

The Salemite

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Strong Finally Opens

by Patricia Earnhardt

The waiting game is over for the women of Strong dorm. At the beginning of January maintenance aided the residents with moving, the college established new phone lines and Strong was occupied once again.

On February 6, Strong residents sponsored an open house for "First Tuesday," inviting faculty, staff, and administration to visit the dorm and see the recent renovations. For those who helped the new residents while they were "homeless" last semester (administration, maintenance, and house keeping) were given "Friend of Strong" tags. Residents gave tours of the dorm rooms, bathrooms, and lobby, and served wine and cheese for their guests.

"We were very glad to welcome the faculty and to be able to show off our dorm," said Beth Brown, Strong Dorm President. "Those of us who lived here last year are the most excited because we are more aware of the improvements," added Brown.

Strong has many new assets that the residents are very pleased with. The bathrooms are greatly improved, showers no longer leak and the floors no longer flood, and like the rest of the dorm have new lighting and a fresh coat of paint.

The resident's rooms have fresh paint, new lighting fixtures and improved electrical outlets. Radiator thermostats have been replaced with gauges to control the heat, make the temperature much more bearable.

The hallways are newly carpeted and have light fixtures, a welcomed new addition to the once dark halls.

"It was exciting to move in and smell the fresh paint and be able to see as we walked down the halls," said Katherine White and Dena Free, sophomores.

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Dr. Thompson Remembered

by Catherine Davis

Dr. Clark A. Thompson, former Chaplain and chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Salem College, died Sunday night, January 14.

Dr. Thompson, 54, died from complications of the AIDS virus.

He joined the faculty at Salem College in 1964 after serving as minister of Christian education at Home Moravian Church and three years as instructor of religion at Salem Academy.

In addition to his contributions at Salem, he was instrumental in establishing the AIDS Task Force of Winston-Salem according to Garison R. Kaufman, the director of the task force.

"As AIDS reached the Triad, there was a person in need of housing and assistance. Clark opened up his house to him and

provided him with a home. Clark and Paul did that together.

"In the process of doing that, they increased the community wide awareness that some mechanism was needed for dealing with people with AIDS on a local level. That served as the motivating force behind the founding of the AIDS Task Force," stated Kaufman.

Dr. Thompson's ability to openly deal with the disease once he had contracted it himself was inspirational and helpful to others, Kaufman said.

"A person like that who is willing to be visible and vocal helps to destroy some of the stereotypes that still exist even after so many years about AIDS and join in the battle against it."

Dr. Thompson earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester, a bachelor of divinity degree from Harvard Divinity

School, a master of theology degree from Duke University and a doctor of philosophy degree from Brown University.

Dr. Thompson's initiative in working with the AIDS Task Force is only an indication of this thirst for knowledge and understanding.

Including the four degrees he completed, he attended the University of Edinburgh, Winston-Salem State University, and Appalachian State University.

Dr. Thompson held eleven academic positions including the Clarkson Starbuck Chair in Religion in 1981 and served as Academic Dean of the college from 1980-81 and from 1987-88. Dr. Thomas Litzenberg commented that "the college was never served so well as when he was dean. I know of very few people . . . who could equal or surpass him in loyalty to Salem. It was displayed in everything he said and did." Dr. Thompson won eleven awards in all and had three publications, all concerning the Moravian way of life.

A Clark A. Thompson award is being established to recognize a Salem upperclassman who has devoted herself significantly as a volunteer outside of the Salem College community. That award will be presented at either the Honors Convocation or the Awards Banquet this spring.

Dr. Natasha Moehle, professor of Philosophy, became fast friends with Dr. Thompson when she began teaching at Salem College in 1984. One fond memory Dr. Moehle has of him is that they met for coffee every morning in the Green Room in Main Hall. One time, Dr. Moehle wore a hat to the morning coffee meeting and Dr. Thompson didn't recognize her. Unaware of her frequent change of image, he sat across the room without speaking to her. "I got upset because I thought I had done something terrible to make him mad." Dr. Moehle said they had a good laugh when he realized it was she that he was avoiding.

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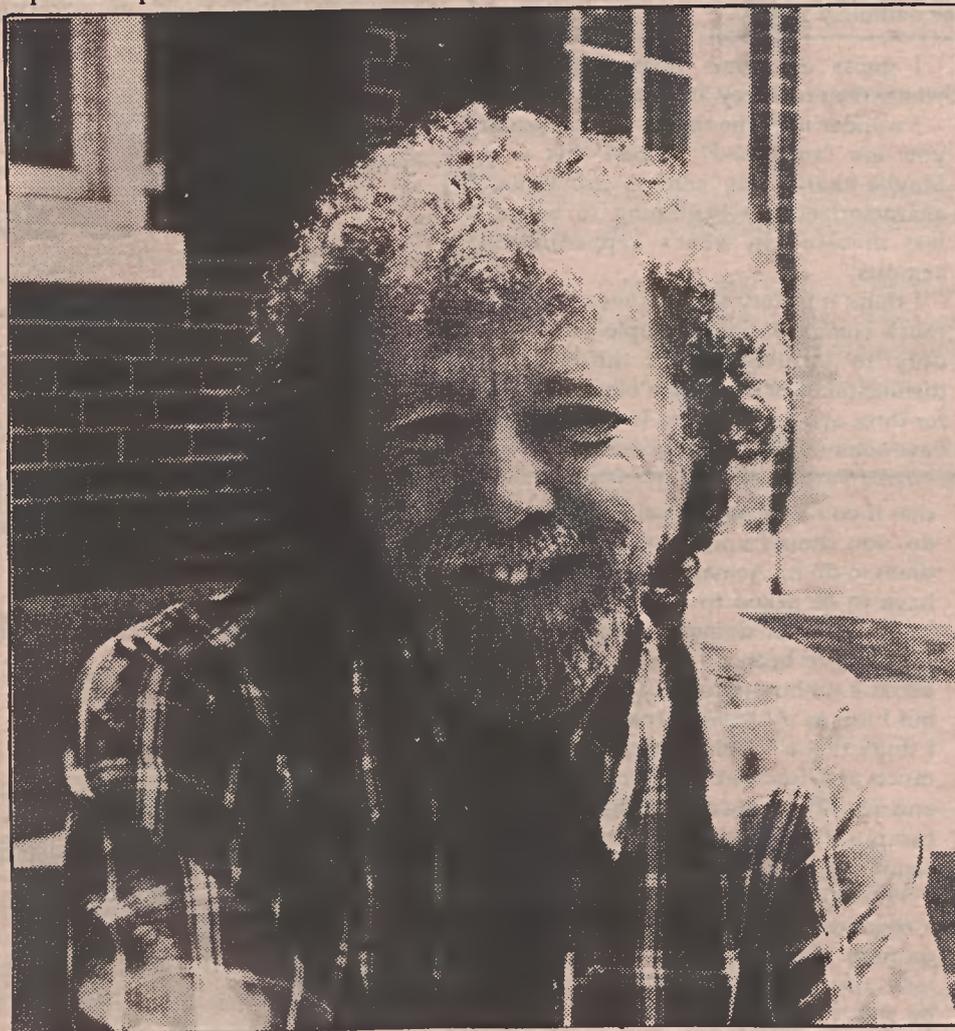


photo contributed by Alicia Stephens (Publications)

The late Dr. Clark Thompson served Winston-Salem with vigor and enthusiasm as Salem College Chaplain and professor of Religion as well as a dedicated community member.