

Hello! My name is Rosa Kwon, and I am a recipient of the Decater Fund! To introduce myself a bit, I am a prospective Molecular Biology major from Falls Church, VA. However, I am also from many different places around the world: Chicago, IL, USA; Beijing, China; Astana, Kazakhstan; Seoul, Korea. While I was born in Chicago, my family has been moving across continents long before I could even walk due to my father's occupation as a diplomat. As a result, I have always been interested in perspectives and viewpoints different from my own, curious to learn more about and engage with different cultural backgrounds and environments. This mindset has fueled me to contribute to Kenyon in a myriad of ways—whether through planning social events as an exec for the Sunrise environmental club, help editing a chapbook as a Sunset Press editor, guiding neurodivergent kids as a Camp Nuhop counselor, or bridging the connection between Kenyon and alumni as a Phonathon worker. And, I hope to deepen this engagement with Kenyon in the future as a Student Council member, a Molecular Biology TA, an Orientation Leader, a Sunset Press writer, a Community Advisor, as a Kenyon Review associate, and even more. The possibilities are endless!

Thus, I am extremely grateful for the Decater scholarship and the immense financial support it has provided me. Without it, all these plans would have simply remained a dream rather than a possible reality. I would not have been able to make all the wonderful friends I have nor would I have been able to forge all the connections I have with my professors. I would not have been able to be named on the Merit List, and I would not have been able to delve into the eclectic, collaborative, friendly, and, most of all, unique community that resides at Kenyon. Thank you so much for the generous financial aid, and I hope future Kenyon students will also be provided this invaluable opportunity to become an integral member of the Owls.