

## GLOBAL STUDIES DIRECTOR BERND WIDDIG RECEIVES GERMAN CROSS OF THE ORDER OF MERIT FOR WORK STRENGTHENING U.S.-GERMAN TIES

CHESTNUT HILL, MA (October 24, 2008) -- Office of International Programs Director Dr. Bernd Widdig has received the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande). The award was presented by Consul General Friedrich Ludwig Lühr earlier this week.

Widdig, who has held the position of Director of International Programs at BC since 2007, and recently has expanded his area of responsibility to include directing the University's newly-established McGillicuddy-Logue Center for Undergraduate Global Studies, was awarded this high German decoration by Federal President Horst Köhler for his "outstanding contribution in fostering German-American relations and interchanges between universities and companies in both countries."



**Bernd Widdig**

"Bernd Widdig is well known as a passionate transatlantic bridge-builder, an indefatigable supporter of transatlantic cooperation and a powerful advocate for the dissemination of the German language abroad," according to the Office of the Consulate General. "His efforts on behalf of the MIT-Germany Program, which he initiated and promoted, stand out as a unique and major exchange scheme in the field of science and engineering."

Before his appointment at Boston College, Widdig worked as a professor and administrator at MIT, teaching courses in German culture and literature as well as seminars on cross-cultural communication. In 1997, he started the MIT-Germany Program, a tailored international program for engineering and science students. In 2001, he was appointed Associate Director of the MIT International Science and Technology Initiative (MISTI), MIT's cornerstone program for international education. He was deeply involved in questions of international education and initiated the Minor in Applied International Studies at MIT in 2004.

Widdig is the author of *Culture and Inflation in Weimar Germany*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001; *Männerbünde und Massen. Zur Krise männlicher Identität in der Literatur der Moderne*, Opladen: Westdeutscher Verlag, 1992; and co-author of *In Search of Global Engineering Excellence: Educating the Next Generation of Engineers for the Global Workplace*, Hannover 2006. In addition, he has published numerous articles on the culture of the Weimar Republic and modern German authors such as Thomas Mann, Elias Canetti, and Wolfgang Koeppen.

"His publications and fellowship awards underpin his excellence as an international educator during the last 20 years of his work in the United States," the Consulate noted.

Widdig holds a Staatsexamen in Economics, Political Science, and German Literature from the University of Bonn and received his Ph.D. in German Studies from Stanford University in 1989.

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