

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

Daniel B. Shapiro

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of his exemplary public service and for his extraordinary dedication to the advancement of the alliance between Israel and the United States – Israel's greatest and most important ally in the world; for being a true friend of the State of Israel; for his contribution to advancing the values of pluralism, tolerance and acceptance of the other, values that also guide the actions of the University of Haifa; for his work to deepen the partnership between American Jews and Israelis and, in this context, for his support of the Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies at the University of Haifa.

Conferred on 12 Sivan 5777/June 6, 2017
Haifa, Israel



Mooly Eden

Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Ron Robin

President



Prof. Gustavo Mesch

Rector



AMBASSADOR DANIEL B. SHAPIRO

Daniel B. Shapiro was born in 1969 in Champaign, Illinois to a Jewish family of four children. He began his academic studies at Washington University in St. Louis and then completed his second year of studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. After returning to the U.S., he went on to complete his BA in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (summa cum laude) at Brandeis University. In 1993, he completed his master's degree in Middle East Policy at Harvard University.

Following completion of his studies, Shapiro began to work as a professional staff member on the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, and went on to fill a number of American government positions. In 2008, he served as a Senior Policy Advisor to presidential candidate Barack Obama on Middle East issues and the Jewish community, and as a strategist in the Obama election campaign. In 2009, following Obama's inauguration, Shapiro was appointed to the post of Senior Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the National Security Council. In his many roles in the administration, Shapiro was involved in empowering the Israeli-American partnership. He worked to advance legislation on issues of great importance to the State of Israel, the most important being the imposition of sanctions on Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and the Hamas Movement. He also worked actively to reinforce and increase U.S. foreign aid to Israel.

In July 2011, Shapiro was sworn in as United States Ambassador to Israel and in August of that year he presented his diplomatic credentials to Israel's then President, the late Shimon Peres. During his term of office, Ambassador Shapiro handled core issues in American-Israeli relations, such as playing a key role in the completion of the military aid Memorandum of Understanding inked in September 2016, which promised Israel an aid package of \$38 billion over the next 10 years. His great work and his substantial efforts were especially obvious given the series of challenges and crises in relations between the two countries while he was in office.

Shapiro's fluency in Hebrew, and the fact that his children were enrolled in Israeli schools, helped the Ambassador reach out to broad circles in Israeli society.

As Ambassador, Shapiro worked tirelessly to strengthen relations between the United States, the State of Israel and American Jewry. To this end, he hosted many delegations of Jewish organizations and assisted in cementing the bonds between Israeli society and American Jewry.

Shapiro was an enthusiastic supporter of the Ruderman MA Program for American Jewish Studies at the University of Haifa, the only academic program in Israel dedicated to the study of American Jewish society. He contributed greatly to its success by enhancing awareness among both communities of the importance of strong ties between Israel and American Jewry.