

PIER 2005 Summer Institutes Keynote Speaker

Humphrey Tonkin

Global Readiness

Humphrey Tonkin, President Emeritus and University Professor of the Humanities at the University of Hartford, is an advocate and world leader in international cooperation and education. An acclaimed scholar, he co-authored, some twenty years ago, *The World in the Curriculum*, widely regarded as a standard guide to internationalizing the college curriculum. Most recently, he published *Service-Learning Across Cultures*, on the impact of international service-learning. Over the years he has chaired such bodies as the Council for International Exchange of Scholars and the Canadian Fulbright Commission. He continues to promote the internationalization of education as a board member of such organizations as the American Forum for Global Education, the International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership, and World Learning, the organization that operates the School for International Training.

Biography: Dr. Humphrey Tonkin joined the University as President in January 1989 and served for almost ten years, stepping down in June 1998 to return to scholarship and research. During 1998-99 he was visiting fellow at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University. Before coming to Hartford he was for five years president of Potsdam College of the State University of New York. Before that, his career as scholar and teacher had brought him to the rank of full professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. He also served that institution at various times as vice provost for undergraduate studies, master of Stouffer College House, coordinator of international programs, and director of freshman English. In 1980-81 he was also visiting professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University. As vice provost, he spearheaded the university-wide reform of undergraduate education at Penn in the early 1970s. He received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1970 and was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 1974, spending a year in research at Oxford University. Dr. Tonkin has lectured on English literature, languages, and international studies at universities across the world. His publications include two books on the poetry of Edmund Spenser (1971 and 1989), numerous scholarly articles on sixteenth-century literature (in such journals as *PMLA*, *ELH*, *Studies in English Literature*, *Modern Philology*, and *Language and Style*), edited volumes on language and related topics, and articles and monographs on international language problems and language teaching. *The World in the Curriculum*, co-authored in 1981 with his wife Dr. Jane Edwards, is widely regarded as a standard guide to internationalizing the college curriculum. Dr. Tonkin is a bibliographer for the Modern Language Association and co-editor of the *Journal Language Problems and Language Planning*.

Throughout his time as president at the University of Hartford, he continued to teach regularly. An advocate of international cooperation and international studies, Dr. Tonkin is currently chair of the Foundation for Educational Exchange between Canada and the United States, the Canadian Fulbright Commission. He also chairs the

American Forum for Global Education (New York) and serves on the board of World Learning, the organization that operates the School for International Training and the Experiment in International Living. He chairs the Center for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems (which organizes conferences and seminars and publishes research on sociolinguistic issues) and the Esperantic Studies Foundation (which conducts and supports research on international language issues). He has chaired the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (which administers the senior Fulbright Program), the Partnership for Service-Learning (which supports the linkage of international study and community service), and the International Education Commission of the American Council on Education. He is also a past president of the Spenser Society, the Universal Esperanto Association (Rotterdam), and the Zamenhof Foundation (Poland).

In Potsdam, he served as founding president of the Northern Advanced Technologies Corporation and the Northern Technology Council, local economic development groups. In Hartford he served for several years on the board of GroupAmerica, an insurance company. He is currently a board member of the Hartford-area World Affairs Council and recently completed terms of office on the boards of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and the Greater Hartford Arts Council. He is a corporator of the Watkinson School, the American School for the Deaf, Hartford Hospital, the Institute of Living, the Hartford Seminary, and the Hartford Public Library. Honors include the 1993 Renaissance Award of the Hartford Downtown Council (for his work for the City of Hartford), the 1996 Distinguished Community Service Award of the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League (for his advocacy of human rights), and the Connecticut Life Award (for his work with retirees). In 1999 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Hartford. In 1997 his program Shakespeare for Everyone, offered for eight consecutive years at the University of Hartford, won the Philip E. Frandson Award of the University Continuing Education Association. From 1996 to 1998 Dr. Tonkin chaired the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, which represents the state's independent colleges and universities.

He holds an undergraduate degree in English from Cambridge University (St. John's College), and the master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He has dual British and U.S. citizenship.

Visit his website at <http://uhaweb.hartford.edu/TONKIN/intro.html>