



Nadace
Zdeňka Bakaly

January 2014

5.

Year of the SCHOLARSHIP Program is here



SCHOLARSHIP interview

Do you happen to know someone with the ambition and talent to study at a top-tier university abroad? Such person should apply to our Scholarship Program. The application deadline this year is May 31, 2014. During the summer, the Selection Committee, featuring well-reputed personalities and experts, will consider the applications (including an essay, letter of recommendation, and family income statement) and select candidates to interview in person. Our aim is to enable motivated young people to study at top universities that will provide them with the best opportunities for their personal and academic growth. So far, the Foundation has provided advice and funding to 73 students, distributing a more than 35 million Czech crowns in total. To find out more, please visit www.nadacezb.cz.

Students Support Education for Children in Children's Homes

Before last Christmas, Oxford and Cambridge alumni held a charity raffle in Prague to raise money for the children's home in the Prague district of Dolní Počernice. Offering exceptional prizes like uniforms signed by top Czech athletes, the students raised much need funds that will go toward textbooks and language courses, among other things. **"What all of us at the Oxford and Cambridge Alumni Society have in common is a first-rate education. The opportunity we were given to fulfill our dream by taking a degree from prestigious universities was enabled by support and understanding from our families, encouragement from our friends, and often financial assistance from generous benefactors. Our contribution is meant to support those who are not as lucky as we have been,"** said Zuzana Picková, a Bakala scholar in charge of the raffle.



Foreign Experience as Added Value

On January 3, the Zdenek Bakala Foundation took advantage of students' holiday trips home to hold a second meeting of 43 Bakala scholars at the Václav Havel Library in Prague. The icebreaker, during which groups of participants made rubbish into various helpful tools (pictured), was followed by a panel discussion on Foreign Experience – Added Value for the Czech Labor Market. Prominent guests included Tomáš Jungwirth (Professor of Physics at Nottingham University), Jan Straka (of the Depositum Bonum Foundation), and Radek Špicar (Executive Director of the Aspen Institute, Prague). The following statements were made during the discussion: "Most of what I learned at Cambridge was not from lectures, but from students who returned to get a degree after several years of practical work experience." "In the Czech Republic, a PhD degree is valued differently than in other countries. In order to live, you often have to do other things, as well. By contrast, if you work on a PhD project abroad, you have no other commitments." "We need the EU. The US profits from its large job market, which spans from the west to the east coast – not to mention the fact that people speak the same language everywhere. But, in the Czech Republic, you have to accept that if you find no employment locally, you have to try your luck in Berlin or Madrid, for example." An edited version of the panel discussion is available at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojpikwspLf4

