Maples, also known as Mr. Maples, because all three of those names are just majestic as all get out. We love them. Uh, he is the Director of Admissions for the University. And we spoke to Nick Gapp, a multimedia production specialist in the @One, about the tour, and then of course also, to Michelle.

Michelle: Yeah, I really crashed the party this time around.

Sean: ****Laughing****

Sasha: We just had everybody in. We wanted a big old fun time, so I hope you guys enjoy the interview, and, uh, past/future us, take it away.

Sean: ****Laughing****

Sean: Take it away, Sasha!

Sasha: Oh no! 'Cause you, okay, whatever. ****Laughing**** So, hi, Steve, um, so could you kind of get this interview started? Could you tell us what you do here on campus? Um, mainly 'cause we're...we're library people, so we don't know much outside the Libraries, so.

Sean: Yeah it's rare to get out of the dark.

Sasha: Yeah, we don't get out of the building much. So could you give us a quick overview of like your position here on campus?

Steve: So, um, my title is the Director of Admissions for the University, but what I really basically focus on is trying to attract students and families and others to our campus at our university and so we spend a lot of time with that. University of Nevada, Reno has a unique challenge in the sense that 80% of students will attend a college within 150 miles of where they live, but that's pretty much the polar opposite of what we are. We have about 30-35% of our students come from that 150-mile radius, and we need to be able to reach out to areas such as Las Vegas, 422 miles away, or California, for the- what are the majority, really, of our students. And so, um, we spend a lot of time trying to show people and showcase this university to people.

Sasha: So, uh, when this all started, this whole COVID thing, I assume you had some struggles getting to reach those people that are far away not near the university at all and that's kinda what led you to where we are in this interview right now I suppose, the 360, tour. So could you give us a little kind of a behind-the-scenes on how you got in touch with the University Libraries?

Steve: Sure. So, just to let you know, spring is the time that the students who've looked at schools online and done a lot of different things, it's where the rubber meets the road really in this process. So students and their families decide, "Okay, we've gotta narrow it down to our top three schools, so let's go...lets go visit them in person and see what that's like." And of course, that happened, and, you know, we went remote in March, so we stopped our huge event that we have called Nevada Bound, where we invite these students and their families to our campus. We had about five of those left, and those usually average about 400 students to 500 students per event, so in that month of April alone, we usually see between three and four thousand students and their families to make that final determination. "Is this the...is this the place that I want to continue my education..." So real quickly, we and every other school in the country were faced with similar things that your campuses closed, but these people still need to make informed decisions, so how are you going to showcase what you would normally do in person, now try and find a different avenue to do that? And so, every school was scrambling. We're looking around. "What can we possibly do?" And fortunately, we've already got a great relationship. We work a lot with Michelle. We work a lot with a lot of different entities on campus for the different programs that we have, and I believe we were at a meeting and I...you know, I was lamenting "What...what are we gonna do at this point?" And Michelle actually brought up, you know, there were some different capabilities within Libraries, and they have a lot of the different things that we would need to try and pull this off, which is, "How do we show the campus to people online?" And like every other school, we've got a couple of YouTube videos, we've got pictures, we got a couple of videos, but nothing that really tries to...to show the expanse and everything that the university had to offer, and so, that's kinda how the...the whole process started, and we've been the benefit of technology that the libraries worked with for years to finally get us to utilize many of those same things. Michelle: We were inside that meeting. I could feel Melisa's eyes, Mellisa Choroszy eyes on me. I did a TED talk about virtual reality a few years ago. And so, I know that these 360 tours have a lot of importance when it comes down to putting it into other people's hands that haven't been on our campus, so I wanted to see what that would look like for the university and if we could include our team in the @One and @Reality since we'd been working with virtual reality.

Sean: There've been other iterations of online tours in the past, so I guess part one is what were those like and what similarities does this tour have, but also part two how is this tour similar to those by other institutions? Um, what inspiration did you get, from where? Where did you innovate? You know, stuff like that

Steve: Sure. So, uh, great question. The first piece is most of...most of what's been put together by the Libraries team and everything is nothing like we had online before. Really what we just had online before was just short video segments that would show small pieces of the campus and things like that. There are online YouTube-wise, some...some videos that just kind of, again, very general, very basic. And one of the things in this whole process we immediately did was scour everybody else. Who's doing it well, who's...you know, what did we hear through the grapevine, and everything like that. So we looked at a lot of different sources, and the thing that we love about this piece is if we're gonna talk as we do about being an innovative and creative institution, then we need to be able to show it. And this was one of the first ways to actually do that. How do we pivot on a dime right now and figure out,

"Well we need to do more than be able to just show a static video of the campus" and things like that? So taking pieces, you know, whether it's 360 degrees or just giving students more of kind of a feel of what this campus would really be like and that's where the Library team really just kinda took over with their expertise. And, you know, seeing some of the things that honestly have worked here for 28 years, and I've gone through the @One and seen people in the virtual reality area and that kind of stuff but not...not really knowing or understanding the full context of things that they're able to do, seeing, for instance, the...the @One virtual reality where it kinda takes you throughout the building - not just the tour just like around you know clockwise, but going actually into different areas - which is really exciting for us, because when you start getting that deep, there aren't a lot of schools out there that have that. They have some of the basic properties that you'd kind of expect, but being able to see all the things that the @One and the Libraries team has already put together and just being able to expand on that again got back to the idea of showing us as an institution that has some of this latest technology and ways to show the campus, so that was...that was a huge thing for us. So I'd say that there...we really didn't have much of a presence at all, and now, thanks to the Libraries team, we...we're...not only have some things but we have a lot of the cutting-edge things that...that students and their families are looking for, and compared to other institutions, we're right up there with anyone as far as the offerings to see a campus from a remote location.

Sean: That's great. Making us look all shiny and new.

Sasha: So where...how are you gonna get this in front of potential students? Like it's gonna be on our website. Are you doing any other sort of pushes with this virtual tour?

Steve: Absolutely. So a couple of things that, again, have changed in this environment is on the main university site was a link to the admissions page, and then if you want to visit, do these different types of things. But right now, on the main website, there is the way to navigate to our site because it's something that everybody wants to be able to see. So on the main unr.edu website right there at the top is Virtual Visit. And it's a whole page that's now dedicated to all the different offerings we have. For instance, we now have live tours online for parents and families to sign up for, that they can go around the campus, and there're two student ambassadors and a recruiter who answer in real-time their questions and things like that as an example, but...so it's gonna be one of the many offerings that we have on that page to just try and really open up and expose the...the campus to these prospective students and their families.

As far as the promotion of it, in addition to having it on that site, we have a couple of different sources, again in this wonderful world, that we've changed from just email. Our...the system that we use to stay in touch with students has a texting feature, so we've built accounts for students and we built separate accounts now for parents that we can reach out to them and promote it that way. But the other biggest thing that we've added is we've added a lot of social media because people have a lot more time now and they respond a lot more. So we have a parent- incoming student-parent Facebook account has almost a thousand followers. That's another way that we've promoted a lot of different things. We'll certainly promote it this way. We started- we tried the student one, we got to about five hundred, and then we have learned through this process and had some my wonderful younger staff say they're not

gonna be on Facebook; that's for parents. they'll be on Instagram. And so, we started an Instagram account, and truly overnight, I think we're up about eleven hundred students on that right now. So, you know just more the learning that you do through this...through this whole process, but between those two different platforms, we should be able to reach a significant portion of incoming students and their families.

Sean: That's great. So what...what sort of feedback are you getting from these platforms?

Steve: Um, well, you know, a lot of it is...they...you know, it's different between the students and the parents. I'll start with the parents. The parents are very transactional, like what about this, what it's gonna be, what classes are gonna be- are my kids gonna have an in-class...you know...opportunity. So many of these students ended their high school with online classes and they were...it was kinda last minute and wasn't the best experience for them, and so the parents really I think their number one concern is they want their sons and daughters to have the real college experience and so our ability to articulate that and show that different ways and especially with what the library team's come up with really help we go a long way as far as that. The students, on the other hand, they're a lot more excited. They're excited. They want something that's going to be like the old normal. You know, they've had their prom, their graduation, their celebration ceremonies all taken away, orientation is online, the NevadaFIT program is not gonna be able to be offered, so truly this week, for instance, the students are gonna have their first assurance of a college experience by getting their dorm assignment. That's gonna be their first opportunity and so they're excited about seeing those different things and so the ability for us to be able to show not only the outsides of buildings for things like that but go inside and see around the campus, it just really gives them that truly there's no better word for it, hope. Hope for what's gonna happen in the fall. None of us know. You know, There's still a lot of unknowns, but the hope for them and their families out there is that they are gonna have as rich a college experience as we can possibly provide them given the health conditions.

Sasha: So Steve kind of showed us the...the how we got to the virtual tour. Now let's kind of get over to Nick and find out how we made the virtual 360 tour happen. So, Nick, you work down in the @One at the Knowledge Center, so what is your job down there?

Nick: Hi there. Yeah, my job is I'm the media production specialist and the manager of the Dynamic Media Lab. So basically, I run the area where people are working on some...a lot of different media projects, so anything dealing with video, audio, and even 360 tours.

Sasha: And you are...you like, just started, didn't you? Right before the COVID thing happened? Weren't you newer-ish?

Nick: I did. Yes. Yeah. I...I started in February and had about a month to get comfortable with campus, and then I was told to get off of campus just like everybody else. So I had to re-adjust like we all are doing.

Sean: Yeah.

Sasha: Yeah.

Sean: Uh, so I understand that you actually kinda took part in making virtual tours in your previous job. What has changed from there to here?

Nick: I did. Yep. I worked at a company called Xplorit with an "X" up in Tahoe. They make, you know, premium, really cool tours. While I was there, I, you know, worked with Disneyworld and Universal studios and did some really cool projects and really refined what it meant to be

a quality tour - something that's much better than Google Maps, Google Earth, right? And so being able to transition that over to here, I mean, I would never wish for Corona to happen at all, but, the fact that it did and the fact that I came in with the skills that I did, I was very happy to be able to share my skills and be able to assist and serve UNR with this difficult time. And, so, yeah. Luckily, it translated pretty well. What's great is, you know, I learned a few things about the different tools that UNR had been using to kind of play around with virtual tours and 360 photos and all that kind of stuff. And then I was able to also give them some of the insight that I've learned along the way. And the biggest thing that I've kinda taken away from it is, you know, UNR is all about quality, and we only want to improve from there. And so the biggest thing that I wanted to make sure with this virtual tour is that we were getting the highest quality possible. And so, with that, I was actually using one of the oldest methods of taking 360 spherical images, and that basically uses a DSLR and a rig that helps spin it around. It's a little bit slower of a method, but the image quality that it produces, the HDR images, are beautiful, and so there's...that...that's what I was excited to help out with.

Michelle: When I was in that meeting with Steve, and Nick had just joined our team - I think it was only two weeks - we were only like two weeks into your job, I kinda just saw the opportunity. And so that's why I figured it was gonna be a great beginning project for Nick and then...a huge benefit for the rest of the university, too.

Sasha: Do you think it would have eventually happened anyway, this sort of immersive tour? Just...

Michelle: I do think so. We have been talking about it for years, beforehand. "Okay, who's gonna do it? Can we even...we're talking about Nick before he worked for us, trying to send it out to Xplorit, and so when the opportunity came, I think it was...it was great to just be able to have the tools and the expertise - especially Nick's expertise - to make all the dots connect.

Nick: Yeah. And for me, what I love about 360 interactive tours is it's not only an amazing recruiting tool, but it's great for archival use. The fact that the end-user can kind of create their own journey with it. You know, with videos, it's great, but it's kind of controlled, and it's only moving you in one direction. The fact that, you know, a prospective engineering student can go to the Davidson Math and Science building, or, you know, an art student can go to the arts building. Being able to choose their own adventure, I think is super exciting.

Sean: So you sorta hinted a little bit with the camera, but just because I feel like most of the people that listen might not be so technologically inclined, give us that...that...you know, that...the "explain it like I'm five" subreddit version of how you make a digital 360 tour.

Nick: Sure! Sure. Well, um, you know what's cool is everybody pretty much these days has a smartphone, and a lot of them actually have that panorama feature. I don't know if you've used it before, but essentially you just prop up your phone and then you start to scan from right to left, and as it's scanning, it's taking multiple photos, and then it's finding the spots that are connected together and wrapping it around essentially. And so, I'm doing that, but just on a more professional level in terms of just taking relatively eight to nine HDR photos. If people don't know what HDR is, that stands for "High Dynamic Range", and that just means it's gonna make the image look even prettier. ****Laughing**** More natural to the eye in a lot of ways. But yeah.

Sasha: So like in my mind, I picture you just like walking every two feet and then like taking a bunch of pictures. Is it more...I assume it's more complicated than that. Like how...how much do you take in like one-shot? Like what's the span, sort of?

Nick: Um, I would say, because you're taking three photos in one direction, merging them together and then going in the next direction and doing the same process over and over again. And again, you have to make sure that you're shooting this in a raw format, so that way you can get the best dynamic range possible. Uh, from there, you also...the biggest difference between you know, the phone method - the causal method - and the more professional method is I'm using a tripod and if I accidentally bump that tripod at all it's gonna ruin the entire image. It's one of those things where it has to stay in place for it to work, and so you just have to be very methodical about it. Uh, not only that, you know, because the coronavirus happened there weren't many people on campus, but say in the future we were to do this anyways, um, the difficulty would have been just making sure that people are not in your way of the shot, and that can be a little bit of a patience game if you will.

Michelle: Nick, would you like to give a little bit of insight what it's been kind of behind the scenes with all of us and how we've had to do this virtually?

Nick: Oh yeah! The first step, I think, was trying to figure out the platform that we wanted to use. We ended up going with Kuula, and that just made it...it was very nimble. And that was a good starting point. The biggest thing that I wanted to make sure that we had... I didn't want it to just be a 360 photo experience. I wanted to make sure we had the ability to show off video and audio, which by the way, props to Michelle for doing all the audio. You're going to hear her a lot. She did all the natural audio mixing as well, and it sounds amazing, but the whole goal was to bring all of the expertise together to make a cohesive experience and really give context to these locations - not just look at it and wonder what you're looking at, but really understand, you know, the historical relevance of Morrill Hall, or Lincoln Hall, or, you know, the Mackay statue. All that kind of stuff.

Michelle: Yeah, and it was really interesting on how many hands it did have to go through even though it was virtual. I recorded in the studio that's right behind me, A.K.A. my closet. And I would just have to record these scripts that were written by Luka Starmer. Then, after I was done recording and mixing all the audio, we'd have to send it off to Daniel Fergus for him to put all of it together. Then, Daniel had to send it to Nick so that Nick could put it on our platform, and all the while, it was Nick and I out filming these different places. So it was really interesting to see how it just kinda jumped between everybody.

Nick: Yeah. And that was all the while, while we were trying to respect the CDC guidelines. You know, making sure we had our masks on, social distance, but still being able to work together was tricky.

Michelle: Tell the story of how...um...I don't know if you know this, Steve, but tell the story of how we got onto the field, Nick.

Nick: Oh yeah. Uh, so yeah. We...we...uh...had been struggling to get onto any of the sports fields and we got really lucky. We were finishing up the day and it looked like a couple of construction workers were working on the stadium, and we were able to ask them if we could just get onto the field real quick. And yeah. So, we got on. I had...it hadn't been groomed in a bit, so I had to photoshop a lot of the...a lot of the geese had gotten onto the field, and so

there was a bunch of poo that has been photoshopped out. So, you know, you won't see any of that on the field.

Michelle: I think the construction worker's exact words were, "I...I mean, it's not my field."

Sean: So, we were gonna ask how you got the video in the tour so immersive, but I guess now we know. Just...just BS-ing past construction workers and then photoshopping out geese poop.

Nick: It was either that or climbing the fence. You know, we had to get it some way.

Sean: **Laughing**

Michelle: We joked about climbing the fence, but we did not.

Nick: Yeah no, we did not.

Michelle: It's too much gear to get over the fence.

Sean: **Laughing** Yeah. Don't. You didn't do that. That's how the podcast died.

Nick: **Laughing**

Sasha: I do have one really weird question to ask everybody on this call. And so you guys were all over campus. What is your favorite spot on campus?

Nick: Oooh! Good question. Yeah. That was the...that was the cool part about doing this project as well is UNR has grown so much since I've graduated, and to be able to, you know, be back and see all of the...the different locations grow as they have was really exciting. Um, you know, I would say for me, it's a location I've been to many times, but I always love Manzanita Lake. It's super peaceful, and we actually created a really cool 360 cinemograph. I don't know if you guys have ever heard the term cinemograph before. Essentially, it's like a high-end .gif - or .gif - however you want to pronounce it. But essentially, it is a 360 photo that has video elements planted in it, so for example, when the tour is finally released, you'll be able to see, like, the swan actually swimming across the lake as the rest of the image stays still.

Sasha: Was the lake full when you guys filmed it? 'Cause I went the other day, like a week ago, and it was like half-empty for some reason. Kind of depressing. **Laughing**

Sean: **Laughing**

Nick: It wasn't at its fullest, I don't believe, but it didn't look bad.

Sasha: Okay.

Michelle: It was full, uh, full enough. And luckily, the swans decided to pose for Nick, so those...those shots might be in the tour themselves with the swan just posing and flaunting a little bit in the water.

Sean: That's cool.

Sasha: So what's your favorite spot there, Michelle?

Michelle: I think my favorite spot would...you know, I was gonna say Manzanita Lake, too, but one that I did find when we were out on our adventure and filming around campus is called Benson Gardens. It's over by the planetarium.

Sasha: Oh okay yeah I know that one.

Michelle: There's this nice little walking path and a lot of really cool things that are over there. I have been on campus for a long time, including, you know, going to school here, and now working here, and it's crazy to me how many places you find that are just hidden throughout, and hopefully through maybe the 360 tour, and especially with COVID in general, people will

be a little bit outside a little bit more and go explore these new areas and kind of find the cool walking paths that took me ten years to get.

Sean: **Laughing**

Sasha: All right, Sean, what's your favorite spot?

Sean: Uh, I've...I've always been a sucker for the Quad when it's...when it's quiet and there's not many people out sitting on the benches out there from...um...all the ways back to my student days to now. Like going on you know walks for lunch. It's...it's a peaceful spot.

Uh, thank the two of you for joining us, and...and our special guest host for the day, Michelle, thanks for being with us.

Sean: All right. So that...uh...that was a pretty good interview. As...as stated in the...the second introduction, we stopped poking Michelle with sticks, so she is no longer with us.

Sasha: Yeah, she ran away real quick. Uh...

Sean: Yeah, she...she bowed out for the outro.

Sasha: We don't know if she'll be back. Hopefully, she'll continue to edit for us.

Sean: Yeah.

Sean: Right? Hopefully, we don't have to replace her

Sasha: Yeah. I mean, when you kidnap a person once, they tend not to come back, and so fingers crossed.

Sean: It...it's very much one of those, "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me" things, like 'cause she just came into work, and we just grabbed her.

Sasha: Yeah. I mean, I gotta tell you, I got major flashbacks from being...to being a freshman when we were talking.

Sean: Yeah, how...how did your orientation tour go?

Sasha: I...the only part of my orientation that I remember was eating a sandwich on the quad, so I don't think I went on a really big walking tour, I have to say.

Sean: Yeah.

Sasha: I don't recall that.

Sean: I...see, I...I had...When I finished high school, I did the university tour, because I was considering UNR. I ultimately ended up going the WNC-associate's-degree-and-transfer route.

Sasha: Yeah.

Sean: But I still had taken the campus tour. When I transferred, they were like, you have to do a tour and an orientation anyway. So I went to the orientation tour as a transfer student. The only thing different was the introductory session, where they just tell you as a transfer student, like, "We have higher expectations because you've done some of this, so don't be stupid." But all they made me do was like sign in, and then after that first session, it was...I was just jumbled up with everybody again. Like all the incoming freshmen, so I just...so I just left

Sasha: That was back in the day, like...

Sean: Yeah. I'd...

Sasha: Now they have like sixty million orientations that the students have to go through...throughout the summer. Back in my day, we all did it the...like two-days before classes started.

Sean: Yeah. And I...I remember. I just left. I went to the movies.

Sasha: I just remember being kinda excited, I guess, so I hope the freshmen that we think are listening to this interview and enjoy the virtual tour.

Sean: Yeah. I'm jealous having now having heard the description of this. I'm jealous. I wish I could've had something like this available to me. It probably would have made me a little more excited and interested, instead of being like, you know like, the petulant twenty-year-old who was mad that I was being forced to do it a second time.

Sasha: That, and, like, I can go back to it and like...

Sean: Mhm.

Sasha: If I heard a fact I wanted to know more about in the tour, I can go back to it now instead of being like, "Uh..."

Sean: **Laughing**

Sasha: **Laughing**

Sean: Plus, plus, the opportunity to take your own tour of where you are going to be as a student.

Sasha: Yeah.

Sean: And where you are interested in being as a student.

Sasha: Not that I'm gonna show my age or anything, but, uh, if for us it was here's this empty construction lot where the library will be one day. **Laughing**

Sean: **Laughing** Uh, so. Y'all listening may have noticed it's been several weeks since an episode was posted.

Sasha: Yeah.

Sean: We decided we were gonna do an episode and sort of step out of the libraries into something library-adjacent but more relevant to the campus and the university broadly. We learned some stuff at the last minute. Uh, literally minutes before I was gonna post the episode, we all decided the episode is probably not okay to go up - at least not yet. Uh, we don't wanna go into too many details right now.

Sasha: I mean we could have done some really shady edits to the episode where big chunks of conversation were just missing but-

Sean: But only if we leave like an eighteen-minute silence like the Watergate tapes. That's the only way I wanna do that. Um, but for now, no, that gap was not normal. Yes, we are doing something and you will eventually hear that episode, we think.

Sasha: Yeah.

Sean: Uh, we apologize for the big delay.

Sasha: I think this is what Sean's trying to say right now is we weren't lazy. We did not take a week off.

Sean: Yes **Laughing**

Sasha: We had an episode. We recorded it. We went through all the production stuff.

Sean: And, so now, we've learned some things, and we're going to re-evaluate and hopefully do something fun, that said,

Sasha: It's NPR voice time

Sean: NPR voice time. I think we have some credits to read.

Sasha: I'll start off, and as always, your hosts today were Sasha Soleta and Sean Busey. Our guests today were Steven Maples, who is the Director of Admissions for the University of

Nevada, Reno, and then Nick Gapp who is a multimedia production specialist down in the @One at the Knowledge Center.

Sean: Of course, the Libraries Podcast Team: Maggie Ressel, Michelle Rebaleati - hopefully hasn't abandoned us - um, Luka Starmer, Jill Stockton, and Joe Gurgui.

Sasha: And then we wanted to give a special thank you again to Michelle who gave us the intro, and was in our intro, and was in our interview. Shoutout Michelle. See this is us trying to make her not leave us forever

Sean: Right.

Sasha: And then, as always, our episode music today was "Better Days", by Lewin Wikstrom, courtesy of Universal Productions Music.

Sean: Until next time, whenever that is, depending on episode chaos, this is "Checked Out" checking out.