

## SNUCMAA Progress Report

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March 17, 2018 was a whirlwind of emotions for me and my family. Calls were made, laughs were heard, and literal tears were shed as my family and I found out I had been admitted to Harvard University. But as our high emotions settled, we were faced with the colder reality of my admission: the college's financial costs. The fact that I would be going to a university with no family or friends for (literally) thousands of miles seemed almost small when compared to the uncertainty linked to the financial costs that such an excursion would entail. I was able to secure a myriad of freshman financial awards leading up to my first year – but, upon my first summer as a college student – I was having trouble locating new scholarship avenues. Thankfully, I was able to find and receive Seoul National University College of Medicine Alumni Association of North America's Scholarship.

Due to SNUCMAA's generosity, I was able to attend my sophomore year with a peace of mind. Freshman year, I quickly found a part-time job – but due to the nature of SNUCMAA and other foundations' scholarships, I was able to solely concentrate on my studies since last fall. As a Chemistry Major, I have begun taking some of the most rigorous courses the university has to offer – where I can spend nearly 25 hours a week on labs, homework, lectures, and studying for a single class! Despite the rigor associated with them, I have wholeheartedly enjoyed my time there; where, due to the new-found freedom that came with my sophomore year, I was able to become part of a myriad of public service clubs, medical interest groups, and student welfare programs. By receiving awards like SNUCMAA's, I have been able to devote more time into the activities and studies that I love – while having the additional privilege to discover new ones.

I genuinely feel that it would not be hyperbolic to say that SNUCMAA's impact in my life is staggering. As they wrote their check to me: addressed to a "Dr. Suh," I feel more excited than ever to whole-heartedly pursue my dream to become a medical doctor. They have granted me a wonderful opportunity, and I plan to seize it with my all.

