

From the Desk of Dean Patrick J. Ferrillo, Jr., D.D.S | February 2012

Welcome to the third in a series of white papers that will address our school's vision for the future and what it will take for us to achieve it.

How will our new dental school facility be different than the current building? How will the changes offered by the new San Francisco campus impact future generations of dental students and graduates?

My last two white papers have explored the impact of past philanthropy on our school, and an overview of how we are defining new educational standards through our Pacific Dental Helix Curriculum.

This paper takes a look into the future, specifically at the opportunities new facilities bring us.

In November 2011, University of the Pacific finalized the purchase of a building at 155 Fifth Street in San Francisco's South of Market (SoMa) district. The 395,000-square-foot building will next undergo a complete renovation and remodeling, expected to take up to two years. We do not expect to move until midway through 2014, once renovations are complete.

There are several key reasons why our school took a deep look at its facility needs over the last five years. Here is an overview of how this bold new project will help us define new standards in dental education.

Upgraded facilities will allow for full implementation of our Helix curriculum

The school's new Helix curriculum places a strong focus on active and engaged learning by integrating important concepts across multiple disciplinary areas. We're creating an active learning environment to support this innovative curriculum. It features case-based education, with students working closely together in groups. This student-centered approach requires personalized instruction and flexible, high-tech learning spaces for small, hands-on groups. However, the school's existing building, designed and built in the 1960s, cannot physically support these new teaching and learning approaches.

New facilities will also reinforce the school's commitment to preparing students with an outstanding clinical experience. Our new clinic model will better integrate the delivery of patient care, with students more actively engaged in the process. Instead of one main clinic, the new facility will feature eight smaller group practices where students will get even more individual attention from group practice leaders. The new configuration will provide learning environments that more closely mirror a private practice and incorporate industry best practices for technology, layout and logistics. In the pre-clinical experience, we're building a state-of-the-art simulation laboratory with the best layout and technology to give our first-year students the most effective way to hone their pre-clinical skills.

We are fortunate to have outstanding people — talented students, faculty and staff. We also have an innovative curriculum that has garnered acclaim within dental education. Now, we are building a new facility to allow for the full implementation of our vision. A building that equals in design and functionality the caliber of the people, programs and humanistic spirit found within our walls is invaluable to all members of the Pacific Dugoni family. Ideally suited for our unique Pacific Dental Helix Curriculum, the new building will enhance Pacific Dugoni's reputation for excellence in dental education, patient care and community outreach.

If you missed my last white paper on the Pacific Dental Helix Curriculum and how we are defining new educational standards by combining an integrated curriculum with a truly active and engaging learning environment, please visit my blog at www.dental.pacific.edu (click on "The Dugoni Experience").

New facilities will better support our community and culture

The Dugoni School has a unique and supportive culture which has developed over the decades. Humanism and a respect for each other — whether student, faculty or staff — are part of our DNA. Our other core values of innovation, reflection, leadership, stewardship, collaboration and philanthropy are deeply held by our community.

Does the physical environment in which one studies or works affect how we live these values? We believe it has a significant impact. We are excited to be designing open space in the new building that will allow us to create communal spaces where the Pacific Dugoni family can better interact – on an informal basis in a large “family room” or in smaller environments. A modern, light-filled, open facility will be a gathering place for our school community. Easily reconfigured furnishings will allow for quick transitions from a private study session, to a medium-sized group within the same lounge space.

Combining hallway passages and activity spaces with break-out areas will bring people together. Work, socializing and casual meetings will happen more easily and naturally.

Additional conferencing, seminar, huddle and study rooms located throughout the connected public spaces will foster collaboration and afford privacy for teaching moments.

The new facility will also benefit numerous departments at the dental school. We will have more space for alumni events, organized dentistry meetings, continuing education courses, student-organized events and conferences. These opportunities are exciting to contemplate.

Ultimately, we will create a campus feel that better reflects our values and better supports our culture and community. A better set of spaces will bring out the very best in the people who use them.

The new location will improve access and offer the most transportation options for patients, students, faculty, staff and visitors

For some patients, it takes the better part of a day to get to and from the school’s current location in Pacific Heights. With approximately 10,000 patients visiting the school each year, you can imagine the number of people inconvenienced because of the transportation barriers.

The school’s future location in SoMa features plentiful public transportation, including BART and Muni. For those who drive, the new location offers close freeway access and is adjacent to the city’s largest parking garage, as well as other parking options.

Yes, we’ll miss some of the charm of Pacific Heights and residential flavor of the current school’s neighborhood. However, for the greater good of our patients, as well as the increased convenience for the entire school community, we are moving to the most accessible part of San Francisco.

We’re committed to being stewards of our environment

Modern, efficient facilities will fulfill our desire to be green. We are building one of the greenest dental schools in the world. The environmental efficiencies offered at the new facility will be incredibly exciting.

To better steward our school resources, we have the opportunity to create a more energy efficient school home. Efficiencies will help us save on heating, cooling and water costs, and will reduce waste. The school’s existing building was built in the mid-1960s and does not operate as sustainably as is needed in today’s environment.

A more energy efficient building, combined with re-development of an urban site, nearby public transportation and a forward-thinking approach to design and building materials, will help us to secure LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification for our new facility.

World-class facilities will set a new standard for dental education worldwide

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a new campus in the heart of San Francisco, one of the country’s great centers of higher education, healthcare and technology.

We are at a transformative time in the history of our school. We have tremendous opportunities ahead. Together, as a community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and supporters, we are building our future together while embracing our history and legacy of success.

By almost any measure, whether academic, technological or the quality of patient care, the Dugoni School has always been at the leading edge of innovation in dental education. Strong leadership from the dental school, support from University of the Pacific’s Board of Regents and president, generous support from alumni and visionary philanthropists have all played a major role in the school’s success.

A new, upgraded building will allow us to further realize our vision of “leading the improvement of health by advancing oral health.” A distinctive new home in San Francisco will carry our rich legacy into the future.

The new facility will usher in a bold new Pacific presence in the Bay Area

This project is the largest facilities project ever undertaken by University of the Pacific. The new San Francisco campus will give us the opportunity to enlarge the University’s footprint in the city through the addition of non-dental programs, and realize the “three-city” campus concept. With campus locations in Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco, our university has a unique presence in Northern California. The new San Francisco facility will bring exciting new opportunities to our wider campus community, including other schools and departments. As the University revises its strategic plan over the coming year, more details will emerge about how to best utilize the additional square footage in the building dedicated to University use.

Our Board of Regents, President Pamela A. Eibeck and other University leaders have pledged their full support in making the new San Francisco campus a reality. The dental school is proud to be working closely with them on this major initiative. Together, we have an exciting future ahead.

Our impact on future generations

There are certainly other benefits to the new San Francisco campus, including how it will help transform the South of Market neighborhood, provide an economic boost through the creation of approximately 200 construction jobs during renovation and be part of the growing higher education community forming in the SoMa area. Still, as we move forward on this project, we must remember above all the impact it will have on students. We are designing world-class facilities for the future — for our children, grandchildren, friends and colleagues who will become part of the next chapter of Pacific Dugoni and the noble profession of dentistry.

For complete details on the project, please visit www.dental.pacific.edu/plans where you can learn more, get the latest updates and view renderings of the new campus building.

