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

It is that time of year again in Calgary when we all convince ourselves that the snow will magically disappear as our surroundings rejuvenate around us. This is the perfect time to thank the people who continuously help this award grow.

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the contributions so many of you have made since our Fall Newsletter. Your support has been inspirational and encouraging!

Each and every contribution has a positive impact on the scholarship fund and, ultimately, on the experience that ensues for the award winner. Whether it’s through financial means or by suggesting a great little restaurant to check out in their host town, our award winners are truly provided with a range of resources necessary to come into their own while in France.

Zara Villarreal Escudero, our 2013-2014 award winner, is currently studying in Tours; we would like to whisk you away to France as she recently shared some of her favorite thoughts and experiences with us by e-mail.

**Croissant or pain au chocolat?**

◊ Pain au chocolat, bien sûr!

**What do you most love about Tours?**

◊ I like the fact that it’s small and it gives a feeling of hospitality. You tend to cross paths with the same people and you really get to know the city of Tours like the back of your hand.

**Name three things there that make you smile.**

◊ Having an appetizer outdoors in Place Plumereau with friends

◊ Passing by the "Hôtel de ville" and the two fountains in the evening

◊ Smelling fresh baked bread from a boulangerie nearby

**List your favorite class this semester.**

◊ My favorite class this semester is History of Tours. It’s interesting because the first semester I would pass by all these buildings without ever knowing what significance they had. It gives a new perspective now that I know the history behind it and what it’s all about.

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What are three things you still want to do before the end of your year in Tours?

◊ Take a bike and ride along la Loire, ride the tram from one end of the city to the other, and go on another wine tasting tour.

In 10 words or less, how would you describe the ECB Scholarship experience so far?

◊ I would say, it's an experience that has opened a new door.

Do you think living in Tours has changed your views?

◊ I think living in Tours has changed my perspectives, my personal views, my cultural views etc. It has created and shaped a new part of me, it gives a whole new understanding of how I see things.

We hope that you share the feeling of satisfaction that the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship is thriving and continues to provide life-altering experiences for students 25 years after its founders established the award. As Zara’s year in France draws to its denouement we remember our goal of establishing the ECB Scholarship as an annual prize.

We are equally pleased to report our recent success in obtaining corporate volunteer grant funding, which is a variation on corporate matching. While some corporations will match their employees’ donations dollar for dollar, grants are another way in which corporations encourage their employees’ (and their families’) community involvement.

As we begin to reach out to the corporate sector to become involved with the ECB Scholarship, we are learning that our city’s businesses value giving and will support their employees’ donations and time in various ways. A limited list of corporations that match employee donations may be found at: http://www1.matchinggifts.com/search/ucalgary.ca. Checking a corporation’s website and/or intranet can often yield information on how the organization helps its employees to make their donations and volunteer time even more meaningful. We invite you to share this information with your own network.

Thank you so much for your participation!

With our very best wishes,


Did you know?
Since last Spring’s newsletter we have raised $8000 towards our goal of making the E. Catherine Barclay Scholarship an annual award!