

Hi DKS, I'm Chris Rinard, a recent graduated senior. In the summer of 2012 I started swimming at DKS in Age Group with Chris Cox. I moved up to Elite 1 in 8th grade, and I stayed there until graduation. I'm looking forward to spending summers back at DKS, as soon as the Coronavirus situation figures itself out. Many of my best friends come from DKS, and swimming under Dana has made me a better person. It's been hard at times, and I've had some great meets and some great practices, and made true friends along the way. It's an experience that I treasure immensely.

I'm currently attending (figure of speech) MIT, and I just finished my finals! There's a saying that getting an MIT education is like drinking from a firehose, and now I see why. There is so much to do on campus, classes are definitely a lot, but MIT is a truly amazing place. I really enjoyed swimming on the team, which is an incredibly supportive environment and really like a second family. I'm not going to try to summarize everything that's happened since leaving for college, but rather cover some of the good, bad, and quarantine. Orientation week and rush were a blast, and I got to enjoy meeting my dormmates and teammates, as well as lots of other fellow freshmen. I was genuinely surprised, because despite being one of the more nerdy schools, we know how to have a good time. The semester went by quickly, classes were hard but rewarding, and I had a good end of semester meet. During IAP (January), we don't have any scheduled classes, so there were lots of doubles and away meets on weekends. I got to see Aaron and Matt Liang at the NYU, Tufts, MIT tri meet at Williams (Photo below), and I had lots of fun on our off nights socializing with the team and getting in the air.

One of the best meets of IAP was our duel meet with Tufts. It was the day after the trip meet with Williams and NYU, so everyone was a bit tired, but when we got on deck the excitement was there and palpable. Tuft's pool is 6 lanes, which meant no warm down, and I was slated to swim the 1000 for points (all the freestyle practice and Stanford 4000s and being put in the mile meet definitely helped here; Dana told us that we'd be put in distance for points and she was absolutely right). It was a very compact pool deck, the competition was intense, and we wanted to win. Everyone on the team was on their feet for almost the entire meet and we were leading going into the last 4 events, but then the diving scores posted, and since we had no male divers who were not injured, we got set back a lot by that, and only through 'sacrificing' our senior Bouke and Sophomore Jordan to the the 500, and an incredible 200 Free Relay. It was exhilarating and exhausting, and the high point of IAP.

In the new semester, I was much more on to p of academics than first semester, and made a lot of the optional practices, where either Coach Meg or Coach James

will write you an individual workout if you come, so those became my breaststroke days. As we tapered down for NEWMAC, I wasn't sure how I was going to do, but the lessons learned at DKS of trusting the process helped me out, and when the meet came, it went really well. I swam a time trial on Thursday night, but my first individual event was the 400IM on Saturday, followed by the 200 Back and 200 Fly on Sunday. My 400 IM was okay, I placed 6th, but the real fun was Sunday night, where I dropped best times in both races, despite them being 20 minutes apart. It was exhilarating and incredibly fun, and I can't wait for next year.

Quarantine hasn't been the greatest, I've been holed up in my dad's basement and studying to wrap up my semester. It's been hard not seeing my friends from MIT or DKS, and it's been two months since I've been within 6 feet of anyone else. I've kept myself amused through learning stuff about airplanes, watching movies, building models, and playing games. I'm sure that everyone else is anxious to get back to their campus/ normal life, and I can't wait for the world to be back to normal, but it's also important to take the opportunities offered by quarantine and make the most of the time that you're stuck indoors.