A New Tutoring Center: Challenges, Opportunities, and Surprises

Hamilton College Reunions

June 8, 2013, 3:00 p.m.

QSR Center, C. A. Johnson 303

Hamilton

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Director of QSR Center
Hamilton College

Hamilton College

- Open curriculum – No distribution requirements

- Graduation requirements:
  - -Complete a major
  - -3 writing-intensive courses
  - -QSR Requirement (1 course)
  - -Physical education requiremen

History of Quantitative Literacy at Hamilton College

- **1979** IBM grant to study quantitative literacy
- **1984** Q-Lit Committee developed Q-Skills exam
- **1990 Established the first Quantitative Literacy Center in Silliman Hall (Now Couper Hall)**
- **1993 QLit. Center moves to C. A. Johnson**
- **1996** Quantitative Literacy Requirement passed by faculty
- **2004** Q-Skills Exam becomes optional
- **2009** CAP passes Quantitative & Symbolic Reasoning (QSR) Requirement, replacing Q-Lit. Requirement
- **2011** Center name changed to QSR Center to reflect support for the new QSR Requirement
- **2012 Center moves to new location in C. A. Johnson**

Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning (QSR) Requirement and CAP Guidelines

For students in the **Class of 2014 and later**: Hamilton expects that every student will demonstrate facility in quantitative and symbolic reasoning by completing **one or more courses** in at least one of the following three categories:

1. **Statistical Analysis.** The use of statistical analysis to describe data and to make inferences.
2. **Mathematical Representation.** The use of mathematical models such as those based on graphs, equations and geometric objects to represent patterns, relationships and forms.
3. **Logic and Symbolic Reasoning.** The use of formal logic or symbolic reasoning such as in the following examples: the proper construction of a computer program or a formal proof; the analysis of language in linguistics; or the study of music theory.

This requirement should be fulfilled by the end of the second year at Hamilton College.

Functions of the QSR Center:

- Supports the QSR requirement and faculty
- Offers peer tutoring in introductory level courses containing a math/quantitative/symbolic component
- Students drop in to review a topic, use computers and the printer
- Encourages collaborative learning through group work—students help each other
- Offers review for post-graduate exams such as the GRE, as well as workshops designed to help with specific courses

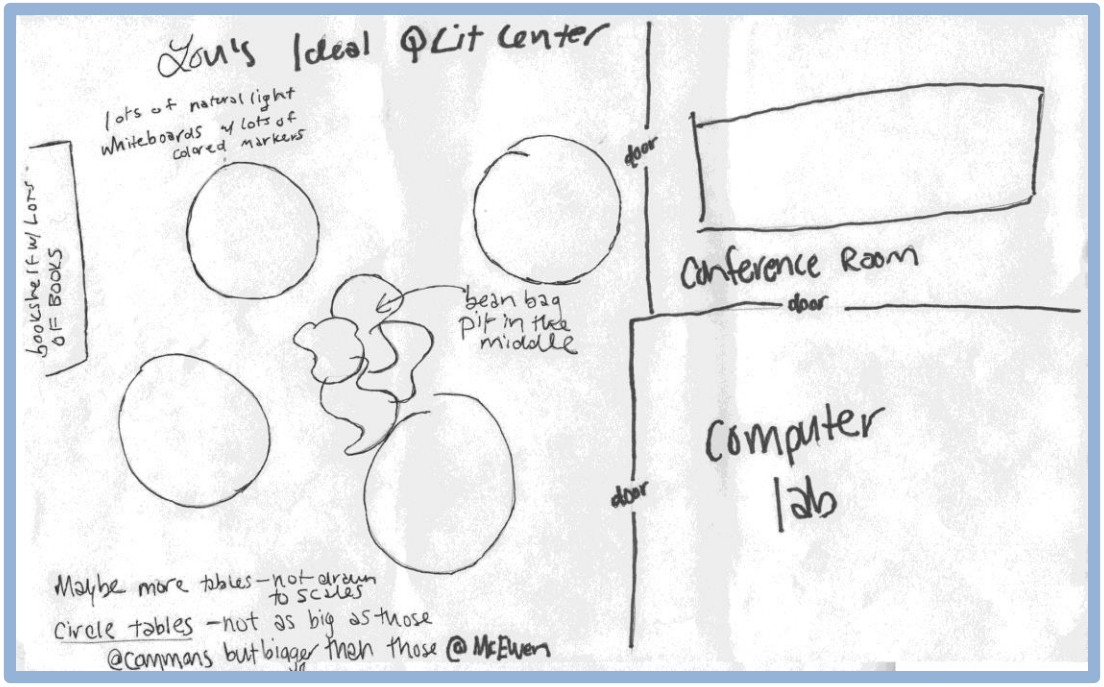
How Students Use the Center

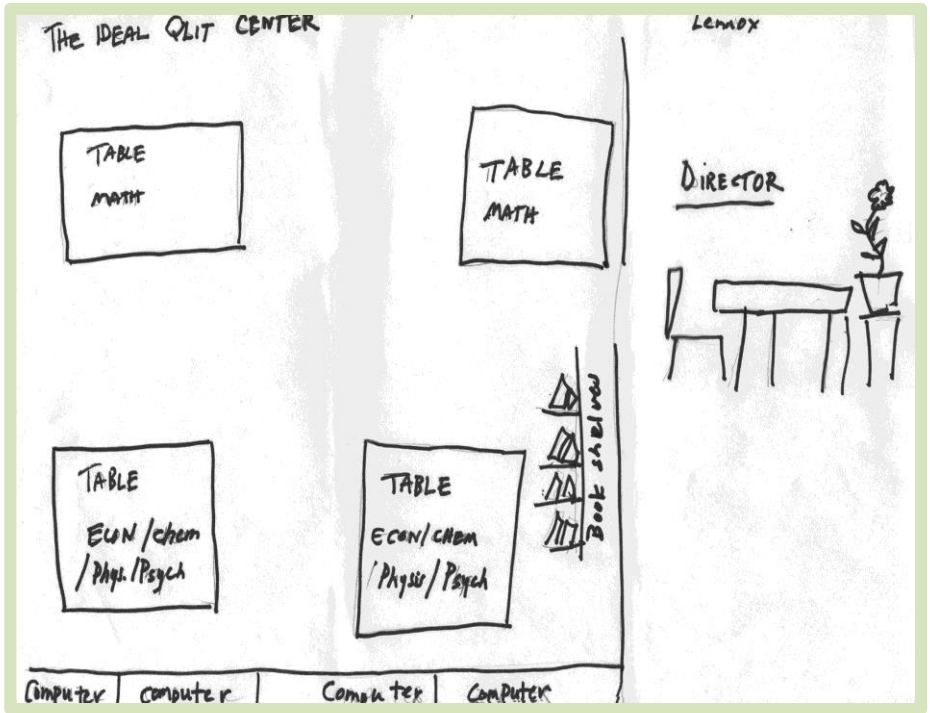
- Students come in on their own or are referred by their professors
- Help is available beyond office hours
- Center offers a computer lab
- Students sign in, identifying course, professor, and purpose of visit
- Students review past material, returned exams, quizzes, and homework with a tutor
- Students work with other students from their classes

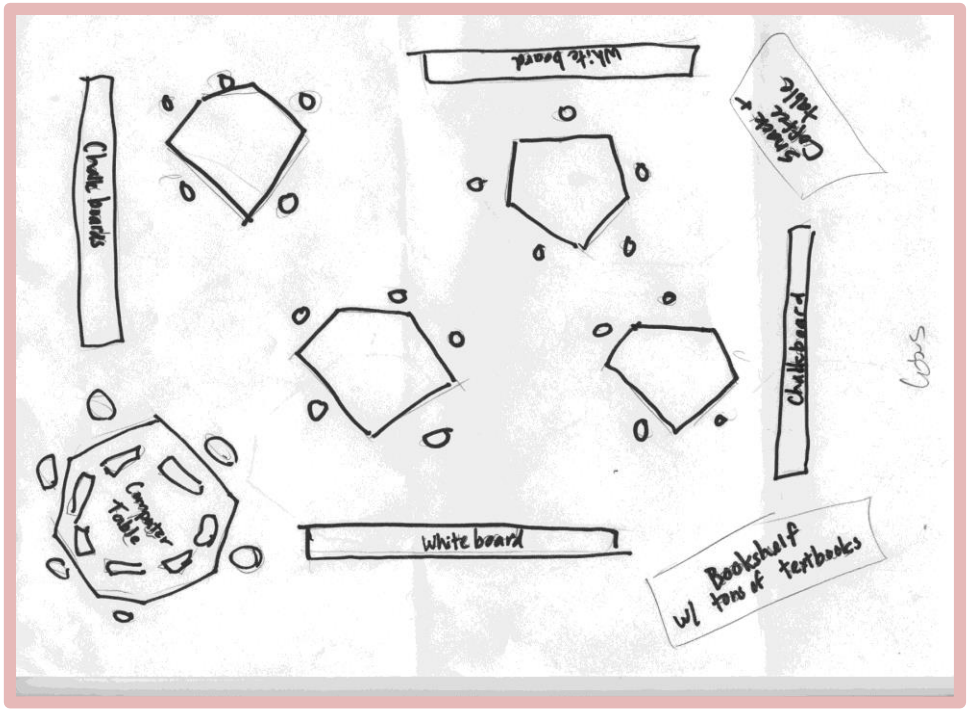
Questions we asked:

- What are the needs of our students?
- What does our faculty need?
- What is our campus culture?
- Where will the center be located?
- How can we match the center's layout to its mission?
- How will the center fit into the curriculum?
- What budget do we have?
- Who will be working on the planning? Administration? Physical plant? Architects?
- What will make our center unique?
- Who will make the final decisions on design, furniture, décor?

Your Ideal Center: Tutors' Responses







Architects' Rendering of QSR Center

Christian A. Johnson Hall
Hamilton College
Enter address here

QSR 303 - Looking south

03/05/12
11048

AP06

1 QSR 303 - Looking south

HOLT ARCHITECTS P.C.
217 N. Aurora Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
p:607 273 7600 f:607 273 0475 http://www.holt.com


From this…


…to this…


… and this!


Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning
(QSR) Requirement and CAP Guidelines

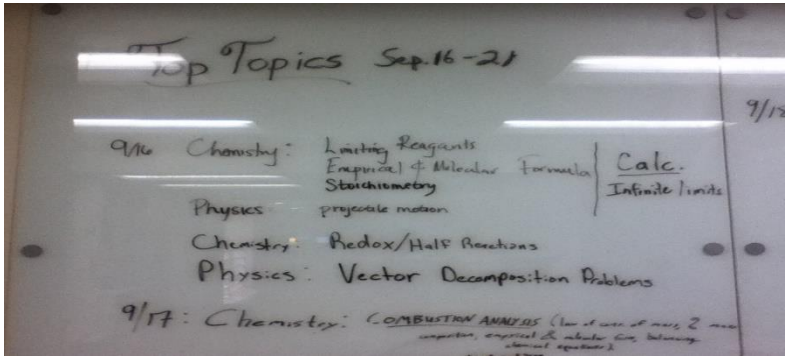
Surprises in the New Center:

Tutors' Perspectives

- The larger size enables students to collaborate and learn from each other
- Bright, lively, and spacious
- The whiteboards!
- The rolling chairs
- The added exercise climbing up the two flights of stairs

Director's Perspective

- The brightness
- The ability to be an observer from the office
- The large conference table
- The success of the Top Topics board
- Able to arrange special topics sessions with "The Math Commons"




Scrap Paper