

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

Sylvia A. Earle

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In tribute to her unique, passionate and strong voice for the environment and marine life; for her unmatched accomplishments in her chosen scientific discipline and bridging public and scientific realms elegantly and for the benefit of fostering a better life on this planet; for her role in breaking glass ceilings in a discipline dominated by men, paving the way for other women, and doing so through excellence and with great vision.

Conferred on 23 Iyyar 5779/May 28, 2019
Haifa, Israel



Nadav Shahar

Acting Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Ron Robin

President



Prof. Gustavo Mesch

Rector



DR. SYLVIA A. EARLE

Dr. Sylvia Earle was born in 1935 in New Jersey and later on moved to Florida with her family. Dr. Earle received an Associate Degree from St. Petersburg Junior College, a BSc. from Florida State University, and an MSc. and Doctorate of Phycology from Duke University.

Dr. Earle, called “Her Deepness” by the New Yorker, “Living Legend” by the Library of Congress and a “Hero for the Planet” by Time, is an oceanographer, explorer, author and lecturer with a deep commitment to research through personal exploration. She is among the most recognized figures in marine sciences and conservation in the world today. She has been an advocate, scientist, policy maker, inventor, businesswoman, and passionate ambassador for the sea for six decades.

Dr. Earle’s range of accomplishments is vast. After completing her PhD in 1966, she was a research scientist at Harvard before taking a position as Resident Director of the Cape Haze Marine Laboratory. In 1970, she led an all-female team to study and work in an underwater habitat called the Tektite II. Over her career she has written over 150 publications. She co-founded founded Deep Ocean Engineering to design, operate, support and consult on piloted and robotic subsea systems. She was the first female scientific director of National Oceanographic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) during which time she also consulted on the oil spills associated to the Gulf War.

Her work has been recognized and honored by the highest exploration, scientific, and public accolades including the Lowell Award, TED prize, Woman of the Year (Time, Glamour, and more), and over 100 honorary doctorate degrees and international awards. She initiated the Google Earth ‘Ocean’ function and has launched and headed the National Geographic Sustainable Seas Expeditions and assisted in the designation and expansion of marine protected areas worldwide. More recently, this effort was continued in the founding of ‘Mission Blue’ and the Hope Spots project that highlights areas that should be protected as a means to secure biodiversity and provide a protective haven for marine ecosystems.