



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

Gyongyver and Peter Kadas

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of their significant contribution to the advancement of higher education and scientific research in the world in general, and in Israel in particular; on their contribution to the establishment of the Kadas Green Roofs Ecology Center at the University of Haifa, and their support of cancer research at the University of Haifa, which allows the University's researchers to be pioneers and leaders in their respective fields; on their vision and commitment to promoting innovative groundbreaking research; and on their being true friends of the State of Israel.

Conferred in 1 Sivan 5776/June 7, 2016
Haifa, Israel

Ami Ayalon

Chairman of the Executive Committee

Amos Shapira

President

Prof. David Faraggi

Rector

DR. GYONGYVER AND PETER KADAS

Gyongyver Kadas was born in Budapest, Hungary. In her childhood and youth, she was an outstanding rhythmic gymnast and competed for her country.

Dr. Kadas completed her undergraduate degree in zoology at Royal Holloway, University of London, and went on to graduate school to study conservation of biodiversity. It was at Royal Holloway that she first encountered the subject of green roofs – roofs that combine aesthetics, energy savings and the preservation of species. Her thesis, which dealt with the ecology of green roofs, has become the basis of study and research into the relationship between biodiversity and green roofs in Britain.

Alongside her doctoral thesis, with its focus on green roofs research, Gyongyver started to provide consulting services to entities and individuals and is behind the design of thousands of square meters of green roofs nurturing biodiversity atop a growing number of London's roofs. She has also established a wildlife educational center, where she teaches ecology to schoolchildren.

Gyongyver's doctoral thesis was published in 2010. She has also contributed to many academic journals and Green Roof guidelines.

Peter Kadas was born and grew up in Hungary, where he started his career in banking. In 1982 he escaped from Hungarian-style communism, and immigrated to Canada. In 1986 he graduated from Trinity College, the University of Toronto, with a B.A in economics and political science. Four years later he attained an MA in business administration from Dartmouth College.

Peter set out on his business path in 1990, and was appointed director of a large credit company in Budapest, Hungary, which had in the meantime shaken off the communist regime. In 1995 Kadas partnered in the establishment of the first private Russian bank – Renaissance Capital.

In 1997, together with two partners, he founded advisory boutique firm BXR to provide advice on investment and the structuring and execution of business agreements. From the outset, the firm was careful to preserve its intimate “family and friends” character, where “everyone knows everyone” and things are done “in the old way”. Between 2000 and 2010, Kadas served as CEO of Bakala Crossroads, BXR's advisory arm, which expanded over the years and is now called BXR Partners LLP. The firm is considered one of the largest investment houses in Europe and Kadas serves as one of its senior advisers.

Over the years, Kadas has held and continues to hold non-executive directorships in many public and private companies.

The Kadas couple founded the family foundation, the Kadas Charitable Trust, which is involved in numerous educational and academic philanthropic activities, including, but not limited to, the University of Haifa, Oxford University, University of Toronto, Dartmouth College, the London School of Economics, and others. The Trust also supports Szarvas, the largest Jewish summer camp in Central Europe.

At the University of Haifa, the couple contributed to the establishment of the Kadas Green Roof Ecology Center, where Dr. Kadas is an active researcher. The Center's mission is to deepen knowledge about the economic and ecological feasibility of green roofs, based on local vegetation, and without irrigation. An agreement was recently signed between the Kadas Center and Israel's Knesset, which will landmark the Knesset building as the world's first combined green roof and solar energy installation on a parliament building.