

### **Mission and Philosophy of the Oral Communication Lab**

A major goal of Hamilton College's strategic plan, approved by the Board of Trustees in 2002, is "to establish Hamilton as a national leader in written and oral communication." The Oral Communication Lab (OCL) was established in the fall of 2002 to support students and faculty in achieving the goal of excellence in oral communication.

As part of the Oral Communication Center, the OCL assists in delivering both classroom instruction and individualized coaching tailored to particular disciplines, classes, and assignments. The OCL supports faculty in designing assignments and developing assessment tools. It supports students in managing concerns related to oral presentations, debates, group presentations, poster presentations, and other oral communication matters. Specific areas of support to students include organizing and outlining, developing speaker's notes, using supporting material, documenting sources, adapting written work for oral presentation, polishing vocal and physical delivery, creating effective visual aids, and managing stage fright. The OCL has facilities for videotaping and review of presentations.

The Oral Communication Lab is committed to the belief that everyone can become a more effective speaker through competent guidance and reasonable effort. The role of the OCL consultant is to establish a supportive relationship with each student-client in order that together they may honestly and constructively assess the student's communication practices and develop strategies for improving effectiveness.