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**JAMES DELGADO, HOST OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S "THE SEA HUNTERS,"
JOINS THE INSTITUTE OF NAUTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, July 20, 2006: Maritime archaeologist Dr. James Delgado, known to over 200 million viewers worldwide as host of the popular National Geographic International television series "The Sea Hunters," has joined INA as its Executive Director. It is ideal for both INA and Dr. Delgado, whose three-decade long career has included work on some of the world's most famous shipwrecks.

"I'm thrilled and ecstatic that we have him," says Dr. George F. Bass, one of INA's founders. Dr. Bass, whose Mediterranean shipwreck work in the 1960s earned him the title of the "Father of Underwater Archaeology," has retired after a long and distinguished career with INA but remains head of the INA Foundation. Working closely with President Dr. Donny L. Hamilton and the INA board, Dr. Delgado is responsible for building INA's public profile, seeking new partnerships and projects, building membership and raising funds. "Delgado is perfect for us," says Dr. Bass. "We are a world leader in the field of underwater archaeology and we want to stay at the top. There are so many possibilities for growth."

"He's going to be a welcomed addition to INA," says Dr. Hamilton. "Jim has very ambitious goals and personally, I think the two of us are going to make a good team in forging ahead with INA's future!" As INA approaches its thirty-fifth anniversary, new initiatives are being developed. "The Board is looking forward to working with Jim to set new directions while building on INA's years of success," says Chairman Peter M. Way. "Jim has a proven record as a successful leader and as an archaeologist. His experience in sharing history and archaeology with the public through his writing and television appearances will also be welcomed at INA."

Dr. Delgado will continue to live in Vancouver but travel extensively for his new position. Looking ahead he remarks, "I've always said uncovering history doesn't mean anything unless you can share it with others, and now I have an opportunity to bring the incredible stories of the great museum of the sea to a new audience, sharing the work with my esteemed colleagues at INA." Dr. Delgado describes his new position as "a life long dream come true and an opportunity I could not turn down."

Founded in 1973, the Institute of Nautical Archaeology is the world's leading scientific and educational organization dedicated to understanding humanity's history of interaction with the sea, which it accomplishes through the science of nautical archaeology. A not-for-profit organization, it is headquartered at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas and at Bodrum, Turkey. INA is dedicated to meticulous fieldwork

in the survey, excavation and analysis of shipwrecks. INA's work with shipwrecks has filled in the gaps of history, especially in the ancient world, having excavated the world's oldest shipwreck and with its work on a 3,500-year-old Bronze Age wreck at Ulu Burun, Turkey. That wreck has been described as one of the top ten archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century.

"Delgado has everything we need," says Bass. "He is the best public speaker I've ever heard. He has written scholarly and popular books, has administered a major maritime museum, and has extensive field experience as well as great contacts around the world."

During Dr. Delgado's career, he has achieved widespread recognition as a passionate, dedicated and pragmatic underwater archaeologist. His impressive list of projects include diving to RMS *Titanic*, the discovery of RMS *Carpathia*, the ship that rescued *Titanic's* survivors, and the infamous "ghost ship" *Mary Celeste*. His field projects have also included dives on USS *Arizona*, USS *Somers* (the ship that inspired Melville's famous *Billy Budd*), a flooded Nazi concentration camp in the heart of Germany, a Russian ironclad in the Baltic, Kublai Khan's fleet from the 1281 invasion of Japan, and wrecks lost during the D-Day landings in France, as well as the sunken atomic-bombed fleet at Bikini Atoll.

Dr. Delgado has also put in nearly three decades of research and analysis of ships and collapsed buildings excavated along the buried waterfront of Gold Rush San Francisco, which was the subject of his PhD dissertation. The author or editor of 29 books, his *Across the Top of the World: The Quest for the Northwest Passage* and *Lost Warships: An Archaeological Tour of War at Sea* were both international bestsellers. He also edited the *British Museum Encyclopaedia of Maritime and Underwater Archaeology*, considered the standard reference for the field.

Most recently, Dr. Delgado has led an ongoing project to document the 1865-built Civil War era shipwreck *Sub Marine Explorer* in Panama. *Explorer* is the world's oldest successful deep-diving submarine yet discovered and the only Union-built submarine yet found from the Civil War. That project and others, according to Dr. Michael McCarthy of the Western Australia Maritime Museum, makes Dr. Delgado a natural for INA. "Jim is one of maritime archaeology's modern drivers and leading lights... Delgado impresses as one ideally suited to be one of INA's leaders at a time when talent, capacity and scholarship in the field needs be tempered by compassion, a global vision and a desire to assist."

As the former Executive Director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum in Vancouver, B.C., Dr. Delgado raised the museum's profile during his fifteen-year tenure by adding national treasures to its collection, and he established a major research library, developed and maintained quality public and educational programs and raised several millions through his fundraising efforts. Before his time with the Museum, Dr. Delgado was the founding head of the U.S. Government's maritime preservation program, serving in Washington, D.C.

Prior to his tenure in Washington, he was the first historian for the National Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco. There, he initiated the park's shipwreck research program, excavating a Gold Rush steamship, SS *Tennessee*, and studying a clipper ship whose bones were exposed by beach erosion

on the sands of Ocean Beach. The work on *Tennessee* formed the basis of his Master's Thesis at East Carolina University. It was while working at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area that Dr. Delgado learned to dive, with much of his training and early dives in the dark, muddy waters of San Francisco Bay.

Born in San Jose, California, Dr. Delgado is married and is the father of two grown children, John and Elizabeth.

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Media photos are available upon request.