

Dr. Mark O'Connor **Class of 1967**

Since 1997, Dr. O'Connor has been the director of the Arts and Sciences Honors Program at Boston College. Approximately 140 students enter the program annually, where superior first-year students are also admitted to the Honors Program as sophomores each year, on the recommendation of instructors in their first-year courses. About 100 seniors complete the requirements and graduate with honors standing each year.



Dr. O'Connor has taught the humanities curriculum offered to the top five percent of students admitted to Boston College through its Honors Program for the past thirty years. "Honors is above all a teaching job and that has always been the primary way I have defined myself - as a University teacher," he says.

He earned a bachelor's degree in history from the College of the Holy Cross in 1971; and a master's and Ph.D. in history from Boston College in 1973 and 1978, respectively. His field of specialization is 18th century central European intellectual history.

Dr. O'Connor began his career at B.C. in 1975 as an instructor in the department of history teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in European Political & Intellectual History, 1500-1789, 18th Century Intellectual History and Byzantine History, 527-1204.

In 1991, Dr. O'Connor was presented the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Outstanding Teaching and in 1998, he received the Golden Key Award for Service to the Boston College community. In 2006, he was selected for the *Amicus Poloniae* award, which is conferred by the Polish Embassy and is the highest service award given to a non-Polish citizen.

Dr. O'Connor has received numerous research grants over the years from the International Research and Exchanges Board, the Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Exxon Foundation, and most recently, from the Davis Educational Foundation to improve the synergy between the Honors Program's humanities curriculum and the latest technological resources.

His brother, Neal, is a 1970 alumnus of Archbishop Williams. Dr. O'Connor lives with his wife, Mary in Charlestown, Rhode Island.