

APPROVED BY SENATE

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HD.25.01
September 16, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES
(Final; Action)

HD.25.01 Nomination for Honorary Degree Award – Alkire, Gies

The Senate Committee on Honorary Degrees is pleased to nominate the following individuals for an honorary degree award to be conferred at the May 2025 Commencement exercises:

- Sabina Alkire
- Larry W. Gies

Information relative to the background and achievements of this nominee is attached. Based on the criteria approved by the Senate, the Committee has selected this individual for Senate consideration.

The Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all who participated in the process, particularly those who spent considerable amounts of time and effort in preparing documentation for this nominee.

COMMITTEE ON HONORARY DEGREES
Prasanta Kalita, Chair
Meng Chen
Paul Davidson
Pollyanna Rhee
Kevin Richards
Laura Wilhelm-Barr, *ex officio*

Sabina Alkire
Director
Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

EDUCATION:

BA, Sociology, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 1989
Diploma of Theology, University of Oxford, 1992
MPhil, Christian Political Ethics, University of Oxford, 1994
MSc, Economics for Development, University of Oxford, 1995
DPhil, Economics, University of Oxford, 1999

Nominated by: Venetria K. Patton, Harry E. Preble Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and Morton W. Weir, Chancellor Emeritus and Professor of Psychology Emeritus, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

BASIS FOR NOMINATION:

Dr. Sabina Alkire, a UIUC graduate and Rhodes Scholar, has had a successful academic career at Oxford University. She is Professor of International Development and Founder and Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). Beyond that, however, she has developed a method of measuring the structure of poverty, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which has been adopted by the United Nations as a guide to member nations' attacks on poverty, touching hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people and communities. It is rare that any individual's work has such a profound impact on so great a number of individuals throughout the world.

EXCERPT FROM THE NOMINATION LETTER:

"Her major contribution to the science of economics and to the alleviation of world poverty has been the development of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). With James E. Foster at George Washington University, she developed the Alkire-Foster method for measuring multidimensional poverty to create measures tailored to different contexts. With colleagues at OPHI, the MPI has been applied and implemented empirically to produce a tool which identifies who is poor by considering and measuring the range of deprivations they suffer, guiding policymakers to the best way to alleviate poverty in geographical areas in which poverty exists in their countries, targeting those factors that are most important.

This has led to the development of National MPIs, carried out by Alkire and OPHI, that are tailored to a country's specific context and conceptions of poverty and policy priorities. In 2009, Mexico became the first country to launch a national MPI, followed by an additional 34 countries to date.

In 2010, Alkire and a post-doctoral student created the world standard Global MPI in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) which is updated annually. The global multidimensional Poverty Index compares acute multidimensional poverty for 111 countries in developing regions. These countries are home to 6.1 billion people, three-

quarters of the world's population. 1.2 billion (19.1%) are identified by the 2022 MPI as multidimensionally poor. As a result of this ground-breaking work, Alkire has been a speaker and panel member at United Nations sessions and conferences relating to global poverty.

In 2013, Alkire and two colleagues established the Multidimensional Poverty Peer Network, a community of senior policymakers from governments engaged in reducing multidimensional poverty and to date convenes 61 countries and 20 international agencies. The MPPN hosts annual meetings, side events at the United Nations General Assembly and Statistical Commission and teleconferences for updates or briefings, all organized by OPHI.

She has many publications in prestigious journals and chapters in books and has authored or is senior author of three books. Her work is cited often with a high h-index value (23), with 2969 citations as published by Research Papers in Economics. The academic paper introducing the MPI method (Alkire and Foster, 2011) is among the top 1,000 most cited publications in the field of Economics and the 7th most highly cited paper ever in the *Journal of Public Economics*, having 1018 citations plus 284 policy citations. Her 2014 *World Development* article with then-postdoctoral fellow Maria Emma Santos is among the journal's 50 most cited articles and among its top 10 articles cited in the past two years. She has presented numerous lectures and addresses internationally, is an active teacher at Oxford, and her plans of the future indicate she will not be slowing down."

HONORS/AWARDS (NOT INCLUSIVE):

1991-94	Rhodes Scholarship, University of Oxford, UK
1994	V.A. Demant Essay Prize, Christendom Trust
1995	George Webb Medley Prize, Sub-Faculty of Economics, University of Oxford, UK
2010	Thulin Scholar of Religion and Contemporary Culture, University of Illinois
2010	<i>Foreign Policy</i> magazine's 'Top 100 Global Thinkers'
2014	ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize (International)
2015	Royal Government of Bhutan Award (given by the Honourable Prime Minister)
2018-19	Distinguished Research Affiliate of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame
2020	Boris Mints Institute Prize
2020	The Queen's Anniversary Prize, awarded on behalf of OPHI, University of Oxford
2021	Fellow of the Academic of Social Sciences, UK

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme

"Dr. Alkire has played a pivotal role in developing and advancing the Capability Approach, a theoretical framework that emphasizes people's freedoms and capabilities to achieve lives they value and have reasons to value as the ultimate goal of development. She co-developed with Professor James Foster the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for the UNDP's flagship Human Development Report in 2010. The MPI is a tool that goes beyond

traditional income-based poverty measures to assess poverty in terms of multiple deprivations at the household and individual level in health, education and standard of living, the same three dimensions as the UNDP's Human Development Index.

Her work on the MPI has had a global impact, influencing the way poverty is measured and understood. MPI has been used by international organizations, governments, and researchers as a complementary and nuanced tool for assessing poverty. It provides a holistic view of poverty by considering various factors that contribute to well-being, enabling policymakers to design more targeted and effective poverty reduction strategies.

Dr. Alkire's expertise has led to her involvement in various international initiatives and consultations related to poverty measurement and development. Her advice and insights are sought after by governments, international organizations, and NGOs seeking to improve their understanding of poverty and design effective policies to address it."

Amartya Sen, Thomas W. Lamont University Professor and Professor of Economics, Harvard University, Nobel Laureate in Economics

"She is a scholar of outstanding achievement, and also a person of extraordinary power and accomplishment. I have had the privilege of knowing Professor Alkire for many years now and have repeatedly benefited from what she has been establishing in the world of knowledge, empowering our ability to think as well as hugely broadening our understanding of the world we inhabit.

Not only am I hugely impressed by what Sabina Alkire manages to do year after year, but also how she has been able to make our appreciation of the dimensions of the world so noticeably broader.

We have every reason to be deeply grateful to Sabina Alkire for what she has done for the academic world, but also for the way she has been able to strengthen the world of reflection and penetrating understanding that has transformed the knowledge from which we continuously draw."

Richard Burkhardt, Professor of History Emeritus, Former Director of the Campus Honors Program, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

"Inspired by interacting with and learning from Amartya Sen, the 1998 Nobelist in Economics renown for connecting economics and ethics, Professor Alkire's research targets the multiple needs of people in poverty. This approach takes monetary needs into consideration but goes beyond that to attend to other kinds of deprivations – in education, food security, health, sanitation, electricity, access to government service, etc. – that all figure into being poor. To this end, she (together with the economist James Foster) developed the multidimensional poverty index (MPI) to chart the multiple deprivations that poor people face. Constructing a coordinated, global data base on the multiple dimensions of poverty and their change over time is a monumental task, but one with profound benefits. Knowing the multiple dimensions of poverty in different countries (and provinces within them) makes it possible for the governments in different countries and other agencies to take this information and tailor it to what poverty means in their own countries. This allows for countries' limited funds to be

used cost-effectively. That said, the approach that informs this work is at its base a ground-up rather than a top-down one. It places front and center the lived experiences of people in poverty. Its goal is to reduce poverty and give individuals the capability to be the agents of their own development live up to their full potential.”

Larry W. Gies
Founder and CEO
Madison Industries

EDUCATION:

BS, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 1988
MBA, Northwestern University, 1992

*Nominated by: Jeffrey R. Brown, Larry Gies Family Chair in Business and Professor of Finance, Gies College of Business, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Rashid Bashir, Dean, Grainger College of Engineering, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

BASIS FOR NOMINATION:

Larry W. Gies has dedicated his life and career to improving the lives of others through both his professional and philanthropic efforts. Larry Gies is CEO and founder of Madison Industries, which he has built into one of the largest and most successful privately held companies in the world. Madison Industries builds entrepreneurially driven, market-leading companies that make the world safer, healthier, and more productive through innovations in medicine, filtration, process improvement, and energy.

EXCERPT FROM THE NOMINATION LETTER:

“He leads a team that empowers Madison Industries’ companies to discover scientific breakthroughs, advance the field of medicine, and develop safer environments. Operating rooms, drug delivery equipment, medical testing, and places where people work and play are all made safer by its companies.

Here are a few examples of the over 70 companies that are part of Madison Industries:

- QBC makes hematology products that are used in point-of-care locations such as physicians’ offices, urgent care centers, military fleets, embassies, and veterinary offices.
- Drucker is the leader in designing and manufacturing clinical centrifuges for dialysis labs, patient services centers, and physicians’ offices. They also offer fluorescence microscopy products that are used in everything from clinical trials to testing for malaria.
- National Biological leads the industry in UV light phototherapy equipment to treat psoriasis, vitiligo, and other skin conditions.
- Amkus Rescue Systems offers tools that are the industry standard for emergency rescue teams around the world, including cutters and spreaders (think “jaws of life”) for saving lives after automobile accidents.
- Task Force Tips makes industry leading equipment for firefighters and other first responders, including state-of-the-art nozzles used by fire departments across the world.

- UAF creates filtration products for microelectronic equipment in harsh environments and are widely used in telecommunications, data networking, medical, industrial machinery, and power generation.
- Molecular Air Products produces high-performance air purification for life- and mission-critical applications in healthcare, green energy, and other markets.

The common theme of all of the companies within Madison Industries is that they deliver on at least one of the three core missions of Madison:

1. They make the world safer, with products ranging from drug delivery equipment to medial testing, to operating room equipment.
2. They make the world healthier, through better drinking water, cleaner air, or a small carbon footprint.
3. They make the world more productive, by increasing speed of production, extending product life, or optimizing a process to use less energy.

In short, Madison Industries is a wonderful example of a business being purpose-driven. Larry Gies has created a culture in which people are motivated not only by financial success, but also by having a major positive impact on the world. They have truly delivered on the adage of “doing well by doing good.”

HONORS/AWARDS (NOT INCLUSIVE):

2023 Semper Fidelis Award, Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Morton Schapiro, President Emeritus, Northwestern University

“Larry Gies is a remarkable business leader. I have heard him discuss his approach a number of times during formal presentations at Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management, and during numerous informal talks over the past decade. I have learned from him, and been inspired by him. He is a truly innovative entrepreneur who is devoted to his employees. His understated manner belies a keen intellect, an intellectual curiosity, and a contagious enthusiasm.”

Robert T. Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Lincoln International

“What I have only seen accomplished once in my career is what Larry has achieved with Madison. Starting from nothing, he transformed a small pledge fund into a global mission driven company that has defined its success not just by generating returns for investors but by making the world safer, healthier and more productive. Unlike most successful investors, Larry is not just motivated by creating wealth for himself and his investors. He is equally motivated by truly making an impact and building something remarkable that will outlast him.

Clearly, a keen strategic vision has been needed to achieve this; however, what has been equally important, and a far less common talent, is Larry’s ability to authentically connect on a personal level with everyone he encounters. I have seen him have an in-depth conversation with a drill press operator on a factory floor and then lead board room

negotiations on a transformational acquisition. He treats everyone equally regardless of perceived status, level or title because he believes he can learn something from everybody. It is this extraordinary skill which makes him an exceptional leader that innovative people want to support and follow.”

Matthew Lynch, President, Chicago Jesuit Academy

“I met Larry more than eighteen years ago in November 2005. At the time, I was little more than a few years into my work as president of Chicago Jesuit Academy – a tuition-free private school for children from modest economic backgrounds on the West Side of Chicago – and Larry and his wife, Beth, had recently created The Gies Foundation, which took as a special focus the need to create more educational opportunities for black young men in Chicago.

To say that meeting was fortuitous would be a tremendous understatement. In the years that followed, Larry and Beth helped build Chicago Jesuit Academy from a school for 19 inaugural 5th graders into a thriving – and still growing – school that will serve 426 boys and girls in the 3rd through 8th grades annually by the 2027-2028 school year on a beautifully renovated and expanded campus that also serves as a resource hub and support net work for our alumni as well as the students, families and partner elementary schools we serve across Chicago through our High School Bridge program.

Larry and Beth have made incredibly generous investments to support our students’ scholarship needs, but their philanthropic support is only a part of our relationship with them. Since my first meeting with Larry in 2005, Larry has become a trusted advisor, and I am fortunate to get to meet with him regularly. Whenever we have been wrestling with a particularly thorny challenge at CJA, I have been able to bring the problem to Larry, and he generously gives me hours of his time as we work toward a solution. These conversations are not easy. To the contrary, they are consistently among the most intellectually rigorous discussions that I have had with anyone in my life.

Larry stays laser-focused on well-defined goals. He sifts through huge amounts of data with tremendous speed to identify the root of a problem. When he finds that root, he gives the problem back to the person who is closest to it, trusting that they are best positioned to fix it.”

George Nolen, Vice Chairman, Madison Industries

“I have had the privilege of working with Larry Gies over the last 14 years. In that period, Mr. Gies, a founder and CEO of Madison Industries, built one of the largest and most successful privately held companies in North America. When we first sat together 14 years ago, the company had less than \$100 million in revenue. Larry made it clear he wanted to build something “truly remarkable,” a company that we could all be proud of and a company that would outlast all of us. He stressed the importance of always doing the right thing, never cutting corner, and always making decisions to provide a foundation for generations. He established a mission-based organization and spent countless hours traveling to be in front of all employees at all levels so they would understand that at Madison Industries, “we make the world safer, healthier, and more productive.”

I have spent over 40 years as a global business executive and have never worked with a colleague with the leadership capabilities, intelligence, drive, instincts, and people skills that Larry developed. He is a great listener, decisive in the decision process, a strategist, and an

excellent coach/teacher to the talent around him. Larry has accomplished business results since his days at the University of Illinois, unmatched by any alumnus. He took his desire to lead his own company, bet on himself, his leadership skills, and his education, went out to the market, borrowed money, made personal sacrifices, and turned that passion into Madison Industries, a Chicago-based global manufacturing company with billions in revenue and 20,000 employees. His outstanding management skills and financial acumen have delivered world-class returns to his investors. As an entrepreneur, business leader, and motivator, Larry is the best I have ever seen. The Best!"

Pat Ryan, Jr., Founder, Accelerate Institute

"While the world knows Larry as one of the most accomplished entrepreneurs of our generation for his success in building a \$10 billion market leading company despite starting with nothing except his University of Illinois degree; I also know him to be a quiet but powerful force for social justice.

Larry has served on the board of the Accelerate Institute, an organization that I founded which is focused on helping schools in historically underserved communities across the nation strengthen their academics so that their graduates are as well prepared to attend leading universities like the University of Illinois as our students from privileged backgrounds. Larry has been an important advisor to this important work and has adopted a number of schools, providing them with the resources to accelerate their academics.

Larry's work for equity goes well beyond his work with Accelerate. Chicago Jesuit Academy (CJA) on Chicago's West Side is only able to do their remarkable work because of Larry's generosity. Yet Larry is far more than a donor to CJA. Despite a grueling international travel schedule, Larry is actively engaged in the CJA community."