# New Library Brings Relaxed Studying Area

By Addie Sluder

The word "library" does not usually imply a buzzing social scene or evoke images of students eating and laughing

into early morning hours.

But students who have been at UNC long enough to remember the Undergraduate Library before it underwent renovation might characterize it as

more of a hangout than a place to study.
"I remember going in there with bags of chips and drinks," senior Alisha Forbes said. "The rules were less strict. It wasn't as formal as Davis or the other libraries."

With the Undergrad reopening Monday after almost two years of construction, students might again be able to study in a more relaxed environment. Junior Alice Koethe said she

remembers the Undergrad as more of a lounge than a library.

"All it was was people socializing and sleeping," she said. "I went there a couple of times to sleep."

Leah McGinnis, assistant head of the

Undergraduate, said the new renovations created a more sophisticated atmosphere

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"I don't think that it will necessarily be a conservative space, but it's definite ly more elegant than the Undergraduate Library of before," McGinnis said. Junior Liz Veazy said the atmos-

phere of the Undergrad prior to renovation was conducive to group study and that she hopes it will be the same when it reopens

"It would be nice to have study groups and stuff in the new library," she

McGinnis said accommodating

groups was a focus in the new design.
"When the building was redesigned, they paid careful attention to creating spaces to get together in groups," she

While the library will resume its pre vious 24-hour schedule, the food and

drink policy will be more stringent.
"We'll allow drinks in approved containers like in Davis, but we really won't allow food," McGinnis said. "We think that the building has a

certain elegance and that people will respect that."

But even if the atmosphere in the

Undergrad will not be exactly as it was before, some students said it will be nice to have another option besides Davis

"Davis is so formal and quiet," Forbes said. "It will be nice to have a more comfortable alternative.

> The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

# **Undergrad Opens to Speeches of Praise**

New library houses high-tech video lab

By Rob Leichner

"Let the studying begin!"

Student Body President Jen Daum spoke these words Monday at the reopening of the Undergraduate Library, closed for renovations for the past 20

Several speeches, a performance by the Clef Hangers and a ribbon cutting

by Daum and Chancellor James Moeser celebrated the library's opening. David Taylor, librarian of the Undergrad for 27 years, spoke to the crowd of about 200 students, faculty and government officials about the benefits the library will provide students.

The Undergrad has seen many

changes since its opening in 1968, he said, but nothing this drastic. The ren-ovation's total bill was \$9.8 million.

"We wanted a building that was worthy of the students," Taylor said in his speech. "We wanted a library where people could not only watch movies, but make a movie."

Taylor was referring to a new laboratory with digital video editing equipment that any student can use. There are also plasma televisions, an expanded computer lab, new study rooms and furniture by Thomas Moser, a premier manufacturer of library furniture

In his speech, the chancellor thanked many donors for providing the financial support for the renovation. The project

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Student Body President Jen Daum and Chancellor James Moeser cut the ribbon at the opening of the renovated Undergraduate Library, concluding 20 months of renovation.

was the first to be completed using funds from the \$3.1 billion N.C. Higher Education Bond, passed in 2000, he said.

"To the voters of North Carolina, I say thank you," Moeser said. "Any citizen of North Carolina can come and use this library, which was renovated for its sons and daughters."

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The new Undergrad is a step toward ensuring that UNC is the top public university in the nation, Moeser said. "We are celebrating a library that is a pillar of academic freedom and strength. The combination of a great library, academ-

ic freedom and a great staff is a privilege and a necessity," he said. Larry Alford, deputy University librarian, said after the ceremony that the Undergrad will be student-friendly because of all the features that will be available in one place. "We tried to inte-grate the technology and book collections together, so it really is a bridge to learning and discovery," Alford said.

Daum said in her speech that she is

"As someone who studied in the old library and dealt with two years of con-

Senior Natalie Halbach attended the after the ceremony. She said the changes

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#### excited to use the new library

struction, I'm thrilled to see what we have," Daum said. "On behalf of the students, thank you for the renovation

ribbon cutting and explored the library look great but she hopes the drastic dif-ferences are not confusing to students.

"I think it's beautiful," Halbach said. "It will take some time to see how functional it is, but I'm sure we will get used to it."

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