



## months until next year's SCHOLARSHIP program is announced



### Our Scholars are Ready to Help

With the academic year in full swing, scholarship recipients who are studying at foreign universities are involved in charitable work and volunteering.

For example, festive dinners are held at Oxford University every week. Students pay entrance fees, wear dresses and dinner jackets, and enjoy a three-course meal with wine. What does **Sara Poláková** (pictured) have to say? "While we enjoy fresh salmon or duck, there are people outside the university who have nothing to eat. Therefore, I decided that the Halloween dinner would cost two pounds more, with the extra proceeds going to charity. Given that almost 200 people came to the dinner, 400 pounds will be given to a local charity that helps homeless people. As President of College, I have introduced the rule that such dinners shall be held twice each term, with a different charity nominated each time."

**Patrik Procházka** is at Lynn University, which has the fourth highest proportion of international students among U.S. universities. Many of them helped to organize this year's presidential debates, including Patrik, for whom this was an unforgettable and valuable volunteer experience. "I have always been interested in politics as a vital part of our lives. I believe that the experience I had will be useful, since later in my life I am considering establishing an international foundation to help people to overcome barriers and handicaps in their lives."

Life in the U.S. has also recently been affected by Hurricane Sandy. Our scholar at Columbia University in New York, is **Terezie Taubelová**. "Elderly or ill people were left with no electricity in the skyscrapers of Lower Manhattan, unable to descend the twenty or thirty floors without the elevator, with no food, drinking water, and often no medicine. Several volunteer organizations provided basic aid, such as setting up collection points for food, bottled water, batteries, and blankets, as well as organizing volunteer participation. We prepared sandwiches and packages of supplies, which other people would then take to those who were confined to their homes. Over the weekend, my fellow students and I went to Rockaway Beach in Queens, which is a promontory right into the Atlantic and one of the places worst hit by the hurricane. Not a single house was unaffected; all had been flooded. Several blocks had burned down completely. We were given shovels by the military in a local church, and approached every single house to ask what help was needed... A week after the hurricane, it became much colder, which has made the clearing work much more difficult. It will take months before life returns to normal."



### On Counseling Tour of Schools

Another year of the SCHOLARSHIP program, which enables up to 60 students to study at prestigious universities, will be announced this January. Applicants should complete their applications and essays, and obtain a letter of recommendation from a teacher, by May of next year. The Foundation and ELAI have begun a tour of secondary schools all over the Czech Republic, holding seminars to encourage and advise students about their study abroad plans.

One of our trainers, Cambridge University graduate Lukáš Sedláček, says, "Be bold enough to apply for the best universities, as the chances are much higher than you might think. You only need courage and an appropriate amount of diligence." Our seminar participants are primarily interested in what grades these universities demand, and available means of securing funding. Funding is what the Zdeňka Bakala Foundation offers.