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SPRING 2017

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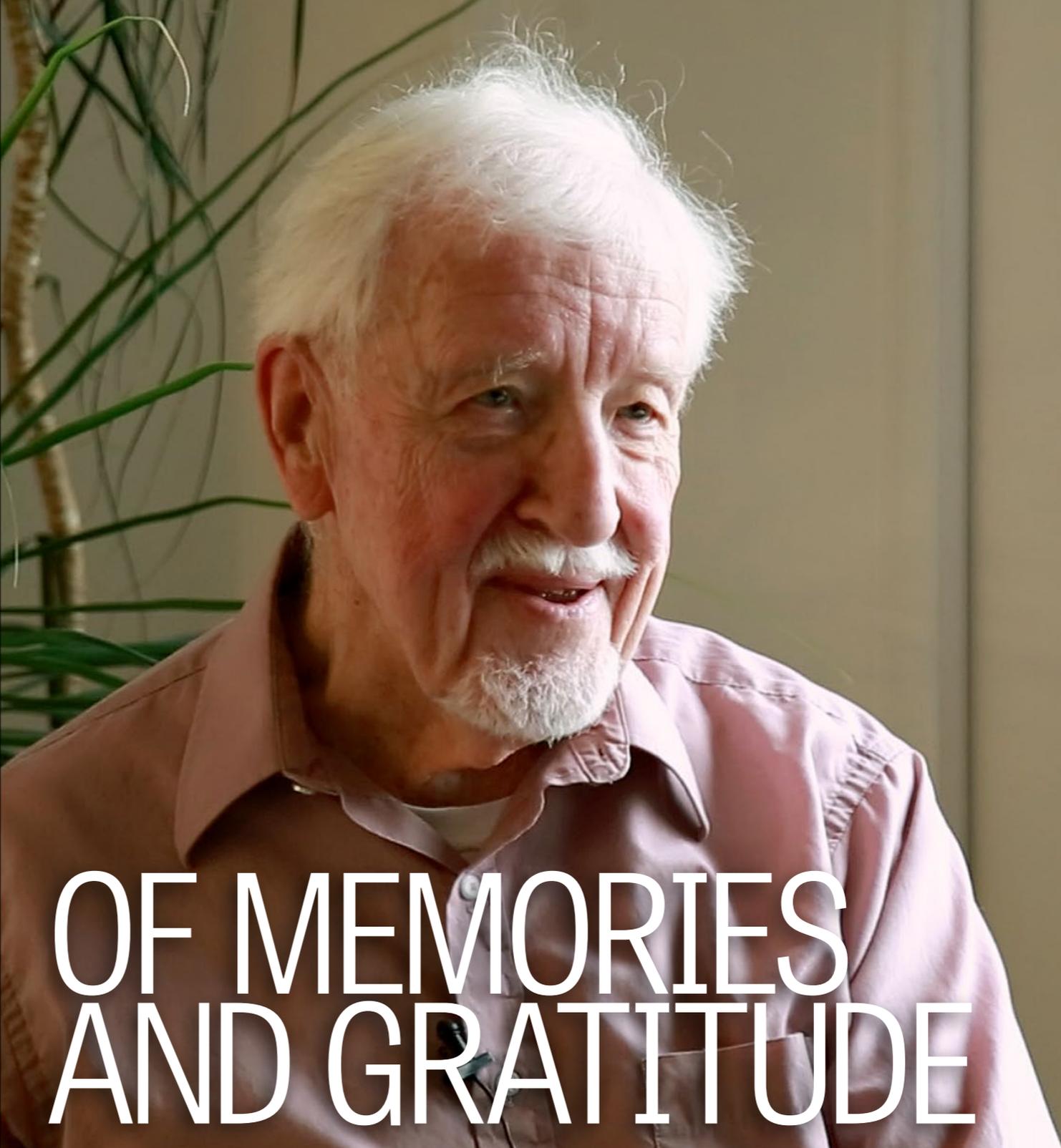
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[THE GIFT OF LEGACY]

**SOMETIMES GIVING BACK
MEANS LOOKING BACK.**

A AT THE AGE of 91, Dr. Theo Wilson, M'61, is thinking about time. Fifty-six years of it, to be precise—the gap between his graduation and today. After a long career that brought him from his native Scotland to the U.S., and from the East Coast to the West Coast, and back again, Dr. Wilson would often find himself reminiscing about Penn. • “I wanted to redress my absence after all these years,” says Dr. Wilson. “I always had great feelings toward Penn

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A portrait of Dr. Theo Wilson, an elderly man with white hair and a goatee, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle expression. The background is softly blurred, showing some green foliage.

**OF MEMORIES
AND GRATITUDE**

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Memories, Gratitude

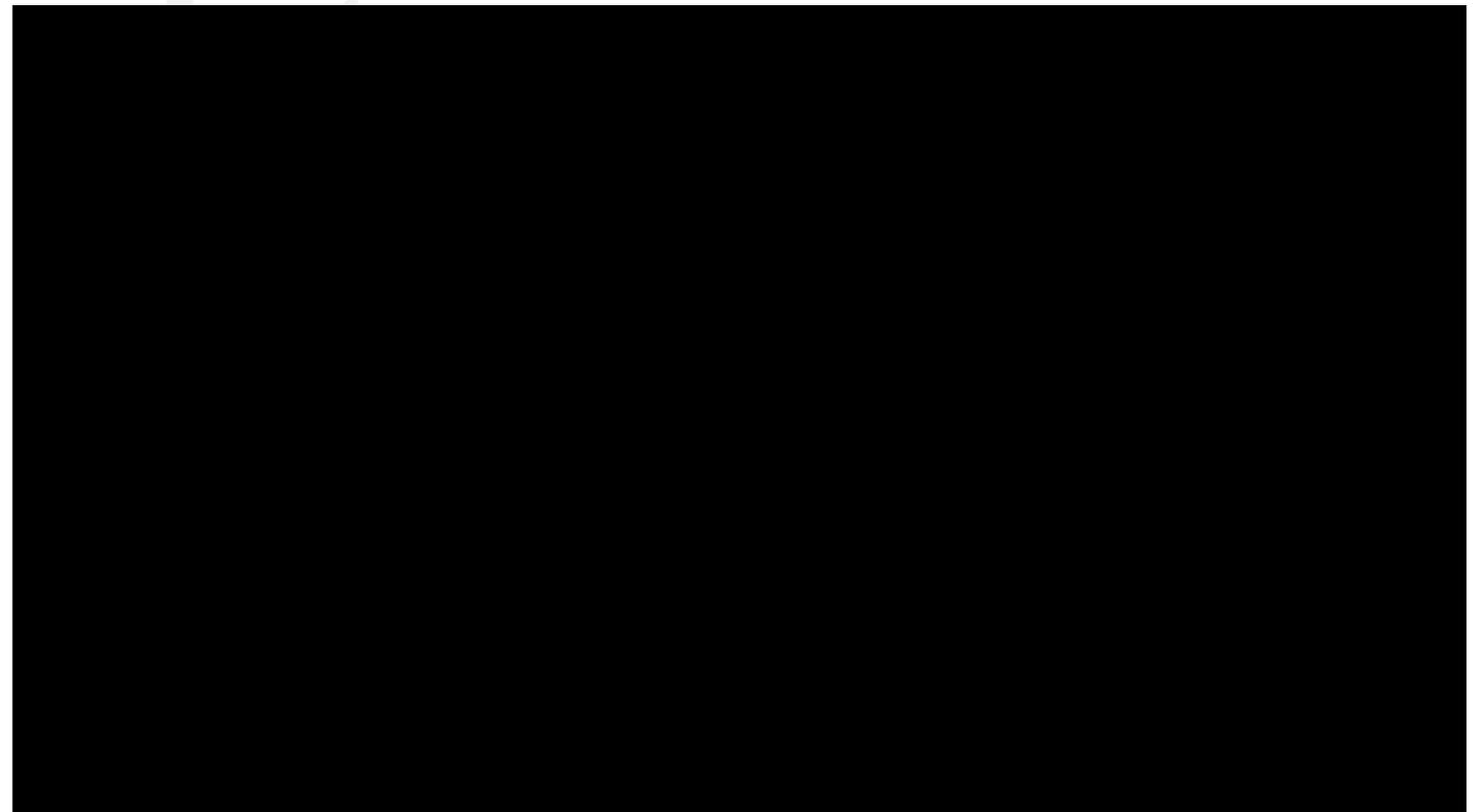
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and I want to do as much good as I can with what I'm leaving behind." True to his word, Dr. Wilson recently made a bequest intention for \$500,000 to be split between a visiting professorship and a scholarship to the Perelman School's renowned M.D./Ph.D. program.

A Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Wilson researched biochemistry at Imperial College, University of London, where he earned a Ph.D.; at the Enzyme Institute, University of Wisconsin in Madison; at the Johnson Foundation in Philadelphia; at Princeton University; and at Penn.

After receiving his M.D. from Penn in 1961, he held academic appointments at Temple University and Wayne State University. In Michigan, he served as a Hospital Medical Director, as Assistant to the Director of the Mental Health Department, and Director of Medical Services at the Lafayette Psychiatric Clinic in Detroit.

In 1974 he moved to California as Associate Professor of Community Medicine, and ultimately joined the California Department of Health Services, where he served as Chief of Medical Policy and Chief Medical Officer of the MediCal program and



"I'm the last of my family line, the last of my name. I would like to have it live on in some way by benefitting the students and my colleagues at Penn.

—Dr. Theo Wilson, M'61

sat on the state's Institutional Review Board, the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

Dr. Wilson was personally involved in the Civil Rights movement and has focused on Human Health Rights issues throughout his career. He speaks passionately about the potential impact of his named scholarship.

"Both the clinical and research backgrounds are extremely helpful, so I foresee very bright futures for those who are dually qualified."

Penn's M.D./Ph.D. program is recognized as one of the oldest and largest in the country, with more than 180 current students and 500 alumni. Despite its long history, Dr. Wilson's gift for a scholarship in this program is the

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(Continued)

first of its kind. This is Dr. Wilson's first-ever gift to Penn.

The Theo George Wilson M.D./Ph.D. Visiting Professorship will engage international experts to increase

understanding and encourage collaboration. "Foreign experts have a lot to teach us. When we share our perspectives, it benefits both sides," says Dr. Wilson, who believes that many disciplines are needed when solving medical problems.

In 1998 Wilson retired to New York City, but remains active as an individual



Medical Policy Consultant to various health care providers. He continues to seek out ways to support science, medicine, arts, and human rights. "I'm the last of my family line, the last of my name," he says. "I would like to have it live on in some way by benefiting the students and my colleagues at Penn. I applied to a lot of schools and got accepted, but the one I wanted to go to was Penn because it was the best, and it's still the best."

Now, Wilson Scholars and those who attend the endowed lectures, will continue benefiting from Dr. Wilson's generosity for a very long time. 