Ivan Sanchez [00:00:00]:

I think it was eye opening to see how we play a role in supporting what we do on campus and how everybody on campus is connected with one another with the same mission and the same goal in mind. So whether it's folks at the transfer center educating students about how to use the tag, whether it's basic needs, providing some fundamental support for students who are in need, it all accumulates and connects and it's incredible to see. And I think that was the most eye opening.

Chisa Uyeki [00:00:30]:

Welcome to the Mount San Antonio College Podcast. I'm Chisa Uyeki, a Mount SAC professor and librarian, and I'm pleased to be your host for this season. Our goal is to keep you connected to our campus by bringing you the activities and events you may not have time to attend, to share the interesting things our colleagues are creating and innovative ways they are supporting and connecting with Mount Sac students. Join me as we explore Mount sac.

Ivan Sanchez [00:01:03]:

Welcome back to the Mount SAC Podcast. This season of the podcast has come to a close, and we'll be going on a break until we come back in the fall. This was my and Chisa's first time hosting and creating the podcast, and we had so much to reflect on that we wanted to put together a short episode where we let you in on what we learned. We also wanted to thank you for listening. So here are my and Chisa's takeaways.

Chisa Uyeki [00:01:30]:

Hi, Ivan.

Ivan Sanchez [00:01:31]:

Hi, Chisa. How are you?

Chisa Uyeki [00:01:33]:

I'm doing great. How are you doing?

Ivan Sanchez [00:01:35]:

Well, hanging in there.

Chisa Uyeki [00:01:36]:

We're at the end of this year, so we wanted to reflect a little bit.

Ivan Sanchez [00:01:40]:

Yeah, absolutely. And we wanted to thank the listeners as well for tuning in throughout the year. Our goal with this podcast, of course, is to highlight some of the amazing things that we're doing on campus to support our students. But we know that all of you out there are also doing incredible things, so we want to thank you as well for your efforts.

Chisa Uyeki [00:01:59]:

So this was our first season hosting. It's the ninth season for the podcast. What did you learn during this first season?

Ivan Sanchez [00:02:07]:

Where to start? I was most amazed by the efforts that are being done by our support centers like Basic Needs and the Dream Center. So that was some really cool stuff to learn about.

Chisa Uyeki [00:02:22]:

I felt the same. And as well as embedded tutors, I just thought, like, I knew about the work that they were all doing, but I didn't know it in the depth. And being able to be in conversation with the folks doing the work was amazing. When I was trying to think about, okay, what did I learn? There's like a whole list of things I learned just about the podcast process and the time that goes into it and how all of that works. But then there's researching and preparing for interviews. And then through the interviews, whether it was something I did or something we did together, or listening to ones that you did, I felt like I learned so much about the campus, but also, you know, about so many of the larger issues that we're connected to that are going on in the world, but are impacting our students in the college.

Ivan Sanchez [00:03:13]:

I think connected is a good word for it because I learned how our job as faculty is just a small part of the bigger picture, and it goes even beyond the centers on campus. There are, like you mentioned, so many, what we call in sociology, social forces going on in the world. And I think it was eye opening to see how we play a role in supporting what we do on campus and how everybody on campus is connected with one another with the same mission and the same goal in mind. So whether it's folks at the transfer center educating students about how to use the tag, whether it's basic needs, providing some fundamental support for students who are in need, it all accumulates and connects, and it's incredible to see. And I think that was the most eye opening.

Chisa Uyeki [00:04:07]:

So I love that you brought your sociologist lens in. I felt like I had a lot of opportunities this season to bring my lens as a librarian in, and connecting those parts of my job was really rewarding for me. So being able to explore further my interest in access to diverse stories and highlight the fight against censorship through our Right to Read series, that was really exciting for me. And of course, interviewing the award winning authors, Isabel Quintero and Mike Corrato was amazing. And being able to talk to them about their experience as authors who have had their books challenged and banned because of the stories that they're trying to make sure get told, that was interesting and a little bit intimidating for me, but it was good for me to be a little bit out of my comfort zone in some of those interviews.

Ivan Sanchez [00:05:05]:

Yeah, absolutely. And I think you highlight what some of the challenges were with doing a podcast when we're not professional podcasters is always out of your comfort zone. Yeah, like, I'm comfortable in a classroom, you know, meeting with students, but to interview professionals and try to get something useful and helpful is more challenging than it sounds. But thankfully, all the people that we talk to on campus were absolutely wonderful. That was just really reassuring and that they provided, like, incredibly helpful information, most of which was new to me. So I'm learning as I'm interviewing and I'm learning as I'm creating questions and conversing with these folks. You know, it was awesome to see that everyone on campus is here to help.

Chisa Uyeki [00:05:54]:

Yeah, I loved that I was able to spend time for two episodes with folks from the First People's Native Center. As a librarian, that research part, of course, I love. But then being able to. You were mentioning connecting, like, connecting what I had learned and sort of my ideas and my questions, and then having the folks I was speaking with share their experience and their knowledge was amazing. And in May, I attended the Native grad and was able to see Alyssa, who's in the episode. I saw her blanket ceremony, which marked the milestone of her graduating from Mount sac, which was. It was really powerful. So that was amazing for me.

Chisa Uyeki [00:06:39]:

And I think, you know, it's something that the campus is going to continue working on the land, acknowledgement for the campus and understanding what it means to decolonize higher education. So I feel like so much of what we did is sort of part of an ongoing conversation throughout the semester.

Ivan Sanchez [00:06:56]:

Yeah. If anybody hasn't listened to that episode, out of any of the episodes, I think it's way up there. It's just, I keep saying, eye opening and, you know, insightful, but that one takes it to a whole different level. And Alyssa's voice was so powerful. That was so beautiful to hear. And to your point as well, it's a continuing conversation. And that's what's so cool about this project is these are all conversations that we have had in the past and that we will continue to have going forward. And so this is just sort of like a point at which where we reflect on some of the things that we're doing on campus initiatives.

Ivan Sanchez [00:07:31]:

And that one especially was really cool to see.

Chisa Uyeki [00:07:35]:

So, Ivan, what was hard this season for you?

Ivan Sanchez [00:07:38]:

We can break it down to like, personal level and then also just like technical stuff. And so personally juggling multiple things. I'm a dad of two kids, husband, and that. And work is already a challenge. Of course, the famous work life balance. If that wasn't hard enough, now, you know, master all of a sudden. Yeah.

Chisa Uyeki [00:08:04]:

And that the sort of schedule and timing of the podcast is very different than like in the classroom with your assignments and grading and teaching. It follows a different timeline.

Ivan Sanchez [00:08:16]:

I mean, I loved it though, because growing up I was interested in journalism. You know, I've written for school newspapers and things like that, you know, so it was a chance for me to explore that side. And it was fun. As challenging as it Was. And so at the technical level, just getting good sound, producing good sound is way harder than it sounds. And then just in terms of accomplishing our goals and putting out good episodes, coming up with good questions, getting your participants, your guests to feel comfortable, all of that stuff was just all new to me. So it was all a challenge, but well worth it. And I'm pretty proud of this season.

Chisa Uyeki [00:08:56]:

I feel really proud of it too. And reflecting back, I did for sure have some technical issues. I had at least two, but probably more than two fantastic interviews or conversations with folks that were not recorded because I thought I was recording and I wasn't. So.

Ivan Sanchez [00:09:16]:

No.

Chisa Uyeki [00:09:17]:

Yeah. And of course those were like the most brilliant components of that day or whatever.

Ivan Sanchez [00:09:23]:

You know, isn't that how it goes?

Chisa Uyeki [00:09:25]:

You know, I tell students this when they're doing research is like, even the things you don't use still inform your research process. So even the things I wasn't able to include, they still informed the episode or the questions or how we put it together.

Ivan Sanchez [00:09:39]:

So true. Yeah.

Chisa Uyeki [00:09:40]:

I think for me, and I think you'll probably agree with this, one of the absolute hardest parts was what doesn't make the cut, both in topics in full episodes. We had and have many more ideas for episodes than the number we're able to do. And so prioritizing was somewhat difficult and during this season, and probably it's true in other seasons, but there were a number of issues that we felt like were timely and we really needed to push them to immediate releases. The Dream center conversation is one, of course, I think about because of the current challenges for our students who are undocumented or from mixed status families. So sort of juggling in that way, I think was challenging. And so then there were some stories we weren't able to tell this season, but we have next season. We do. Yeah.

Ivan Sanchez [00:10:34]:

So. So if you have an idea out there for an episode, feel free to reach out to either Tisa or myself. We're more than happy to sit and talk through your vision and go from there. But yeah, speaking of the dream episode, that was a really awesome one. And shout out to Dario, Dario Fernandez, who I think we gave him a week notice. Yeah. And he was like, let's do it. He was just so ready and shooting from the hip hop.

Ivan Sanchez [00:10:59]:

Everything he said was so on point and, like, so helpful. And it was almost like he was reading from a script how good everything was. But it was all natural. It's just him. And it's. You can tell, like, this is what I mean by like, Seeing people on campus who are literally, like, embodying what the goal of a community college is. And that was really cool to see.

Chisa Uyeki [00:11:19]:

Absolutely. He and the whole Dream center are just doing fantastic work. You had mentioned that you had thought about journalism. My sort of secret fantasy world job has always been, I love it, being like an NPR radio host. So I've been able to do, you know, a little bit of that. That we're a great team. Right.

Ivan Sanchez [00:11:44]:

Yeah.

Chisa Uyeki [00:11:45]:

That's been fantastic, too. We really didn't know each other before this season. We didn't really know each other, so that's been a great thing for me.

Ivan Sanchez [00:11:53]:

And I know this is super cliche, but I feel like we're like, kindred spirits. We're. We have, like, same energy, if that makes sense. Even very different people. Like you.

Chisa Uyeki [00:12:05]:

Yeah.

Ivan Sanchez [00:12:05]:

Like, oh, those two people would get along. It's like. I don't know how else to explain it, but I could tell you're. I could tell you're my people. You know what I mean?

Chisa Uyeki [00:12:13]:

I totally agree. I also really like that, you know, I'm in. This was my 18th year at Mount Sac. Right. And you're kind of.

Ivan Sanchez [00:12:20]:

Who's counting?

Chisa Uyeki [00:12:21]:

Right on. Right. You're on the sort of the earlier side of your career, but I think.

Ivan Sanchez [00:12:25]:

That second year is full time, so. Yeah.

Chisa Uyeki [00:12:28]:

But I think that brings really cool things to the podcast because we're sort of thinking about things from those different places we're existing in in our careers. Did you have anything else you wanted to add?

Ivan Sanchez [00:12:41]:

No, I think we covered what we hope to cover and just to say thank you and to kind of reflect on what it was like to do the podcast and just to encourage people to seek out those older episodes, you know, even before we started hosting. I've listened back to some of those episodes, and they're just like little pockets of knowledge that you can dip into. And I plan to this summer go back and listen to even more of them and re. Listen to them. So I encourage everybody to do the same.

Chisa Uyeki [00:13:15]:

So, yeah, check out the archive, and there's a great search function. You can see what else is in the archive, and we'll see whether those connections with what we're looking at right now as well. I did want to make sure that we thank all of our interviewees and guests who provided content that absolutely. Without their generosity of time and their thoughtful engagement, you know, it would have just been you and me droning on. And then, of course, thank the whole team at Avant House Media who provide incredible guidance and production for the Mount SAC Podcast and and then a big thank you to the Mount SAC POD team, especially Elda Blount, who provides so much support for us. So thank you all for listening and we will for sure be talking to you next season. Enjoy your summer and check out the archive.

Ivan Sanchez [00:14:10]:

Bye everyone. Happy summer.

Chisa Uyeki [00:14:12]:

Thank you for listening to the Mount San Antonio College Podcast, brought to you by Mount San Antonio SAC's POD Office and created in partnership with Avant Haus Media. Original music created and edited by Nira Azira. Be sure to check out our growing library of over 230 episodes and let us know your thoughts. You can reach me chisa uyeki at C U Y E K I at mountsac dot edu. Wishing you an amazing year and happy listening.