The mission of San Francisco State University is to create and maintain an environment for learning that promotes respect for and appreciation of scholarship, freedom, human diversity, and the cultural mosaic of the city of San Francisco and the Bay Area; to promote excellence in teaching and intellectual accomplishment; to provide broadly accessible higher education; and to graduate men and women who are prepared and willing to be principled, active citizens.

Civic engagement—through service learning, internships, volunteerism, and other means—is vital to our educational and social mission. We promote civic engagement by making service learning and community partnership a university-wide value and goal.

We perceive ourselves as an innovative community, fortunate in our urban setting, drawing the most from our diverse environment, and steadily becoming an even more significant national model of a community-engaged urban campus.

The library serves as the “intellectual heart” of the campus and is critical to meeting the university’s mission. The renovation/expansion and seismic upgrade of the J. Paul Leonard Library will create a technical infrastructure that will support the telecommunications and information technology resources needed for a modern library. This is a public/public partnership project with the California State Library whose Sutro Library will be joined with the university’s library collection in the upgraded facility.

The existing J. Paul Leonard Library was constructed in three phases: 1953, 1959, and 1971. Due to the age of the building and the growth of the campus since the last addition, the library requires a major renovation to bring it up to modern standards. An automated storage and retrieval system to house the collections of both libraries is included in the design.

This long-overdue project has been designated “fast track” by the governor and is part of the 2002 Economic Stimulus Package to spur economic growth and job creation. This project is proposed for funding from the bond that is going before the voters in November 2002.
Pamela Vaughn, San Francisco State University associate professor of classics, was recently honored with the most coveted teaching award for a classics scholar in the United States. Vaughn received the 2001 Excellence in Teaching award from the American Philological Association. The annual award is given to instructors who demonstrate teaching excellence in classic literature, culture, mythology, history, and/or etymology at the undergraduate level.