

***Dean Edwards Smith****Doctor of Laws*

Dean Smith is one of the most widely admired and respected coaches in the history of men's basketball. The accomplishments that his teams have achieved are well-known: 11 Final Four appearances; the 1971 NIT title; the 1976 Olympic gold medal; NCAA championships in 1982 and 1993; 65 ACC tournament wins; 879 career wins (a record surpassed only recently). When Carolina's new basketball arena was opened in 1986, there was no debate about for whom it would be named—except from Coach Smith himself. The Dean E. Smith Center stands today as a symbol of his hard work, knowledge of the game, and ability to inspire student-athletes not only on the court but in the classroom as well. Few men's basketball coaches can boast of a 96.6% graduation rate for their teams. One player put it this way: "Coach Smith taught us to become leaders, to be gentlemen, and to work hard at whatever we try to do. We learned things that helped us achieve success on the court, but it is his personal touch off the court that helps us in other areas, socially and academically." Off the court, Coach Smith is a model of ethics and integrity in many walks of life and in ways too numerous to catalog here. One example will suffice. In 1966, Coach Smith recruited Charlie Scott, the first African American scholarship athlete in the Atlantic Coast Conference. In game after game in the late 1960s, Scott was the only African American player on the floor. Together he and Coach Smith integrated many hotels and restaurants because Smith would not allow Scott to be treated differently from other members of the team. Coach Smith has established lifelong relationships with each of his players, scholarship or walk-on, that have made him an example to all of how to inspire and lead. His actions and example have single-handedly created the UNC basketball "Carolina Family," an institution that may well be his most important legacy.