

## **President of Project HOPE to address AU's December graduates**

11/21/03

Dr. John P. Howe, III, president and chief executive office of Project HOPE, will deliver Alfred University's winter commencement address at 1 p.m. Dec. 14 in McLane Center on the AU campus. "We are pleased that Dr. Howe accepted our invitation to speak to our December graduates," said Dr. Charles M. Edmondson, president of Alfred University. "As a distinguished physician and professor who has turned his talents to a humanitarian cause, Dr. Howe exemplifies the ideal of service to community that we try to instill in our students." Howe will receive the J. Henry Smith Distinguished Public Service Award from the University. The award is presented by the University in memory of the late J. Henry Smith, former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Equitable Life Assurance Co.; a dedicated public servant who became commissioner of Human Services for New York City; and a former Alfred University trustee. Project HOPE first captured the world's attention in 1960 when the S.S. Hope, the world's first peacetime hospital ship, was launched, carrying volunteers to provide medical care and training to poorer countries around the world. S.S. Hope made a total of 11 voyages before being retired in 1973, but the work continues through land-based medical training and health care education programs in 30 countries on five continents. Project HOPE, stands for Health Opportunities for People Everywhere, which has as its mission to "achieve sustainable advances in health care around the world by implementing health education programs, conducting health policy research, and providing humanitarian assistance in areas of need." Its goals are to "contribute to human dignity, promote international understanding, and enhance social and economic development." Today, Project HOPE provides approximately \$100 million in resources each year. Howe, who was distinguished chair in health policy at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, became president and CEO of Project HOPE on May 1, 2001. He is board certified in both internal medicine and cardiology and a tenured professor in the University's Department of Medicine. Prior to joining Project HOPE, Howe had been the Health Services Center's chief executive for 15 years, providing leadership to the University's Medical School, Dental School, Nursing School, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Allied Health Sciences, and Doctor of Pharmacy program. He earned a bachelor's degree at Amherst College and his medical degree at Boston University School of Medicine. He served two years in the Army Medical Corps and later completed the Health Systems Management Program at Harvard Business School. He has served recent terms as president of both the Texas Medical Association and the Bexar County Medical Society. He is a board member of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, the Southwest Research Institute, Mercy Health Systems of Texas, and the San Antonio Medical Foundation, which develops the South Texas Medical Center. Howe is a member of the Harvard College Board of Overseers Committee to Visit the Medical School and School of Dental Medicine. He is also the founding president of the Texas Society for Biomedical Research, a member and past chair of the American Medical Association's Council on Scientific Affairs, and a past member of the United States Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. Howe was appointed by the Governor to serve as Chairman of the Texas Statewide Health Coordinating Council, a group chartered by the state legislature to develop a health plan for the State of Texas. Among his numerous honors and awards are the U.S. Army's Commander's Award for Public Service, the People of Vision Award from the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness, the Award of Excellence from the International Association of Business Communicators, the National Humanitarian Award from the National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine, and the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Award. In 1994, Howe received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Boston University School of Medicine. In 1998, Howe was the recipient of the "Mr. South Texas" award, an honor given by South Texans to leaders who have made significant contributions to this rapidly expanding region. He has been featured on national television and in national journals as a leader in the biosciences. He represented the United States at a Tri-National Conference on Health in Mexico City, a forum designed to develop solutions to multi-national health concerns following the implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Howe has spoken in more than 30 states, has presented testimony to the U.S. Congress and has been a national advocate for the importance of continued medical research.