

CCA Oral History Project  
Log Notes

Interviewer Name: Helen Frierson  
Storyteller Name: Chris Johnson  
Date: 5/29/14  
Time: 12pm

:46	Chris describes his first memory of CCA - applying as a student Summer 1976. Ansel Adams assistant.	*
2:52	Applied and was admitted into photography MFA program. Instead asked to teach. Popular class. Taught for 37 years and counting (1977)	**
5:22	Chris describes the state of the school at the time. Impressed by spirit of people involved at school.	*
7:08	Clear school struggling financially. Became head of photo dept. four years later. Harry Ford, president.	*
8:09	Helen asks Chris to describe in detail the school at the time. Sense of "having to make things up as they went along." Clear school needed uplift	*
9:54	of school spirit. Chris describes key role of the board, Steve Oliver, Tecoah Bruce, Steve Sax. Pressure for new president.	*
11:17	Chris's perspective from head of photo dept. Area he was aware of. Advocacy, struggle.	
12:01	Working closely together with Ken Davids. Work together on initiatives - ex "Basic program"	*
13:55	First impression of Neil Hoffman. "Genius" new leadership for the school.	**
15:41	Need for core program. Strong financial problems shared with faculty. Hoffman as president, faculty needed to take responsibility and roles.	*
17:45	Faculty governance structure. Creating faculty senate.	*
19:30	Capital campaign established. John Stein, CFO. Steve Oliver, Tecoah Bruce - guiding voices.	*
21:26	State of change, inspiring leaders. Steve Oliver. Approach to faculty. Challenges at time. Neil strong and clear.	*
22:51	School came out of retrenchment. Macky capital campaign was successful. Facilities revitalized. Leadership of Neil Hoffman, Steve Oliver, & Tecoach Bruce.	*
24:02	Importance of bringing faculty along. Inclusion of adjunct faculty in faculty senate. Importance of creating structure.	
25:47	Helen asks Chris how CCA has changed during his time here. Architecture program. Neil renting first presence in SF. "Seeds being planted.	*
28:18	Effort of Lorre Buchman to buy building in SF.	*
29:22	Tension between both centers of education (Oakland, SF), reconciling	*

31:03	mission. "One School." Chris describes changing emphasis of college from Fine Arts to design and architecture. Programs with industries behind them. Need to re-establish balance between the two. Practicing across disciplines.	**
33:40	Need for vision & leadership at school at the moment.	
34:05	Helen asks Chris how he'd like to be remembered.	*
35:00	Helen asks Chris about the sustainability of having two campuses. Role of faculty. "Campus citizens".	*
37:31	Chris describes importance of arts community in East Bay.	