

EDWARD O. WILSON is university research professor emeritus at Harvard University, and honorary curator in entomology of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1929, he received his B.S. and M.S. in biology from the University of Alabama and, in 1955, his Ph.D. in biology from Harvard, where he taught for four decades, receiving both of its college-wide teaching awards.

Wilson is the recipient of more than 100 international medals and awards, including the National Medal of Science; the International Prize for Biology from Japan; the Catalonia Prize of Spain; the Presidential Medal of Italy; the Crafoord Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, given in fields of science not covered by the Nobel Prize; and for his conservation efforts, the Gold Medal of the Worldwide Fund for Nature and the Audubon Medal of the National Audubon Society. He is the author of 25 books, two of which won Pulitzer Prizes: "On Human Nature" (1978) and "The Ants" (1990, with Bert Hölldobler). Six of Wilson's books compose two trilogies. The first, "The Insect Societies," "Sociobiology" and "On Human Nature" (1971–1978) founded sociobiology and evolutionary psychology. The second, "The Diversity of Life," "The Future of Life" and "The Creation" (1992–2006) organized the base of modern biodiversity conservation.

Wilson has served on the boards of directors of The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International and the American Museum of Natural History, and gives many lectures throughout the world. His most recent books include "Consilience" (1998), which argues for the uniting of the natural sciences with the humanities. In 2003 he conceived the idea of the Encyclopedia of Life, which has since come to fruition.

Wilson lives in Lexington, Massachusetts, with his wife, Irene.

For outstanding accomplishment in the field of sociobiology, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Edward O. Wilson the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*.