Dear Friends and Supporters of the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship,

With the arrival of summer, we’re delighted to bring you updates on the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship! At a well-attended reception at the Alliance Française Calgary a few weeks ago, we welcomed Miya Larsen, our 2018 scholarship recipient, into our community. Born and raised in Calgary, Miya has just completed her second year in the International Relations program at UCalgary. A lover of music, she plays both the piano and the guitar. When she arrives in Tours at the end of August, it will be the first time she sets foot on the European continent. Miya recently commented, “I know that this opportunity will allow me to grow as an individual. I am so excited to experience another culture and to immerse myself in a French environment. Further, I am excited to challenge myself by studying in French. This will allow me to fortify the language skills that I will use in my career.” Miya has many people anticipating her year abroad: her sister, parents, and grandparents all joined in to wish her bon voyage at the June reception!

Equally exciting was the opportunity to welcome home Bailey Diakow, our 2017 E. Catherine Barclay scholarship recipient. Bailey shared experiences and beautiful photos from her study abroad journey with a delighted audience, which included founders Bob Knipe and Gerald Hankins and his wife Lois Alger. Seven recipients of the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship were also present, together with UCalgary supporters Gavin Cameron, Associate Dean of Internationalization and Global Initiatives, Mark Conliffe, Director of the School of Languages, Literatures, Linguistics and Cultures, and long-time supporter Professor Anthony Wall, who also leads the French Centre at UCalgary. It was inspiring to hear from Bailey at the reception, and we would like to share some of the insights she has communicated over the past year:

“Traveling to Budapest turned out to be one of my favorite parts of the trip. We met a professor of philosophy and ethics from the University of Vienna and we had the most interesting talk with him. He prepared us for our experience by giving us a good understanding of the history of Budapest and what the people have gone through in their country. I have found that one of the most valuable parts of this experience has been my opportunity to talk to people while travelling between destinations (something that was previously outside of my comfort zone).

For someone like me who used to depend on structure to accomplish my work I found the more relaxed teaching style in France hard to get accustomed to. There is a rhythm at the University of Calgary that I didn’t find here.

Continued on next page
At the University of Calgary, you know your schedule 4-5 months in advance, the courses themselves are consistent and projects are thoroughly explained. In Tours, it is normal to still be deciding which courses to take in the third week of the semester and class times could vary from week to week! At the University of Calgary there are also usually many assignments throughout the year whereas in France there would only be two big assignments per class worth much more of your grade. Because I was planning trips and travelling between preparing for these big tests and assignments, I actually became even more independent and organized than I had been before. After I accepted the different approach to university and learning I began to really relax and enjoy my courses...overall, I did the best I could and I have done quite well!

Overall, this year has not only broadened my worldview and exponentially improved my French, it also taught me the invaluable skills of adapting to my environment and just learning to “go with the flow”...actually this is something I still need to work on but France gave me a good start!

Recipients from three consecutive years (Paola Velasquez 2016, Bailey Diakow 2017 and Miya Larsen 2018) joined together in an evening of exchange with a growing community of friends and supporters who helped the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship become an annual award in 2016. Each year, HI Calgary continues to generously provide award recipients with in-kind essentials to experience hostelling as part of their journey abroad. Paola Velasquez presented this year’s gift to Miya Larsen on behalf of HI Calgary. It was a great inspiration to see this presentation being made between award recipients who will have much in common from this transformative experience.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship and the incredible impact it has – and will have – on generations to come!

Warm wishes,


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**Did you know?**

Last year’s Giving Day serendipitously led us to Brenda Glazer, who was a student in Catherine Barclay’s 11 French class at Central High in 1964. Brenda remembers, “Miss Barclay’s strict insistence that only French be spoken in class (quite a shock after a lax Grade 10 class) upped my skills sufficiently that I wound up majoring in the language.”