This is the "Around the Pennington SAC" Tree Tour. It starts at top of the steps next to the north door of the Pennington Student Achievement Center, goes down the steps and tours trees between Pennington and the Mack Social Sciences Building, then goes clockwise around the building on each side of the sidewalk between Pennington and the Ansari Business Building, turning onto the sidewalk between Pennington and the Thompson Building, turning onto the sidewalk between Pennington and Lincoln Hall, and ending in a patio above the retaining walls.

With the exception of trees at number 8 and number 12, all trees were planted in 2015.

Okay, let's get started.
1

Bigtooth Maple

At the top of the steps on the north side of the building, at number 1 on the map, is a tree with Maple-like leaves. It is **Bigtooth Maple** (scientific name *Acer grandidentatum*), native to interior western North America. The leaves are about 3 to 4 inches in size. This tree is drought-tolerant, grows slowly, and does not have many pests. There is a nice specimen near the end of the "Around the Nevada Historical Society" Tree Tour.

2

Freeman Maple

Descend the steps to the lowest raised planter bed at number 2 on the map. The two tree species look nothing alike. The tree with Maple-like leaves is **Freeman Maple** (scientific name *Acer x freemanii*), a hybrid of Silver Maple and Red Maple. In recent years this has possibly been the most popular Maple, because it has orange-red Fall color, is a tough tree with attractive white bark, and is a tougher tree than either of its parents.

The other tree in this planter bed looks nothing like any other tree species on campus. This is **Monkey Puzzle Tree** (*Araucaria araucana*), native to the volcanic mountains of Chile and Argentina. This tree has dark green, thick, vicious triangular leaves on its trunk, and it was planted here for 2016 Arbor Day. It is planted here for two reasons: it needs some protection from our westerly winds, and it and the students need to be protected from each other!
Monkey Puzzle Tree (Tree Number 2)

3

Northern Red Oak

Head toward Mack on the wide sidewalk, turning left at the nearby sidewalk, and stop at one of the trees at number 3. Both sides of the sidewalk are lined with Northern Red Oak (scientific name Quercus rubrum), a native of eastern and midwestern North America. This species is possibly the most popular of the Oaks because it has rapid growth, few problems, and a pleasing combination of orange, red, and yellow Fall color in the best years.
Retrace your steps to the small triangular area on the east side of the sidewalk intersection. There are three small weepers at number 4, in an Arboreum Area of Interest called the Georgianna Trexler Memorial Garden. They are **Weeping Higan Cherry** (scientific name *Prunus subhirtella* 'Pendula Plena Rosea'), a cultivar of the Japanese native species -- which, however, is no longer found in the wild. This tree has a graft at around five feet, and produces abundant double pink flowers. After a few years, the branches will sweep upward and then downward. A good example of a mature tree is featured on the "South of Sarah Fleischmann" Tree Tour.

Cross the wide sidewalk to see two trees at number 5 with compound leaves (there is a central stem with leaflets, in this case 5 to 9). This is **Autumn Purple Ash** (scientific name *Fraxinus americana*), a cultivar of the eastern North American *White Ash* with even better Fall color (yellow, brown or bronze depending on the tree and the year). This tree's popularity has, in recent years, surpassed the popularity of its close relative Green Ash (scientific name *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*). The Nevada "Up-and-coming" White Ash is featured on the "Around Clark Administration Building" Tree Tour.

Retrace your steps and head south on the sidewalk between the hill and Pennington. Near the wall (which is the auditorium for Ansari) are two trees where the wall changes direction at number 6. These are **Japanese Tree Lilac** (scientific name *Syringa reticulata*), native to northern China (go figure). Like most of the trees on this Tree Tour, this has simple leaves (with only one leaflet coming off the central stem). Many yards in Reno have shrub Lilacs, but the tree form is uncommonly planted. Nevertheless, it has striking sprays of small white flowers in May.
Lining the sidewalk at number 7 are Littleleaf Linden (scientific name *Tilia cordata*), native to Europe but planted all over since ancient times. This is a medium tree with smaller leaves than its close relative American Linden, but it has a nice shape. It has insignificant yellow flowers, but its seeds are generally not messy, so it is useful as a street tree.

Look at the large tree at the top of the hill near the southwest corner of Ansari at number 8. This tree, a Pin Oak (scientific name *Quercus palustris*, planted 1982) is the only large tree between Ansari and Pennington to survive the removal of the old library, the Getchell Library. Pin Oak, a native of the eastern U.S., has deeply indented lobes and really nice yellow, red, russet and/or orange Fall color, but some trees do poorly in Reno's alkaline soil.

Go past the end of the building to a circular paved area. In the center of this area is a statue honoring Richard Bryan, a prominent Nevadan who served as governor of Nevada and as a U.S. Senator. But back to trees! The trees surrounding the circular area, at number 9, are Amur Maple (scientific name *Acer ginnala*), native to China, Manchuria, and Japan. This is a treeshrub (its form could be that of a tree or a shrub). The tree form is, at most, 25 feet tall. Despite its small size, it has attractive small seedpods called "samaras" (or, as I like to say, "helicopters" -- because they twirl as they fall to the ground like helicopter rotor blades). It also has Fall color which can range from yellow to pink to blazing red-orange, depending on the tree and the year.
Go up the steps toward the entryway for the building. In openings in the paved patio are two trees at number 10. These are Thornless Honeylocust (scientific name *Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis*), the thornless variety of the eastern and midwestern U.S. native. The species of the medium-sized tree has 8-inch-long twisted brown seedpods which make a mess of lawns and sidewalks, but newer plantings use seedless cultivars. I don't know which cultivar this is; time will tell.

Go back down to the sidewalk heading toward Lincoln Hall near the building. Stop at one of the four trees on the left with Maple-like leaves at number 11. These are London Planetree (scientific name *Platanus x acerifolia*), one of the Sycamores. This tree is a hybrid of American Planetree and Oriental Planetree first found in England about 1683. What blows me away about this is that there were trees from both America and the southeastern Europe/western Asia planted at least before 1660; so plants have been crossing borders for a long time. The fruits of this tree are two one-inch fuzzy balls attached to the same stem.

On the other side of a small sidewalk between the London Planetrees and Thompson are two medium trees at number 12. These are Norway Maple (scientific name *Acer platanoides*), native to northern Europe. These are the last two trees in a UNR Arboretum Area of interest called the "Rose Garden," which was a casualty of the replacing of Getchell with Pennington. There are plans to reinstate the Rose Garden on the west side of Pennington. Some roses are already planted there.
Turn right and go on the sidewalk next to Pennington until you reach the wide patio area at the end of the building. In the area between the patio and the building are three trees with small heart-shaped leaves at number 13. These are Eastern Redbud (scientific name Cercis canadensis), native not to Canada but to eastern and midwestern U.S. They are a small tree that, in May, has small purple flowers so abundant that the tree looks purple; the flowers come out before the leaves. The fruits are three-inch red or brown seedpods which may stay on all Winter. This tree has yellow Fall color.

This concludes the "Around the Pennington SAC" Tree Tour.