These facilities will create outstanding learning environments; foster a greater sense of community between our students, faculty and staff; and allow our students to practice in clinics that are second to none.” — President Pamela A. Eibeck
BY MARC BALLON AND DAN SOINE

Construction crews are busy this summer transforming a former bank data center into a flexible, high-tech educational facility in San Francisco’s bustling South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood. The seven-story, 395,000-square-foot office building at 155 Fifth Street will be one of the largest building projects ever undertaken by the University.

The campus will become the new home of the Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry, and will house new academic programs in San Francisco.

Dental Move Long Overdue

The Dugoni School of Dentistry has long been recognized as one of the top dental schools in the nation, setting the standard for humanistic education and patient care, contributing groundbreaking research, and developing and implementing innovative curriculum. But the school has maximized the potential of its 1960s-era facilities, finding it increasingly difficult to shoehorn new ways of teaching and learning into its confined spaces. Large, old-style lecture halls lack the flexibility to be reconfigured into smaller classrooms that enhance student learning. And there is no room to expand areas for student interaction and campus services.

Vision for Tomorrow

Driven by the school’s strategic plan, the new facility’s design will be flexible enough to adapt to rapidly advancing technologies and evolving teaching methods.

“We are committed to growing and maintaining our top-notch people and quality programs,” says dental school Dean Patrick J. Ferrillo Jr., “and we are planning for world-class facilities to match.”

The move dovetails with University-wide strategic planning aimed at meeting the educational needs of the future. President Pamela A. Eibeck has articulated a vision for a three-city university that leverages each of Pacific’s campuses in the development of new academic programs and new student markets.

“This new facility allows Pacific to strategically expand its footprint in San Francisco,” says President Eibeck. “It provides important opportunities for our world-class dental school and for the development of new programs by Pacific’s other schools and colleges.”

The New Face of Dentistry

The new facilities feature smaller classrooms supporting the dental school’s intensive, small-group learning model; a large lecture hall configurable for multiple uses; ample research space; and a high-tech dental simulation lab. Open and inviting spaces for students to meet, dine and access student services will enhance the campus feel and family atmosphere.

Another exciting change is the shift from four large open clinics to eight smaller, group practice-style clinics with separate waiting areas and more private, naturally lit patient treatment spaces. Students will work in a setting similar to real-world private practice and will take on more responsibility for clinic operations as they prepare to manage their own offices someday.

Unbeatable Location

The new location, with its proximity to BART and other public transportation, will provide easier access for patients and enable students, staff and alumni to enjoy the neighborhood’s rich cultural and civic opportunities.

The extensive renovation is expected to take about two years. Five of the seven floors will house the dental school. The remaining two floors will initially be leased, producing revenue to help pay for the building. Ultimately, Pacific will offer new academic programs on these floors. Funding will also come from the proceeds of the sale of two University-owned buildings in San Francisco and a $40 million fundraising campaign.

“We know that every gift we and others give helps maintain this school’s reputation as the preeminent dental institution in the world,” says Dr. Ronald Redmond ’66, a Southern California orthodontist and Pacific Regent who, with his wife, Margaret, recently made a lead gift for the dental school’s new home.

“Our new campus in San Francisco will allow us to prepare our students for long, competitive and successful careers,” says President Eibeck. “These facilities will create outstanding learning environments, foster a greater sense of community and allow our students to practice in clinics that are second to none.”

Find out more: Dental.Pacific.edu/Plans

A New Home for Pacific’s Premier Dental School

By the numbers:

- 7 Floors
  - 5 for dental school
  - 2 available for lease
- 2 Years to renovate
- 395,000 square feet
- $40 million fundraising effort
- 155 5th St.
  - located in SoMa

Find out more: Dental.Pacific.edu/Plans