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Martin Raszyk



Pavel Koňarik and Selection Committee



Michaela Maláčová and new Bakala Scholars



Result Announcement Ceremony

How do you plan to use your education?

After holding interviews at Dox in Prague on September 26-27, the Zdeňk Bakala Foundation's Selection Committee chose 13 new Bakala Scholars. These students, headed to the world's top universities (including Harvard, Dartmouth, Yale, Oxford, Cambridge, and the LSE), are joining a family of 60 Bakala Scholars from previous years. This year, the SCHOLARSHIP program attracted 215 applicants from students of secondary schools and universities. Each of the 24 students who were invited for interviews had 20 minutes to convince the Committee to support their studies. In addition to questions about their study plans, the candidates were asked to discuss, in English, how they plan to use their education in "real life." After all, the Zdeňk Bakala Foundation's goal is, first and foremost, to enable talented students to effect positive change to society or push the boundaries of their fields.

The Selection Committee featured Michaela Bakala (Chair, Board of Trustees), Pepper de Callier (founder of the Prague Leadership Institute), Vanda Thorne (a teacher at NYU Prague), Michal Pěchouček and Jan Kouba (professors at the Czech Technical University in Prague), Radek Špicar (Executive Director of the Aspen Institute, Prague), Jakub Kastl (an assistant professor at Stanford University), and others. "The future of our country lies in our young people," Michaela Bakala stated. "I remain an optimist, having confirmed to myself again that our students are talented, strong-minded, and responsible. Our foundation offers scholars financial help and expert advice for the entire duration of their study."

This year's scholars to study a range of subjects, from economics to paleontology

This year, the Zdeňk Bakala Foundation offered financial assistance to the following students: David Černý (Prague, Vertebrate Paleontology), Rozálie Horká (Uherské Hradiště, Economics), Roman Huszár (Píšťín, Cognitive Science and Neuroscience), Nina Jaganjacova (Prague, Sociology - Developmental Studies), Karel Kabelík (Prague, Econometrics and Financial Economics), Pavel Koňarik (Prague, Computer Science/Computer Security and Data Protection), Ján Michalčák (Stříbro, Sociology and International Relations), Petr Paleček (Ostrava, Business and Psychology), Tereza Rasočková (Chotěboř, Economics and Law, Journalism), Martin Raszyk (Karviná, Computer Science), Zuzana Schmidtová (Prague, Criminology), Jakub Tomek (Prague, Computer Science and Biology), Zuzana Vikarská (Poprad, International Economic Law).

Jakub Tomek described the experience: "I could go on talking with the committee for hours. Having met a lot of students who have no idea what they want to do or how to get there, but are very clear about not wanting to work or study much, I found it very refreshing to see people who aim high without being too egotistic."

The next round of the SCHOLARSHIP program will be announced in early 2014.