



Nadace  
Zdeňka Bakaly

November 2014

18

## December Presents for Knowledge Hunters



### Adam, Our Man Overseas

Since 2010, the Zdeněk Bakala Foundation has supported 87 students, and more still will be joining our SCHOLARSHIP program next year. One of the Bakala scholars, Adam Pečeň, runs his own blog at <http://adamzamorem.wordpress.com>, in which he shares his experience not only as a student of Communication Studies and Economics at Northwestern University.

What do you miss most in the US?

"Authenticity, be it in food, material things or human characters. This is far from saying that America is false or that Americans are double-faced. It's just that you start to get a strange feeling after you have spent some time in a country where food is often packed, pre-cooked, over-flavored or artificial in some other way. In a country whose architecture and material taste generally often rely heavily on simulating and adopting things from diverse cultures, emphasizing superficial appearance rather than the authenticity of materials. Sometimes I suspect even the White House might be made of drywall."

What do the U.S. media say about the Czech Republic and Europe?

"As far as the media are concerned, the United States is an egocentric country, so you get to read very few news articles from or on Europe (let alone the Czech Republic). We have had several reports on the landing of a European probe on a comet, but the current focus of U.S. global news is on the Arab world and the Islamic State, as well as the conflict in Ukraine."

Pictured is Adam with the University's President



### NY Times: "A talent we will hear more from"

The leading U.S. daily New York Times has lauded the violinist Šimon Michal, a Bakala scholar. In September, Šimon won the Juilliard Concerto Competition, which brought together 25 violinists from all the study programs, with the winner invited to give a solo concert at Alice Tully Hall. In October, Šimon appeared in Mozart's Violin Concerto G Major, with the Juilliard Symphony led by Fabio Luisi, principal conductor of the Metropolitan Opera. The concert received an excellent review in the New York Times, which mentioned that the Czech violinist "played with freedom and deep tone". The violin used in this concert was a rare instrument lent by the Tarisio auction house, a 1720 Stradivarius worth 6 million dollars. "At the same time, I became one of the first members of the New York Philharmonic Global Academy, which means that in January 2015, I will have the opportunity to collaborate with one of the world's top orchestras."

Pictured is Šimon giving a performance at the opening of SCHOLARSHIP interviews at Forum Karlín, Prague in September 2014.



### What Christmas Presents Will Bakala Scholars Give to Prague Pupils?

On Thursday, December 18, a volunteer event will take place on the initiative of the Foundation's scholarship recipients. Entitled Zvídavá nadílka (Presents for Knowledge Hunters), the event will introduce pupils of Prague primary schools into some of the most interesting facts related to Bakala scholars' fields. In a wide range of short interactive workshops and lectures, our scholars will explain, inter alia, how chimpanzees communicate with one another, how a space rocket is built, or how children live in Angola. The event seeks to appeal to the youngest Czech generation by presenting specialized topics in an intriguing way, and to make them want to explore the world around them. For Bakala Scholars, Zvídavá nadílka presents an opportunity to join volunteer work in their home country.

Pictured is the first Bakala Scholars meeting at the Lobkowitz Palace, Prague in January 2013. The third meeting is scheduled for January 2015.