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

How wonderful it is to introduce our 2016-2017 recipient, Paola Velasquez, seen to the right, at Besançon’s Citadelle in Burgundy. Paola is in Dijon studying at the University of Burgundy after having completed her 3rd year majoring in French at the University of Calgary. Paola heard about the scholarship from one of her instructors and already had her eye on it in 2015. Now in the midst of a year abroad, Paola wrote to us in September to let us know how things were going:

“... I’ve been in Dijon for about two weeks now and I’m loving it! I’m still getting used to the residence and the French administration, which is really slow and complicated sometimes. I started going to all the classes that interested me this week and will be finalizing my course registration next week. So far I have decided to take some FLE (français langue étrangère), méthodologies de l’enseignement, culture et civilisation française et italienne, methodologies des procedés linguistiques (grammar mostly I think) and translation courses.

As part of the International students orientation days I had a tour of downtown and was able to taste some of the food and wine of Bourgogne. I've also joined or tried to join some of the extracurricular activities here. I am taking some dance lessons and will be starting Kayak hopefully soon.

I'm really enjoying my time here so far, I've met really nice people and I can't wait to meet more once my classes are settled!” (Paola Velasquez, 2016-2017 recipient)

While Paola is admittedly more of a quiet type, that doesn’t seem to be holding her back! We all enjoyed meeting her and she made a wonderful impression this past summer when, by invitation of the Dean’s Office, the University of Calgary’s Faculty of Arts hosted a send-off for her. Together with Paola’s family, the E. Catherine Barclay Endowment’s founders, our HI Calgary supporters, and the departments that collectively make the scholarship possible, we celebrated the 2016-2017 scholarship in commemoration of E. Catherine Barclay.
Meanwhile, Monica Salib was enjoying her final weeks abroad as the E. Catherine Barclay 2015-2016 recipient. She sent some inspirational words about how her year studying in France changed her as a person:

“I would strongly recommend studying abroad to anyone who has the opportunity of doing it. It allows you to not only grow as a person but to travel the world and explore different cultures, different languages, and of course different delicious foods. You meet amazing people and get exposed to such different cultures and different ways of thinking that it allows you to just learn so much more about what this world has to offer. So, thank you so much for allowing me to participate in such an amazing experience that I never would have had without this scholarship.” (Monica Salib, 2015-2016 recipient)

On that note, we are happy to report that E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship recipients will now have access to more French universities. The addition of 16 partnering institutions (https://www.ucalgary.ca/uci/abroad/find-program) will allow students to access a greater variety of programs with the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship, maximizing its benefits across the entire University of Calgary campus. These additional French universities will be open to applicants for the 2017-2018 E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship. The 2017-2018 application is available at: https://fis.ucalgary.ca/sites/fis.ucalgary.ca/files/ec_barclay_application_2017_18_.pdf

We hope you will spread the word as we look forward to the coming year and new scholarship candidates seeking programs in more French universities!

With our very best wishes,


Did you know?

Donations to the E. Catherine Barclay Endowment are gratefully accepted and may be made online at: https://netcommunity.ucalgary.ca/ec_barclay_donate

Cheques may be sent, payable to the University of Calgary with “E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship” in the memo line, to Tasneem Rahim, Director of Development, Faculty of Arts/Libraries & Cultural Resources at:
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2500 University Drive N.W.
Calgary, AB T2N 1N