

Transcript of Oral History Interview with Christopher Kiriaki

Interviewee: Christopher Kiriaki

Interviewer: Serena Yu

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Abstract: This interview with Christopher Kiriaki talks about how the pandemic affected a college student's life.

Christopher Kiriaki 00:03

All right, so we'll start off with my name—Christopher Kiriaki.

Serena Yu 00:06

And I am the interviewer, Serena Yu. Chris, do you give consent of interview for this COVID-19 archive project?

Christopher Kiriaki 00:10

Yes, I do.

Serena Yu 00:21

Could you tell us the date and time?

Christopher Kiriaki 00:24

It is September 18, 2020 at 4:55pm on a Friday.

Serena Yu 00:36

Thanks. Could you briefly introduce yourself?

Christopher Kiriaki 00:40

Yeah, I am a fifth-year mechanical engineering major at undergraduate at Northeastern. I'm from Rhode Island and I transferred from Syracuse, my freshman year into Northeastern. It's been great. *Intelligible*—and I'm ready for your COVID-19 questions.

Serena Yu 01:06

Cool, then we can start the actual interview. So, the first question, where were you at when the Massachusetts stay-at-home order was issued?

Christopher Kiriaki 01:19

I was in classes and it was shocking. We had just come back from-- we just come back from spring break and I was ready to start classes again. *Intelligible* My fourth year, the mechanical engineering degree and I knew my teachers had spoke about it coming. So, I could say it was forthcoming. But the speed at which developments were happening around the world at the same time that the stay-at-home orders, here at home in Massachusetts were also happening was really striking because nothing really happened before. So, it was right after the start. Right after spring break. Thankfully, Northeastern was able to get ours in.

Serena Yu 02:12

And how do you feel about the state, national, and global response to the pandemic?

Christopher Kiriaki 02:20

The state response has been really good. The state that also is true in the numbers, specifically the mobile and decreasing new infection rate along with cases in our state, which has been good. However, I do also think we have some of the strictest guidelines around the country, which is good for any response. And that you haven't seen nationally. Therefore, it's definitely debatable what is going on nationally in terms of their response, and along with other people's response individually. Yeah, I think we've done okay, and still have work to do. So.

Serena Yu 03:18

I'm glad to hear that. Um, How have your opinion towards COVID-19 changed from the beginning compared with now?

Christopher Kiriaki 03:27

It definitely changed in terms the level of severity I'm sure everyone in terms how severe it could be. I definitely didn't see I—I actually been very familiar with what was going on in Wuhan, China at December around January. I remember seeing some reported cases in lockdown of the city, which was really surprising because I didn't—I was surprised that here it wasn't getting as much coverage as it should've been. But then now to be doing an interview about it from all these months later, and still be talking about it is really is really, it's kinda just crazy to think that it's still going on. But I definitely I continuously throughout the quarantine period, the stay-at-home of the quarantine the stay-at-home period where it was changing my mindset on duration that we weren't going to be in this just stay as a society I was like, oh, it's gonna pass and then it really imploded around May and then I figured that we were in this for at least, is going to wipe out any plans we had this summer. We were gonna have to just all individually take on a role.

Serena Yu 05:03

Yeah, it also wipes out all of my plans as well. How does COVID change your perspective of the future?

Christopher Kiriaki 05:13

That's interesting because I really liked reading the article history of epidemics, I think it was called, which is what is similar has similar views to what I think COVID's going to bring the future where it's going to have long-term effects, like, I was reading an interesting article the other day about infrastructure changes, and how now COVID is actually one of the smaller viruses because I had done a research study on filter optimization, and COVID being so small of a virus that we haven't seen before, is required for even more type Boolean filter fabric made out of new technology that we haven't seen before for that technology could also be applied to other technology. It's just a springboard of domino effect of things that happen. But I think that only happens because COVID has shown us that things can be done really-- things that we need that we have currently, such as ventilators and so technology can be reduced very rapidly and even a vaccine and that finally springboards more technology and stuff from it.

Serena Yu 06:47

Okay, that's all the questions we have. Thank you for participating in this interview.

Christopher Kiriaki 06:55

Thank you. Thank you, Serena.

Serena Yu 06:57

You're welcome.