



# Report to the Community

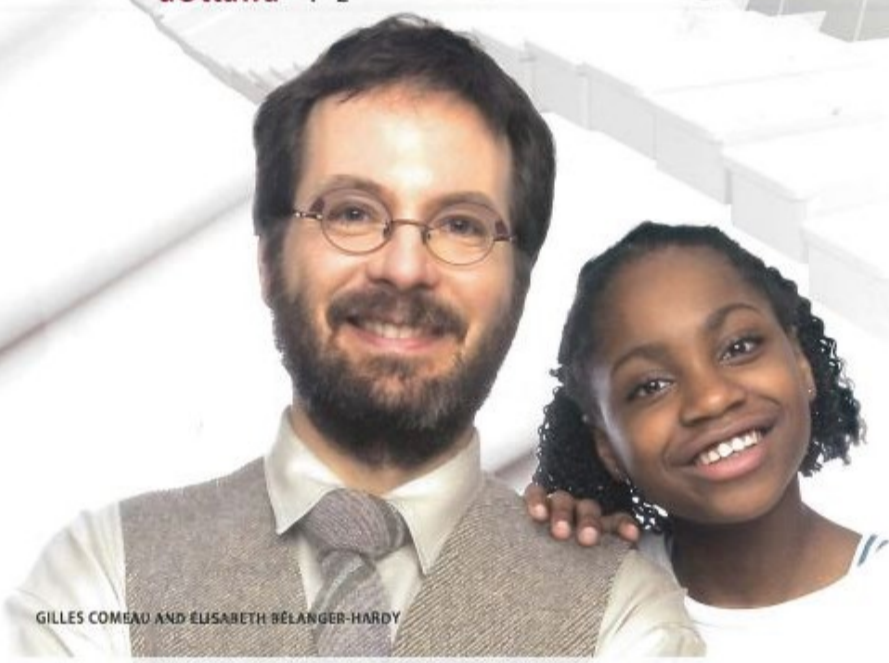
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GILLES COMEAU AND ELISABETH BÉLANGER-HARDY

## Teaching Leadership

In the heart of the nation, rooted in the present and with an eye to the future, the University of Ottawa's leaders are at work training the leaders of tomorrow. The University is contributing to the transfer of knowledge, a key step that will allow new generations to challenge knowledge boundaries, and for humankind to continue evolving.

### DID YOU KNOW?

>> In September 2006, the University will offer Ontario's first biomedical mechanical engineering program. This program will train engineers specialized in the design of medical devices, as well as specialists in biomechanics, rehabilitation engineering and robotics for medical applications.

>> The Student Academic Success Service, a leader in its field, has set up 14 student mentoring centres in various faculties, all of which are tailored to the specific needs of the students they serve.

>> With the help of a scholarship from the Canadian Space Agency, biomedical science student Prateek Khatri was able to take part in a six-week training program at NASA, where he studied the cardiovascular physiology of astronauts returning to earth.

## LEADERSHIP

<<<<<< **A LABORATORY WITH RHYTHM** Each day, budding pianists practise scales, play chords and spend hours trying to master their instrument. It is a long and sometimes discouraging process. Luckily, Professor Gilles Comeau and his team believe that there is an easier and more efficient way to learn to play the piano. The Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory, the first of its kind in Canada, attracts graduate students from around the world. Funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Innovation Trust, the laboratory cost \$1.2 million, but its true value lies in the multidisciplinary research that is carried out there. It brings together researchers from Canada and abroad, who specialize in music, psychology, cognitive sciences, neurosciences, education, communication, health sciences, engineering, and information technology. The laboratory's state-of-the-art equipment allows experts to study the cognitive, auditory, motor and visual aspects of piano playing and learning.

**A GOLDEN APPRENTICESHIP** Shortly after receiving her MBA, Mélanie Pilon flew to Vancouver to become the right-hand assistant to Ian Telfer, president and CEO of Goldcorp Inc., a major international mining company. Inspired by magnate Donald Trump and the American television show *The Apprentice*, Mr. Telfer (MBA 1976) set-up a paid apprenticeship program at Goldcorp; he then earmarked the position of apprentice to the president and CEO for recent graduates of the University of Ottawa's MBA program. Ms. Pilon's father caught Mr. Telfer's attention (she also holds a degree in communication), and he was convinced that she would bring new skills to a field that is mostly made up of geologists and engineers. During her 12-month apprenticeship, this talented young woman will be on the front lines of business, attending all executive meetings and participating in highly confidential negotiations.

**IMMERSION ... EVEN AT UNIVERSITY!** In Canada, more than 300,000 young anglophones study in French immersion programs at elementary and secondary schools each year. Beginning in September 2006, the University of Ottawa will give many of them the opportunity to pursue their education in French at the university level, becoming the first university to offer French immersion studies, which will be available to more than 50 programs and will be tailored to the language goals of each individual. Some courses will include a weekly tutorial session for small groups, led by a language professor, in order to help students better understand the material, improve their knowledge of the French language, and make it easier for them to write their assignments in Molière's language. Their efforts will be rewarded with the "French immersion" designation on their diplomas and, more importantly, by their level of bilingualism, an indisputable asset in the national and global job market.

### THE "NOBEL" OF TEACHING

>> The 3M Fellowship — the "Nobel" of Canadian university teaching — is awarded each year to ten professors, who display excellence in interdisciplinary teaching and exceptional leadership. Since it was established in 1986, this award has been conferred eight times upon outstanding professors at the University of Ottawa. The latest recipient is Aline Germain-Rutherford, director of the Centre for University Teaching, in recognition of her work in integrating direct technologies into teaching and learning. Find out more at [www.report.uOttawa.ca](http://www.report.uOttawa.ca).

