

## Joel Toppen wins H.O.P.E. Award

**A Hope graduate has received this year's H.O.P.E. Award.**

Dr. Joel Toppen '91, an assistant professor of political science, was presented the 40th annual "Hope Outstanding Professor Educator" (H.O.P.E.) Award by the graduating Class of 2004. He was named the recipient during the college's Commencement ceremony, held at Zeeland East High School on Sunday, May 2, at 3 p.m.

The award, first given in 1965, is presented by the graduating class to the professor who they feel epitomizes the best qualities of the Hope College educator.

Dr. Toppen began teaching at the college in the fall of 1996 as a visiting instructor. He became a visiting assistant professor in 1999, and was appointed assistant professor of political science in 2002.

During the 2003-04 school year he taught courses on national government topics and the methodology of political science research, as well as the course through which Hope students organize and run the college's Model United Nations, in which more than 900 high school students participate annually.

Dr. Toppen serves as faculty advisor for student organizations including the Hope Democrats, the Ultimate Frisbee Club, the Cosmopolitan Fraternity and the college's chapter of Amnesty International.

He has established an internship program in Johannesburg, South Africa, with the Food Programming Management Group of World Vision International, an initiative that debuted with two Hope students this spring. He will be teaching a new course on global poverty in the fall.

In the summer of 2003, he presented the paper "Ideology, Science, and Bush's Millennium Challenge Account" during the 19th World Congress of the

International Political Science Association, held in Durban, South Africa. He involves Hope students in his research work.

His scholarship has appeared in the journal *Peace and Change* and in *Christian Scholar's Review*.

He graduated from Hope with a major in political science. He completed his master's degree in political science at Purdue University in 1993, and his doctorate at Purdue in 1998. His dissertation examined the influence of democratic liberalism on U.S. foreign policy.

Dr. Toppen lives in Grand Haven, where he serves on the city's Planning Commission. He is a member of the board of the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance. His community service has also included giving multiple presentations to area groups concerning political science topics, particularly related to foreign policy.

He and his wife, Heather Backer '91 Toppen, have two young children at home. ✍



**Excellence as a teacher and mentor earned Dr. Joel Toppen '91 this year's Hope Outstanding Professor Educator (H.O.P.E.) Award, presented by the graduating Class of 2004.**

## "Quote, unquote"

**Quote, unquote is an eclectic sampling of things said at and about Hope College.**

*A very active semester's-end at Hope included groundbreaking for two major and eagerly awaited campus buildings: the DeVos Fieldhouse and the Martha Miller Center for Global Communication.*

*The ceremonies provided opportunities to reflect not only on what the new buildings will mean to Hope, but also on the heritage that has preceded them. Below are remarks prepared for the Friday, April 23, DeVos groundbreaking by Dr. R. Richard Ray Jr., who is a professor of kinesiology, athletic trainer and chairperson of the department. More about both of the groundbreaking events can be found in the Legacies: A Vision of Hope feature on pages 14-15.*

"In American higher education it has long been recognized that to develop fully, a person must improve the mind, the spirit, and the body. Consider: Did the One God who created us all bless us with just a mind? Are we endowed with only a spirit? What of the body?"

"As marvelous as the intellect is, as blessed as we are when we revel in a oneness with God, how much more are these gifts magnified in what St. Paul reminds us is the temple of the Holy Spirit? Indeed, the development of our bodies—in concert with our minds and our spirits—is a worthy and noble calling—one that befits the construction of this magnificent building.

"The development of the body as a means for improving the mind and awakening the spirit has always been important at Hope College. Indeed, even before Hope was a college, Principal Phillip Phelps and the students of the Holland Academy took up saw and axe, walked into the woods—perhaps near this very site—and felled the trees that

became the college's first gymnasium. The year was 1862, and this structure—which also served as the chapel—again, the connection between body and spirit—served as the center of campus physical activity for the next 45 years.

"We should be grateful to Tom Renner and the organizers of this particular event that we have not tried to duplicate the dedication ceremony for that gymnasium, which consisted of no fewer than 11 songs and 24 speeches!

"It was in September of 1906 that President Kollen dedicated a new gymnasium funded almost entirely by famed industrialist Andrew Carnegie. The gym was considered the finest in the state and cost \$30,000—just a bit less than the building we're planning today.

"The Dow Health and Physical Education Center, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, was visionary in its design and has served Hope well. But the Hope College of 1978 was different than the Hope of 2004. In many ways we've grown up. The campus is larger. After 138 years our daughters can participate in athletics in the same way that our sons can. About half of the student body engages in intramural sports. Each of our 3,000 students participates in Health Dynamics.

"With big numbers come big needs. And so we gather here today, grateful to President Bultman for his vision and to Richard and Helen DeVos for their generosity, to prepare the ground for a new gymnasium—a magnificent fieldhouse—that will serve our students far into the 21st century.

"May this building become all that we hope it can be—a place where bodies are strengthened on a campus where the life of the mind is exalted and the spirit makes us one people. May this building, which will sit within sight of the homestead of Hope College founder A.C. Van Raalte, help further his vision of a college that will continue to serve as an anchor of hope, both now and in the future." ✍



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### On the cover

*Our main photo features a moment from the April 23 groundbreaking ceremony for the DeVos Fieldhouse. Four-year-old Meg Morehouse, daughter of women's basketball coach Brian Morehouse '91 and Elizabeth Hain '93 Morehouse, helps the team get the building started. Please see pages 14 and 15.*

*At top center, the members of the Class of 2004 march through campus toward Baccalaureate—and their future. Please see page five.*

*At top right, MIAA long-jump champion and NCAA qualifier Christy Watkin leaps through another outstanding season. Please see page 28.*

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