

**Suhyeon Hong**  
**SNUCMAA Dr. and Mrs. Sang Seol Rhee Scholarship**  
**Progress Report**

As a first-year currently completing her second semester at Swarthmore College, it has been incredible to witness how this scholarship has aided my academic endeavors. Through this scholarship I have been able to contribute to lifting the financial burden associated with living and academic expenses that I would have otherwise have had to produce by working and studying simultaneously. Thanks to the Dr. and Mrs. Sang Seol Rhee Scholarship, I have been able to focus on my studies, adjust to a new college environment, and begin making an impact on my community. Firstly, I have been passionately engaging with the numerous resources and opportunities my college has to offer, whether this be through courses or programs. My prospective majors are a double major in



Anthropology & Sociology and Education, with a focus on Asian American Studies. While focusing on my studies, I have found an immense pleasure and passion for the fields of anthropology, sociology, and education, especially the way in which each field intersects and interacts with one another. In particular, I would like to share with you some of the work I did in one of my favorite classes from my fall semester, K-12 Asian American Studies Curriculum. In light of the state of Connecticut passing legislation mandating the teaching of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) history in grades K–12, we collaborated with Connecticut-based organizers who were drafting a model AAPI history curriculum for the state education department, and created model units and lesson plans. Currently we are in discussion about presenting at a panel during the Teaching Justice Conference at UC Irvine in May.

Additionally, the SNUCMAA-NA scholarship has allowed me to explore extracurricular activities and step outside my comfort zone, challenging myself to try new things. I have been recently hired to become a Lang Center Associate (LCA) at the Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility, with a focus on the issue area of Arts, Culture, and Media. Aside from working as an LCA, I am also currently a first-year intern for the organization Organizing to Redefine Asian Activism (ORAA). ORAA has become an integral part of my college experience and for the 2024 school year, I plan on running for a board position to contribute even further. Lastly, I would like to share a current project ongoing in my life that I can say with confidence were enabled by the Mrs. Sang Seol Rhee Scholarship. For one, together with three other team members, I have become a finalist for the idea competition SwatTank. Together we are developing an app that helps students create structure in their daily life and connect with friends. Although I was initially unsure about applying for this competition, I remembered how I was once unsure about applying for scholarships, fearing rejection. I recalled the joy that followed when I received this scholarship because I had given it my all and challenged myself. .

The Dr. and Mrs. Sang Seol Rhee Scholarship removed the anxieties that I once carried before entering college, worried about whether I could balance academics, extracurriculars, and create a stable source of income. To me, this scholarship did not only provide money—it gifted me freedom.