

## **New USARC Commissioners' expertise broadens agency's reach**

**Arlington, VA, July 25, 2008**—President Bush announced the appointment of three new members to the US Arctic Research Commission and the reappointment of Ms. Michele Longo Eder and Dr. Charles Vörösmarty to second 4-year terms.

“Obviously we’re thrilled that Michele and Charlie offered to serve the Commission for an additional term to help us continue the progress we are making in building goals and objectives for the nation's Arctic Research Program,” said Commission Chair, Mead Treadwell.

“The addition of Ms. Helvi Sandvik, Dr. Virgil (Buck) Sharpton, and Dr. Warren Zapol provide us with the breadth of expertise necessary to effectively tackle the full range of challenges adherent to these goals and objectives. In Sandvik, the President has wisely named a second indigenous representative to the Commission, which is intent on addressing the problems of rural Alaska. We look forward to their contributions.”

Helvi K. Sandvik is President of NANA Development Corporation, the business arm of NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. one of the 13 Alaska Native Regional Corporations created under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 in settlement of aboriginal land claims. NANA provides a range of business services including engineering and construction; oil, gas and mining services; facilities management and logistics; information technology and telecommunications; and real estate. Sandvik previously was vice president of operations and of resources for NANA. Originally from Kiana, a village in northwest Alaska, she joined the corporation in 1995 after 12 years with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Sandvik received her Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from Kalamazoo College in Michigan and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She currently serves as chairman of the Seattle Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

Virgil L. (Buck) Sharpton, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), joined the faculty in 1998 with a joint appointment at the Geophysical Institute (GI) and the Department of Geology and Geophysics. Responsible for setting the research agenda at UAF, he oversees the Center for Research Services, GI, International Arctic Research Center, Office of Electronic Miniaturization, Institute of Arctic Biology and various other research programs. In 2001, he was awarded one of six presidential professorships across the UA statewide system and held the title of president’s professor of remote sensing. Prior to joining UAF, Sharpton was senior staff scientist at the Lunar Planetary Institute affiliated with the NASA Johnson Space Center, where he served for 14 years. He was a postdoctoral fellow for the Geological Survey of Canada from 1984 to 1986. Sharpton obtained a Ph.D. and Sc.M. in Geological Sciences from Brown University in 1984 and 1981 respectively and a B.S. with high honors in Geology from Grand Valley State University in 1979.

Warren M. Zapol, MD, Emeritus Anesthetist-in-Chief at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and the Reginald Jenney Professor of Anesthesia at Harvard Medical School, joined the MGH Department of Anesthesia in 1970 as a first year resident and served as Chief from 1994 to 2008. He is a native of New York and a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester School of Medicine. His major research efforts include studies of acute respiratory failure in animals and humans. Supported by the National Science Foundation, he has led nine expeditions to study the diving mechanisms and adaptation of the Weddell Seal. Through that research he learned how marine mammals’ avoid the bends and hypoxia (low blood oxygen levels) based on blood nitrogen and oxygen

measurements in free diving seals. In 2003 he was awarded the Intellectual Property Owners Association's Inventor of the Year Award for the treatment of hypoxic human newborns with inhaled nitric oxide, a lifesaving technique that he pioneered. Zapol is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Michele Longo Eder, J.D., is an attorney in Newport, OR, whose practice emphasizes marine and fisheries law, and business law representing commercial fishing businesses and their associations. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, Eder moved to Portland, OR in 1976 to attend Lewis and Clark Law School, receiving her Juris Doctor degree in 1979. In her tenure with the Commission, Eder has focused on fishery management and marine ecosystem information needs as well as on Arctic human health matters. She serves as a member of the Groundfish Allocation Committee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the North Pacific Research Board, and the Public Policy Committee of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership.

Charles Vörösmarty, Ph.D., recently joined the City University of New York as NOAA-CREST Distinguished Scientist, Director of the CUNY Global Environmental Sensing and Water Sciences Initiative, and as full Professor in Civil Engineering Department. Previously, Vörösmarty served as a professor at the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space at the University of New Hampshire, and the Director of the Water Systems Analysis Group. On the Commission, Vörösmarty heads a team of scientists examining the application of scaling processes applicable to research throughout the Arctic. They are creating a report, to be published in 2009, for use by federal agencies, the state of Alaska, and others, concerns scaling as an integrative research need that can be used to improve science and thus support for policy and public information on the Arctic.

The U.S. Arctic Research Commission was established by the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984. Its principal duties are to develop and recommend an integrated national Arctic research policy and assist in establishing a national Arctic research program plan to implement the policy. Commissioners also facilitate cooperation between the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other nations with respect to Arctic research, both basic and applied.

The Commission publishes a biennial Report on Goals and Objectives for Arctic Research. The upcoming report will be delivered to the President and Congress in January 2009.