

June 3, 2015

Higher Education Quality Committee
The Council on Higher Education
Pretoria, South Africa

Dear Chairperson,

Availability: Adviser/referee in respect to accreditation application

I am aware of the *South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation's* application before the Council, and by which the candidate institution invites accreditation of a postgraduate diploma programme in technical conservation studies.

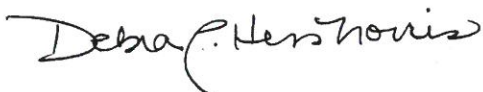
Earlier this year, I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a 3-day workshop on *Conservation Training in South Africa* convened by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, and hosted at the latter's campus in Pretoria. Here I was introduced to the education and training offered by the South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation and to many fully committed and skilled conservation, curatorial, and academic colleagues across South Africa and beyond.

It became clear from the proceedings that the need exists in South Africa – and indeed across Sub Saharan Africa - for formally accredited conservation training programmes. I hope the efforts of the Institute to attain this status are successful and that they continue to work closely with other allied organization and cultural institutions in the years ahead.

As chair of the University of Delaware Art Conservation Department I would be willing to assist where needed in evaluating this program of study or serving in other advisory roles. Our department includes a doctorate in Preservation Studies, a Master's-level program in Art Conservation jointly sponsored with Winterthur Museum and in existence since 1974, and a Bachelor of Science degree program designed to prepare students for graduate studies in art conservation or collections care. See artcons@udel.edu for more details on our program and faculty biographies.

I wish the *South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation's* every success with its accreditation application. Our department is willing and prepared to help and advise to the extent possible.

With very best regards,



Debra Hess Norris
Chair and Professor
Unidel- Henry Francis DuPont Chair of Fine Arts
Director, Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation