

# The Berkeley-Haas Innovation Lab (I-Lab)

## FACTS-AT-A-GLANCE

**Opening day: August 19, 2013**

**Space: A 2,700-square-foot open and reconfigurable classroom**

- Provides additional Haas School facility to practice collaborative learning
- Movable tables, chairs and white board partition walls
- Students visualize their ideas on posters and white boards; materials can stay at I-Lab for subsequent meetings
- Across the street from the business school
- Available for classes and on a drop-in basis for group project work

## Funding

- I-Lab completely donor-funded by a \$1 million gift from Linda and Michael Gallagher

**Purpose: A learning space for future entrepreneurs and innovative leaders**

- Students learn to think more creatively and flexibly, to frame and reframe problems in different ways, to recognize and foster imaginative ideas
- Unlike in tiered classrooms, a class can break into small groups with their own spaces
- Students can easily work together and individually, and drop in to continue their work outside of class
- Instructors teach in a more active, flexible, collaborative and exciting way, and try new teaching techniques
- Team-based and experiential learning are cornerstones of the Haas School's innovative leader curriculum

## MBA-level courses offered at I-Lab this fall

- **Problem Finding Problem Solving**—Students learn tools, techniques and processes for framing and solving problems
- **Social Sector Solutions**—Teams of students work with select non-profit groups on high-impact, entrepreneurial ventures
- **Haas @ Work Program**—Student teams are sent to global firms to research a competitive challenge and develop potential innovative solutions
- **Power and Politics**—Students learn to diagnose the distribution of power in organizations, identify strategies for building sources of power, develop techniques for influencing others, and understand how power builds cooperation and leads to change

## BACKGROUND

The I-Lab has been a dream since 2010 of Haas School instructors longing for open, flexible, inspirational learning space for experiential and team-driven courses. Haas School alumnus Michael Gallagher (B.S. '67, M.B.A. '68)—a former Haas School board chairman and a retired CEO of Playtex—and his wife, Linda, were impressed with the students they'd met at the Haas School, and their gift of the I-Lab includes the construction, furnishings and three years' worth of operating expenses.