Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: ALEX PHAM

Interviewer: Emily Stavros

Date: February 15, 2012

Location: Westminster, California

Sub-Collection: Vietnamese American Oral History Project

FIELD NOTES

The interview was conducted in Alex Pham’s office in The Boat People SOS building. Alex Pham, the narrator, and Emily Stavros, the interviewer, were the only people present during the interview. I explained the documents Alex needed to sign. He quickly filled out all required paper work and we began the interview process. Because we were alone in his office, the interview went smoothly with little noise interruptions. At the end of the interview I took several pictures of Alex.

Alex Pham was dressed in a black suit with a green scarf. He sat at his desk during the interview while I sat across from him on the other side of his desk. Alex seemed at ease with the interview, open and willing to discuss his past. He showed enthusiasm while discussing his past and seemed to enjoy telling stories about his youth. He shortly talked about memories from Vietnam but focused mainly on his experiences in America. I hoped to hear more about his time in Saigon, Vietnam but because Alex was so young when they came to America, he has very few memories of Vietnam. Alex Pham spent a majority of the interview talking about the differences between the Vietnamese cultures in contrast to the American cultures. He seemed to disagree with many aspects of the American culture.

Alex Pham proved to be an interesting narrative. He was enthusiastic throughout the entire interview. Alex never seemed to feel uncomfortable with any questions asked of him. He always had long explanations for the interview questions. Overall the interview went smoothly.