

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

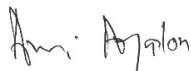
Ernest Strauss

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of his extensive philanthropic activities and efforts to advance education and scientific learning throughout the world; for his longstanding endeavors to bring the Swiss Jewish community together by strengthening Jewish heritage and investing in culture and education for the younger generation; for the ability to combine business and economic vision while recognizing the importance of academic research, and the understanding that education is essential in creating a better future; for his generous contribution to the Dr. Moses Strauss Marine Geosciences Department at the University of Haifa, which stands at the forefront of scientific research in the field.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel
27 Iyar 5774/May 27, 2014



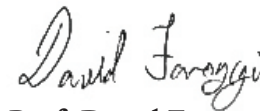
Ami Ayalon

Chairman of the Executive Committee



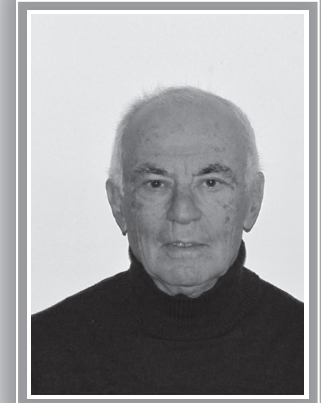
Amos Shapira

President



Prof. David Faraggi

Rector



DR. ERNEST STRAUSS

Ernest Strauss was born in 1928 in Heilbronn, Germany to his mother Elsa and father Dr. Moses Strauss, an observant Jew and medical doctor who served as an officer in the German army during WWI. In 1938 the Strauss family immigrated to Liechtenstein and lived there in relative comfort during the Second World War. During the years 1946 to 1953 Ernest Strauss studied civil engineering at the Federal Polytechnic University in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he also completed his doctorate.

After Switzerland prohibited non-citizen Jews from remaining in the country Dr. Strauss moved to Brazil. There he became a director of an international construction company which built hydraulic infrastructures throughout Brazil, from the Amazon River in the north to the Mato Grosso region in the south.

In the beginning of the 1960s Dr. Strauss returned to Switzerland, where he joined his brother Walter Strauss's sportswear enterprise. He also pursued other business endeavors, mainly in Israel and the USA. One of Dr. Strauss's more challenging hobbies led him to serve as a part-time pilot for more than 25 years. During this time, he piloted tourists on sightseeing flights around the highest peaks in the Alps.

In the 1990s Dr. Strauss officially stepped down from managing the family business but remained actively involved. Along with his business commitments he continued his engagement with social causes. In the 1970s and beginning of the 1980s Dr. Strauss became a founding member of the first modern Jewish elementary school and the first orthodox Zionist synagogue in Zurich, both of which developed into thriving institutions.

In 1985 he established the Strauss Foundation, a philanthropic fund devoted to scientific and social projects in Israel, the USA, Switzerland and Hong Kong.

A large portion of the fund is designated to the Department of Marine Geosciences at the University of Haifa, a major center of sea exploration, recognized by the State of Israel as a leader in this area. The department now bears the name of Ernest's father and is called The Dr. Moses Strauss Marine Geosciences Department.

Dr. Ernest Strauss is married to Eva, who was born in Stockholm. The couple has four children and 11 grandchildren, who live in Jerusalem, Hong Kong and New York.