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

Warmest greetings to you all! As we approach the end of 2013, we would like to thank you for your responsiveness to our spring newsletter. Hearing from you is always appreciated and encouraging.

We are very pleased to introduce our 2013-2014 scholarship recipient, Zara Villareal.

Zara is a double French-Spanish major and has completed her second year at the University of Calgary. Originally from Mexico, she also lived in England and California before moving to Calgary with her family five years ago. Her goal is to become a translator for the United Nations. If Catherine Barclay were still with us today, there is no doubt that this would make her very proud as she was a firm believer in the ideals of the UN and an active participant in its Calgary Branch activities.

Zara chose to study at the Université François Rabelais in Tours this year, and here is what she wrote in her recent emails:

“The first month was a bit challenging getting everything in order, trying to get my documents sorted, [...] internet [connected] and everything in general. It’s been quite an adventure for sure. Every day is something different – good different and better than the last. Classes have started, and I am enjoying them all. The first month of classes was a bit all over the place, but I’m all settled in now. I’m taking some courses specifically aimed at improving my French - "Langue écrite" and "Langue orale" - and then I have an option course called "Culture et société" which is interesting because I get a deeper understanding of the French way of life, their system and how it all functions together.”

“I’m also taking a grammar course, literature, and two translation courses: French to English and English to French. Those classes I especially enjoy because it is what I want to do as a profession, to be a translator. In general I like all the classes that I am taking because each one of them helps me to improve an aspect of my French. I’ve also been participating in events at the university and other organized events here at the residence to get involved. One weekend I had the opportunity to visit a castle and have a guided tour at the Château de Saché. I found it very interesting as it was there that Balzac wrote some of the famous works which I had previously studied in a Littérature Française course at the University of Calgary. All in all, every day brings something new: I meet someone new, learn something new, or see something new.”
While our present scholarship recipient pursues her studies and cultural development in Tours, we also want to update you on our fundraising efforts.

Since our spring newsletter we have worked with the University of Calgary’s Development Office to establish a multi-year fundraising strategy. The endowment fund established in E. Catherine Barclay’s memory helps send a student to France every other year. Our vision is to award the scholarship annually by 2015-2016. In order to send a student to France every year, we have set a financial objective with an opening target of $15,000, which we hope to reach by summer 2014. If you’d like to help us reach the goal that we share with the founders of the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship, the University has set up a link for donations here: netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/ec_barclay_donate. Donations by credit card may also be made by contacting Jessica Freeman from the Development Office at 403.220.8832. If you wish to send a cheque, please make it out to the University of Calgary, write E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship in the memo line, and if you have received this newsletter by mail, use the stamped envelope enclosed for your convenience. We want to sincerely thank each and every one of you who has contributed since our last newsletter. Your commitment and generosity are making a difference!

If you wish to obtain or share more information about Catherine Barclay, we would love to hear from you. If you have received this newsletter by mail and would prefer to receive a digital copy, please send an email to Silvia Rossi at srossicalgary@gmail.com. And if you prefer not to receive these updates at all in future, please let us know.

We look forward to sharing more on Zara’s year in France and on our fundraising results in the spring of 2014. Meanwhile, we recall Cathie’s determination and courage through her many endeavours and the words she was often heard saying: “Du courage, en avant!”

With our very best wishes,


Did you know? Many Canadian corporations will match their employees’ charitable donations. Some companies also match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses. Gift matching could double the impact of your contribution.