

CFI funds two diverse projects at U of O

New funding for the University of Ottawa, announced by the Canada Foundation

for Innovation (CFI) last week, has brought the study of music instruction to the forefront, and brought a heart surgeon home from Harvard.

Perez Hall will house the first research laboratory focused on the teaching of piano, thanks to \$1.2 million in funding from the CFI. Gilles Comeau of the Department of Music will use an interdisciplinary approach to bring together music, psychology, reading, neuro-acoustics and ergonomics.

Researchers will be able to measure the effectiveness of various teaching methods used in piano teaching. Two "intelligent" pianos with integrated computers can measure

such parameters as finger pressure on the keys, the force of the pianist's attack, the moment of release and the swiftness of muscle action.

"The lab will also make our department a true national leader in the study of piano teaching," says Comeau.

SURGEON COMES HOME

Dr. Marc Ruel, a surgeon with the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute since July, will use a \$200,000 CFI grant to establish a laboratory and research uncharted treatment for people with advanced coronary heart disease.

Ruel, who says the funding "has paved the way for me to return home from Harvard," will reinforce the heart institute's position as a world leader in cardiac care.

Watch future issues of the *Gazette* for more on these exciting new research projects.



PHOTO: ROBERT LACOMBE

Prof. Comeau with seven-year-old student Elisabeth Bélanger-Hardy