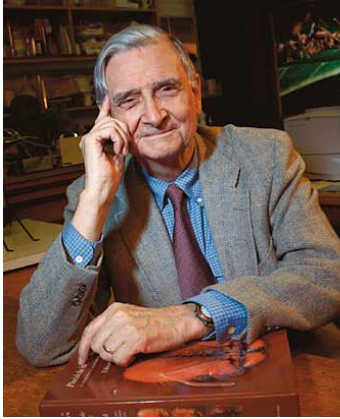
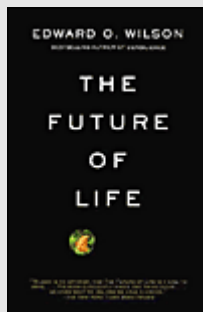


ALEEC Spring Conference
Saturday, April 21, 2007
Samford University Wright Center
Birmingham, Alabama
9:00 a.m.



“Harvard biologist E. O. Wilson has long been one of the most prominent scientific voices to speak out about the crisis of species extinction that has engulfed the earth in the past half century. In this eloquent and readable book, Wilson unstintingly portrays the nightmarish scenario into which we are passing but also offers constructive ideas on how it might still be averted.”
(*Barnes and Noble Review*)



The Future of Life is a magisterial accomplishment: both a moving description of our biosphere and a guidebook for the protection of all its species, including humankind.

Edward O. Wilson

One of the Greatest Minds in Science Today

The celebrated E. O. Wilson is Professor of Biology at Harvard University, and one of the most highly respected scientists in the world today. Hailed as one of "America's 25 Most Influential People" by *Time Magazine*, he has twice received the Pulitzer Prize for his books *Ants* and *On Human Nature*.

His accomplishments include pioneering work on chemical communication in the 1950s to 1970s, featuring a first comprehensive account of pheromones in ants, and (with William H. Bossert) a first evolutionary analysis of the physical and chemical properties of pheromones; the creation (with Robert H. MacArthur) of the theory of island biogeography, a basic part of modern ecology and conservation biology; the creation of the discipline of sociobiology, in 1975; the first modern syntheses of knowledge of social insects (1971) and (with Bert Hölldobler) of ants in particular, in 1990. He also edited the volume *Biodiversity*, which in 1988 introduced the term and launched worldwide attention to the subject. In 1984, with *Biophilia*, he introduced the concept of a genetically based tendency to affiliate and bond with parts of the natural world. His *The Diversity of Life* (1992), which brought together knowledge of the magnitude of biodiversity and the threats to it, had a major public impact. Today he continues entomological and environmental research at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. Two of his 21 books have been awarded Pulitzer prizes: *On Human Nature* (1978) and *The Ants* (1990, co-authored with Bert Hölldobler).

Wilson's book *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis* (1975) extended neo-Darwinism into the study of social behavior. *Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge* (1998) draws together the sciences, humanities, and the arts into a broad study of human knowledge. His book, *The Future of Life* (2002), offers a plan for saving Earth's biological heritage. His most recent book is a monograph including 337 species new to science, *Pheidole in the New World: A Hyperdiverse Ant Genus* (Harvard, 2003).

In addition to his books, Dr. Wilson has written over 400 articles, most for scientific journals. Wilson has received some 75 awards in international recognition for his contributions to science and humanity. For his conservation work he has received the Audubon Medal of the National Audubon Society and the Gold Medal of the World Wide Fund for Nature. He is also the recipient of 27 honorary doctoral degrees from North America and Europe

Consilience: Our Search for Meaning

In what can only be called an intellectual adventure, E. O. Wilson dissects, compares, and brings together diverse legacies of knowledge ranging from quantum mechanics to incest taboos. In Wilson's own words, *consilience* is "a jumping together of knowledge," and as he elegantly explains, his goal is to reveal a common thread linking together all forms of intellectual pursuit.

Having made groundbreaking contributions as an entomologist, a sociobiologist and an environmental activist, Wilson now encourages thinkers of all disciplines to bridge the gap that exists between and within the cultures of sciences and the arts. In his intriguing presentation, Dr. Wilson shows how a painting by Mondrian may have neurobiological underpinnings, how our fear of snakes may be genetically wired, and how our dreams may be shaped by biological happenings. Ranging over issues such as the way science is currently conducted, postmodernist controversies, religion and human nature, he argues for a new vigor and rigor to be brought to our search for meaning.

Simply spending time with one of today's great scientific minds is a worthwhile experience. Hearing him share his thoughts on the search for knowledge will be one of the intellectual highlights of your life.

The Future of Life

Considered by many to be the father of the modern environmental movement, Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson has made enormous contributions to the field of conservation. In this new presentation, he draws on the ideas of his best-selling book, *The Future of Life*, to make a passionate and eloquent plea for a new approach to the management and protection of our eco-system.

Marshalling arguments from science, economics, and ethics, he demonstrates that proper stewardship of the earth's bio-diversity is not an option -- it is a necessity, and a choice we must make if life is going to continue to thrive on the only home we have.