



Photograph by Robert Ladd

Winning the Nobel Prize

Dr. Waldrop: I'd asked Oliver what was one of the funniest things or one of the biggest benefits of getting the Nobel Prize here on this campus. Would you like to tell them what it was?

Dr. Smithies: Well, the funniest. You said the funniest. What was the funnest, what was the most fun? Well, it was when our old Chancellor [James Moeser] got up at the, I think it was Faculty Day; he'd introduced me to the faculty earlier on. And then later on he sort of deadpanned and got up and said now I'm going to take privilege which Chancellor's can have, and I'm going to say that Smithies has a free parking place for the rest of his life. I think that was the funnest thing. Because I did this [raised hands in a winning gesture]. Because it is actually very useful. I know where I can go. Occasionally I have to take a piece of paper out of my...we made a few cards of this that says "You have parked in a place that is reserved for somebody else. Would you please move your car?" We've had to use that a few times, but not very often actually. It's honored very well. But that's the funnest thing that happened.

Then I got to go to the Final Four last year. Cause I...that was another story I should tell you since we're telling stories. He called me up about a couple weeks later after this incident and then said that, by then he called me Oliver, he said "Oliver I'd like to ask a favor of you". And I said, "Oh, what's that?" I said, "I'll do my best, Chancellor." He said "Well I'd like you to have your photograph taken in a UNC basketball jersey." I said "What?" And he said "Yes. I want to have an ad in the *New York Times* showing that UNC is not only good at basketball". And so eventually got this photograph and some of you have probably seen it with me holding a basketball. I never held a basketball in my life before. And they even changed the number to 50 and those of you who know basketball know Tyler Hansbrough's number is 50. Anyway it was a pretty glorious thing --that part of it. But I said "Well, Chancellor, if I'm going to do that, don't you think I ought to go to the game?" He said, "Oh yes, I think we can manage that." And I said, "Well, it would be nice if my wife came with me." He said, "Well, we can do that too!" And then, I'm really rolling now, [laughter] and I said, "How am I going to get there?" [laughter] So we got on the athletics plane to

go there. And we had a good time. Unfortunately we lost on the first game, as too many of you know. It's not going to happen this time. I'm not going this time. I won't be a jinx.