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Piper dead at 56

Smith named acting president by trustees

By **KATHY SNEAD**
Johnsonian Managing Editor

Vice president Mike Smith officially was confirmed as acting president at a special meeting of the Winthrop College board of trustees last Wednesday.

The confirmation came four days after the death of college president Martha Piper, 56, who died in a Charlotte hospital last Sunday night due to colon cancer complicated by the flu.

"The acting president will act at the direction of the board and at the same salary. No policy changes will be made without board approval," said trustees chairman Mary Sue McElveen.

Smith said he would "vigorously pursue the goals" Piper set for the college.

"I will continue to move aggressively, without any interruption, toward achieving the college's goals of excellence," he said.

Smith also said the college
see Smith pg. 4



1931-1988

Campus mourns lost president

By **TINA EZELL**
Johnsonian City Editor

Winthrop President Martha Kime Piper, 56, died of colon cancer complicated by the flu late Sunday night in Charlotte's Presbyterian Hospital.

Ms. Piper was a native of Salem, Va., where she attended Roanoke College and majored in language. She left school to get married, but returned following her divorce in 1959 and finished college in 1967, earning her bachelor of arts degree in history and political science with a minor in French from Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Ill.

Ms. Piper received her master's degree in 1969 from the University of Kansas, and in 1973 she received her doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin.

Ms. Piper taught science to fifth and sixth graders in Oberlin Park, Kan. In 1973, she became a professor in the University of Houston system and, soon after, became chairman of the faculty senate and the director of the teacher education program.

Also during Ms. Piper's tenure in the University of Houston system, she was director of the college of education student services and assistant to the chancellor for academic affairs. She served as director-at-large for the Association for the Education of Teachers in Science and as the chair of the Texas State Coordinating Board's Nursing Advisory Committee.

In 1982, Ms. Piper became chancellor of the University of Houston at Victoria.

On June 2, 1986, Ms. Piper became the first woman president of a four-year institution in the Carolinas. Since then, she led Winthrop to many firsts, one being the first college in the country to sign the Public Sector Fair Share Agreement with the NAACP.

Ms. Piper was active in numerous activities in Rock Hill, one of which was being on the task force to improve Rock Hill. She was an honorary member of the local chapter of the Rotary Club and was the first woman member of the Rock Hill Kiwanis Club.

Ms. Piper was on the advisory
See Piper, pg. 4

Student, faculty reactions: shock, sadness

By **TINA EZELL**
Johnsonian City Editor and
TIM O'BRIAN
Johnsonian Assistant City Editor

Disbelief and shock blanketed the Winthrop College campus this week as the Winthrop family adjusted to the news of the death of its leader.

Martha Kime Piper, Winthrop's first female president, died Sunday night after a year-long struggle with colon cancer, which was recently complicated by the flu.

Most at Winthrop expressed shock at Piper's death, saying they were unaware of the seriousness of her illness.

Mike Smith, academic vice president and dean of faculty, said he only had "discerned" Piper was in the hospital

and that she had worked up until the time she felt she needed to stay home.

"She wished people not to know," he said. "She was a very private person and she wanted people to respect that. It's so sudden: for everyone it's difficult to comprehend."

Beth Bargar, college media specialist, said she was aware Piper wasn't feeling well, but she didn't know the severity of the illness and she didn't think most realized the severity.

"I don't think anyone knew she was that ill," she said, but agreed with Smith, saying Piper was an extremely private person and she wanted her illness to remain as low-key as possible.

Wynn Archibald, SGA president, also called Piper's death a "shock," and said

she had been working with Piper to make plans for the summer and next year.

"We really hadn't been close, but we had a lot of plans to make next year the 'student connection' year," she said. "We wanted to make her more comfortable with the students and also to make the students more comfortable with her. It was quite a shock."

A statement from the office of U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings called Piper an "educator and administrator of uncommon abilities. ... She worked tirelessly to bolster the school's academic strengths and financial support. She will be missed by not only the student and faculty of Winthrop, but by the entire higher education community in

South Carolina."

Susan Roberts, assistant professor of political science, said she feels the entire faculty was shocked.

"We had all heard rumors and we knew she was ill, but I'm sure no one thought her death was imminent," she said.

Even though many students and faculty expressed surprise upon learning of Piper's illness, most said they would have wanted to know because they wanted to be a part of her life and they wanted to help her in her time of sickness.

Kim Bowers, a sophomore, said he thought students and faculty should have been notified of Piper's condition

See Reaction, pg 2

Students turn out for candle service

By **TINA EZELL**
Johnsonian City Editor

and
TIM O'BRIAN
Johnsonian Assistant City Editor

Soft candlelight gently lit the faces of nearly a 1,000 people who came to the Winthrop amphitheatre Tuesday night to mourn the death of Winthrop President Martha Kime Piper.

"As the light travels among us, it reminds us of what she lived her life for ... the light represents knowledge," said Risher Brabham, United Methodist campus minister.

"Let us rededicate ourselves to Martha Kime Piper's example by bringing light to the dark corners of the world," said Brabham as he and the crowd lifted their candles skyward.

The candlelight vigil was planned by Student Government Association President Wynn Archibald and Vice President Reggie Lloyd.

"Students had been com-

ing by the office asking what they could do," Archibald said. After a discussion with Jeff Mann, vice president for student life and dean of students, Archibald and Lloyd began planning the service.

Archibald said the attendance was well above her expectations. She ordered 500 candles, all of which were distributed within 15 minutes. "I was just so pleased with the number of students who showed up," she said.

Archibald said she felt students had gained a new respect for Piper since her death. After watching a television special on Piper with several people in her residence hall, they said they never knew how much she had done and was doing for the college, Archibald said.

"She wanted good things for Winthrop students whether it be through academics or a beautiful campus -- we pray Martha Piper is shining her light on us," Archibald said in the closing prayer.



Photo by Bridget Woltman

In honor of her light

About 1,000 people attended the Tuesday night candlelight vigil honoring the late Martha Kime Piper.

Johnson first to die in office

By **MARK WOOD**
Johnsonian Executive Editor

Dr. Martha Piper was the first Winthrop president to die in office since the death of the founder and first president of the college, David Bancroft Johnson.

Piper died in Presbyterian Hospital Sunday night after an extended bout with colon cancer, officials have said.

Johnson died Dec. 26, 1928 due to complications brought on by an extended bout with colitis. Johnson died in his Rock Hill home after heading the college for 40 years, according to documents obtained from the Winthrop College Archives.

Johnson founded Winthrop in 1886 and moved it from its original location in Columbia to its present Rock Hill location in 1895. Johnson started the school with a \$2,000 grant from Dr. Robert C. Winthrop, then chairman of the Peabody Foundation for Education in the South.

The school opened in the autumn of 1886 with a student body of 19 young women and one teacher.

Piper honored in special memorial service

By **MARK WOOD**
Johnsonian Executive Editor

About 1,500 students, faculty members and state officials gathered in Byrnes auditorium Wednesday to pay respects to the late Martha Kime Piper.

The mood was somber as college and state officials slowly passed across the stage, each stopping to remember Piper in their own special way.

Gov. Carroll Campbell said now was a time when words were "useless and weak."

"I do not bring words of consolation, but just like all of you,

I'm here because it's all I know to do," Campbell said.

"President Piper left behind a legacy of excellence to serve humanity. Hers was a life that made a difference," he said.

Mary Sue McElveen, chairman of the Winthrop board of trustees, characterized her friend as a warm and very concerned lady.

"I saw Martha Piper beam with joy when she came to Winthrop as president," she said. "I observed her dynamic leadership as she guided the college to remarkable achievements."

Margaret Garrison, director

of college relations, said Piper was a lady who was always prepared to disarm those around her with a smile and her quick wit.

"She was always in the middle of merriment, often opening her meetings with a quick joke," Garrison said.

Mike Smith, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, remembered Piper as a woman with a vision for Winthrop College.

"We reflect on her past, but look to the future -- each one of her accomplishments points that way," Smith said.

they ask me who influenced me, I'm going to say Dr. Piper because anyone who can battle a terminal illness and keep running a school feeling the way she did has enormous courage."

Tracey Barfield, a junior majoring in secondary education, said she read about Piper's death in The Herald. She said she was surprised and did not know Piper was sick.

Barfield said Piper helped her get her financial aid when she was having problems get-

ting it through the financial aid office.

She said she remembered hearing Piper say students could call on her with any problem.

"I was counting on her word," she said, adding that after dealing with Piper, she became inspired to choose teaching as a career.

"My definition of an educator is someone who cares. She took time to take care of my problem."



What Piper did at Winthrop

Martha Kime Piper, since becoming president of Winthrop College in 1986, accomplished the following:

- Made Winthrop more dominant and visible in the eyes of the legislature and the state.

- Conceptualized the school of visual and performing arts. The school was approved by the board of trustees earlier this semester, and is the only one of its kind in this area. The school will consolidate the department of art and interior design, the school of music, the theater division of the speech and theater department, and the dance program.

- Led Winthrop to be the first college in the United States to sign the Public Sector Fair Share Agreement with the NAACP. The agreement represents an active commitment on Winthrop's part to recruit more minority business.

- Developed and implemented Winthrop's Five Year Plan, which outlined plans and goals for Winthrop through the early 1990s. This plan included increasing enrollment and faculty positions, and improving the curriculum.

- Approved a master of liberal arts degree, which would be specialized to fit each student's needs.

- Started a beautification program for the Winthrop College campus. Through the program, more flowers, shrubs and trees have been planted and more efforts have been made to keep the campus cleaner.

— Information compiled by Tina Ezell

Reaction

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"even though it was her personal life."

But Bowers said he isn't angry and he understands her wish.

Tonda Osteen, a sophomore majoring in biology, said she met Piper during a weekend before the start of the 1986 fall semester.

"She made coming to this school a warm welcome," Osteen said.

"When I'm successful and

Martha Piper: a history in pictures



The first in the city

Martha Piper became the first woman in Rock Hill to be admitted to membership in the local Kiwanis Club Aug. 20, 1987. She was inducted by Dr. Sam Lowe, left, and Page Connelly, president of the club.

Photo by Joel Nichols



Photo by Paul Rouillard

A historic agreement

Winthrop College became the first college in the nation to sign the "Fair Share Agreement" with the NAACP. Here Dr. Piper and NAACP Executive Director Benjamin Hooks prepare to seal this monumental achievement which commits Winthrop to the active pursuit of minority involvement and employment at the college.



Photo by Joel Nichols

Help from a friend

During this year's opening Blue Line procession, Martha Piper is saved from having her cap blown off by Ed Guetler, professor of mathematics.

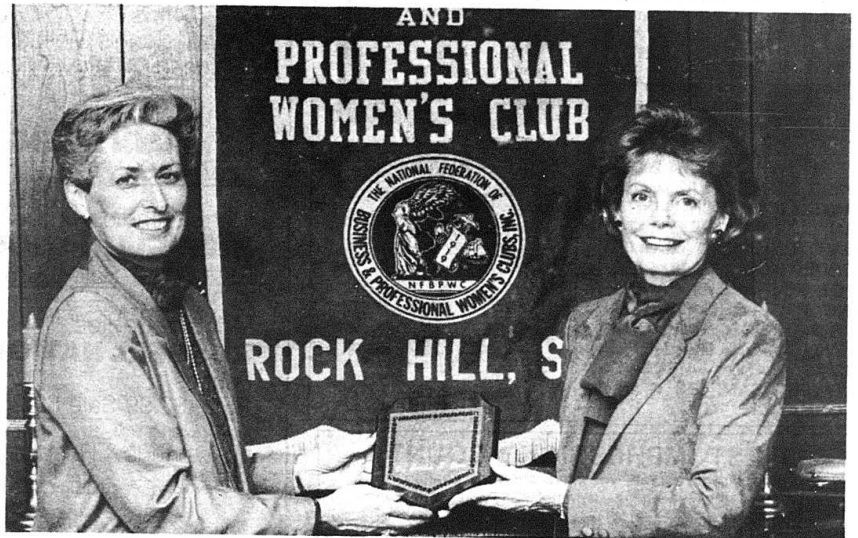


Photo by Joel Nichols

A statewide honor

Martha Piper was named "Career Woman of the Year" by the Rock Hill Business and Professional Women's Club. Piper received this honor in October of 1987. Here she is presented with a plaque by Betty Henderson, president of the club and vice president of First Union National Bank in Rock Hill.

Dedicated to the memory...

Martha Piper had a vision for Winthrop College. A vision of improvement in all areas; education, campus beautification, staff and faculty performances and good community relations. The Johnsonian staff would like to dedicate this special edition to her memory in hopes that everyone will remember her brief stay and her valuable accomplishments.

Smith
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would continue its five-year plan, which was implemented by Piper in her first year in office.

"One good thing about the planning process is the plan was a product of the entire Winthrop community with considerable faculty involvement," he said.

Chairman of the board Mary Sue McElveen said there was no appointment to the position before the announcement she made last Tuesday.

"We did not have an acting president at that time," she said.

"What the executive committee did was to notify the vice president that we had encouraged the president to take a few weeks off to regain her strength after her bout with the flu," McElveen said.

A search committee will be formed and is scheduled to meet May 7 following graduation. The committee will decide how to replace the president.

McElveen would give no time frame for when a new president would be named, but said she hopes it will be as soon as possible.

"Having been through over 300 candidates in two years, we would hope and pray it won't take that long," she said.

Smith said, "Her death is a tragic loss to the college and there is no way anyone could replace Martha Piper. I would hope and expect the entire Winthrop community would unite together and work that much harder for the goals of excellence she set for the college."

A native of Washington, D.C., Smith was graduated from the University of North Carolina and received both his master's and his doctoral degrees from UNC-Greensboro. During his 12 years at Winthrop, Smith has been a professor and chairman of the English and drama department as well as director of the writing center.

Smith is paid \$67,643. Piper's salary was \$76,516.



SMITH

Piper
continued from pg. 1

board of the South Carolina National Bank, vice chairman of the commission on the future of South Carolina, and a member of the state attorney general's Task Force on Drugs.

Ms. Piper was a member of the advisory board of the Southern Education Foundation and the Office for the Advancement of Public Black Colleges. She served as chairman of the com-

mittee on Educational Technologies for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Ms. Piper is survived by her daughter, Penna Piper of London, England; a son, Mark Piper of Livingston Manor, N.Y.; sisters Florence Logan of Salem, Va., and Mary Katharine DeLard of Homosassa Springs, Fla.

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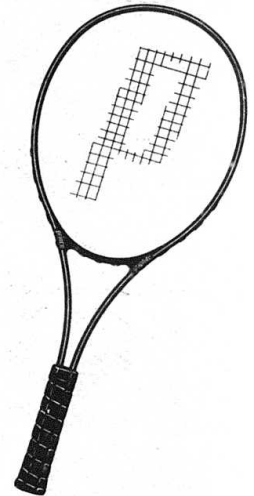
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