

The Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage

المعهد العراقي لصيانة الاثار والتراث
پهیمانگای عیراقی بۆ پاراستنی شوینهوار و کلهپور



Iraqi Institute students learning methods for safely lifting damaged stone sculptures for conservation.

The heritage of ancient Mesopotamia, the “cradle of Western civilization,” is vitally important to the people of Iraq. Iconic sites throughout the country, including the famed temples of Babylon, the ziggurat at Ur, and the palace at Nimrud, capital of the Assyrian empire, chronicle early human history and the roots of western civilizations. Religious and secular structures such as the spiral minaret at Samarra, the Yazidi temple at Lalesh, the Erbil citadel, the ancient

city of Babylon, 19th-century Ottoman homes, and historic souks document the complex web of faiths, empires and trade that have shaped Iraq.

In recent times, this history has suffered greatly. On April 11, 2015, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) released a video of the ancient city of Nimrud erupting in a colossal cloud of dust. After attacking ancient sculptures with sledgehammers and power tools, the terrorist group detonated the 3,000-year-

old Assyrian ruins that stood just outside ISIS-occupied Mosul. The demolition came amidst a wave of ISIS vandalism against ancient sites in northern Iraq.

Even before the ISIS campaign to destroy cultural heritage, historical sites suffered from decades of neglect, violence, and instability that have further compromised conservation efforts. In one of the most notorious examples, looters took thousands of objects from the Iraq National Museum in the early days of the

U.S. invasion of Baghdad in 2003.

These besieged Iraqi sites and artifacts represent world heritage, but they also hold inestimable value for local communities. Cultural heritage is an important economic driver, and these sites are vital to local economies. Heritage sites beautify cities, spur infrastructure development, attract visitors, create jobs, and raise incomes for communities. A shared cultural heritage and the commitment to preserve it can also serve as a powerful unifying force for disparate groups. A blow to heritage can shake an entire

community's sense of identity and cohesion as well as destroy livelihoods.

Iraqis are committed to preserving this amazing heritage; losses from looting of the National Museum and ISIS destruction would have been far worse had Iraqis not, at great personal risk, removed and hidden many valuable artifacts. Iraq remains an extraordinarily rich cultural and historic repository with important museums, historic structures and thousands of undiscovered and unexplored sites. Since 2008, they have partnered with the University of

Delaware, the Smithsonian Institution, and other organizations to create the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage (IICAH). The Iraqi Institute seeks to address these problems by educating Iraqis in conservation and preservation, and by inviting professionals from around the world to share their expertise in courses taught at the Institute (Figure 1).

IICAH's mission is to help rebuild Iraq's cultural heritage sector by providing Iraq's museum and heritage professionals with in-country training in the preservation and conservation



Figure 1: A relief at the site of Nimrud damaged and abandoned by ISIS.

of their cultural heritage. Students are drawn from the active ranks of the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH), the General Directorate of Antiquities under the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), provincial antiquities departments, and university faculty and staff. IICAH students are already working in positions where they can apply their newly acquired training and access to international networks.

The Institute, located in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, is a well-equipped modern educational facility offering programs reflecting international standards (Figure 2). Courses are taught by international experts and Iraqi teaching assistants using local resources and materials. IICAH participants include men and women from across Iraq: Arabs and Kurds, Sunni and Shia, Christians, Muslims,

and other faiths, all drawn together by a shared passion for the preservation of one of the world's oldest civilizations.

At the Institute, participants spend up to six months learning the foundations of cultural heritage protection. The teachers provide a range of instruction to help students develop the tools they need to manage and preserve Iraq's heritage. Many participants have used their new skills to advance their careers, and Institute alumni now support research expeditions in the region led by archaeologists from such institutions as the University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins University, and Harvard University. As Jessica S. Johnson, Head of Conservation at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) and a program facilitator at the Institute, describes it: "We're working to give Iraqis the building blocks they

need to continue to advance their own knowledge and rebuild their country."

Professional Training

Preserving heritage is a complex job that requires a varied toolbox that can be applied to a wide variety of materials, so students receive instruction relevant to historic and archaeological objects, historic architecture, and archaeological sites. During an introductory course entitled "Fundamentals of Heritage Conservation," participants learn everything from international standards for conservation and basic material science, to preventive conservation, and photographic documentation techniques. The courses prepare participants to identify, document, and stabilize vulnerable heritage—the essential skills to conserve sites for future generations. Subsequent courses deal with more



Figure 2. The Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage (IICAH).

specialized topics such as conservation of archaeological ceramics, advanced GPS training for documenting archaeological sites, and stabilization techniques for historic structures.

The ultimate goal is to support a

professional conservation network within Iraq. Iraqi conservators are the local experts on their own past, and by offering the latest tools, the IICAH programs enhance their ability to react to crises.

The instructors work to provide

locally relevant solutions in their classes. “We actually train with the Iraqis on site with the equipment they’re going to be using,” says Jessica S. Johnson. By collaborating directly with the people who will ensure the preservation of Iraq’s heritage, and by visiting local sites to understand the challenges facing conservation, the instructors are able to identify the tools their students need most (Figure 3).

Some participants have used skills from IICAH programs to advance their careers. Nihayet, who works at a local museum in Erbil, became a Master Trainer (teaching assistant) at the Institute in 2010, supporting the instructors and sometimes running courses on her own (Figure 4). Now, she’s using her experience to train conservators at her museum and has set up a conservation department to serve the entire Erbil province. “My experiences at the Institute help me to teach others how to keep the artifacts safe in the museum and to advise Iraqi archaeologists on the safest way to lift fragile artifacts they find during excavations.”

The dedication of the participants is impressive. Everyone who attends a program at the Institute sacrifices to be there—traveling to an unfamiliar environment or spending time away from work and family. As entry and mid-career professionals, many students have a spouse and children, and must arrange support for their families while they are away from their jobs. Since participants come from every part of Iraq, many must travel hundreds of miles from their homes to Erbil, even through risky situations.

The participants insist on making the most of every minute. When ISIS came within half an hour of Erbil in 2014, Dr. Katharyn Hanson (International



Figure 3. IICAH students visit the 12th century Choli Minaret in Erbil.

Cultural Heritage Researcher, MCI) tried to cancel her class so participants could call their families, but they insisted on staying. “It was like a little mutiny in the classroom—you told us we’d learn about GPS units, we want to learn about GPS units,” Katharyn recalls. “That sums up the whole level of dedication—with ISIS only 30 minutes away, they wanted me to teach (Figure 5).”

Now that Iraqi forces have pushed ISIS out of Mosul and many important heritage sites, planning and training for the rescue of these sites has begun. In April 2017 the Smithsonian inaugurated the Nimrud Rescue Project with funding from the U.S. State Department and private donors to document and stabilize the recently freed ancient city. A storage building and support facilities have been constructed, and a cadre of Iraqis, trained at IICAH with the support of the Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture and Design, has begun the long task of systematically mapping the damage, identifying, gathering, and cataloguing the fragments, all of which are necessary for the site’s long-term planning and preservation (Figure 6). By recovering and preserving heritage, Iraqis are not just stemming a tide of destruction—they are working toward a better future.

History

The IICAH is the result of a remarkable Iraqi-American partnership resulting from a collaboration between several Iraqi and U.S. governmental and academic institutions that began in 2008. Since then, the IICAH has hosted numerous Iraqi- and internationally-sponsored courses, meetings, and related activities that support the IICAH mission to help rebuild Iraq’s cultural heritage sector. Hundreds of Iraqi heritage professionals have benefited from these

programs. The Institute, a modern educational facility, is in the heart of Erbil, the largest city in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and home to the ancient 8,000-year-old Erbil citadel, one of Iraq’s five World Heritage Sites (Figure 7).

The degradation of Iraq’s cultural

heritage sector took place over several decades of war and neglect. Prior to 1980, Iraq boasted a robust and internationally recognized cultural heritage sector staffed by career professionals with advanced degrees and decades of experience in museum



Figure 4. Nihayet discusses way to accurately label artifacts in museums to IICAH students.



Figure 5. Katharyn Hanson teaching documentation skills for archaeological site conservation.



Figure 6. A member of the Nimrud Rescue Team practices lifting techniques that are used on-site for recovery of ancient sculptures.

management and archaeology. This sector was decimated by the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, the 1991 and 2003 Gulf Wars, decades of disinterest in cultural heritage on the part of a repressive government, and the isolation and sanctions of the 1990s. What remained was a shrinking staff lacking basic skills to manage,

interpret, and preserve the damaged, looted, and deteriorating sites and collections. More recently, Iraq's heritage sector has been challenged by extremist terrorist action, such as the intentional and rampant destruction of cultural heritage by ISIS.

Seeking a solution to Iraq's heritage preservation needs, the U.S. Embassy

in Baghdad awarded a two-year Targeted Development Program grant to fund the Iraq Cultural Heritage Project (IChP) in 2008. The IChP sought to enhance Iraq's professional cultural heritage sector by working towards three goals, principal among them was the creation of a cultural heritage educational program for Iraqi heritage professionals. Designed in consultation with the Iraqi SBAH and leading American conservation and preservation educators, the program created the IICAH to deliver critically needed preservation education. The creation of the IICAH met the goal of providing in-country courses offering programs to international standards, taught by international experts using local resources and materials.

In consultation with the SBAH, this center was founded in Erbil, to ensure ready access to both Iraqis and foreign experts. The KRG has been extremely supportive of this initiative. The governor of Erbil provided a large residential teaching facility in downtown Erbil located immediately below the historic citadel, and the KRG contributed funds to renovate and furnish the building, which now boasts modern classrooms, laboratories, and dormitory space. Brian Michael Lione, International Cultural Heritage Protection Program Manager for the Smithsonian's MCI, was the first director of the IICAH in 2009-2010. He recalls the dedication of the Iraqi partners in making the Institute a reality: "The IChP intended only to provide short-term conservation training during the two-year grant; with the donation of the facility to the project, it was obvious that the Iraqis valued the program, and were committed to sustaining it for the long-term."

The IICAH's core educational program in museum collections

conservation was launched in October 2009 under the guidance of three expert partner institutions heavily engaged in conservation education: the University of Delaware, Department of Art Conservation; the Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library; and the Walters Art Museum. The course, consisting of three 8-week modules followed by weeklong practicums, was offered to current Iraqi government employees working in cultural heritage. A second program in historic preservation was introduced in 2010 and refreshed in 2012 as the 'Architectural Site Conservation' course. A course in archaeological site preservation was added in 2013. These programs established the basic course organization with class instruction

modules in Erbil alternating with practicums in home institutions.

A program for Master Trainers was established in 2010, to provide advanced students with the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants and further their education with the goal of assuming increasing amounts of the teaching responsibilities. One of these master trainers was awarded a Leon Levy Visiting Fellowship to study at New York University's Art Conservation Program in 2012.

The University of Delaware served as the lead partner through 2014, using funds from a variety of sources (U.S. Embassy, Baghdad; Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State; Andrew W. Mellon Foundation;

the Getty Foundation, Bank of America, and the KRG) to continue the project. Jessica S. Johnson served as Academic Director, working with the current IICAH Director, Dr. Abdullah Korsheed, and the IICAH Board of Directors and Advisory Council. Together they implemented and developed the curriculum and associated collaborations to support training, outreach, and education to fulfill the Institute's mission.

The year 2014 brought many changes to the IICAH. In January, Brian Michael Lione, the inaugural director of the IICAH in 2009-2010, was named Executive Director to better support the administrative needs of the IICAH in addition to academic programming. ISIS continued to move



Figure 7. The ancient Citadel of Erbil, a World Heritage Site.



Figure 8. Students practice disaster recovery methodologies in the back yard of the IICAH.

through the country, and the IICAH and others anxiously tracked their progress. In August 2014, IICAH was forced to evacuate students and staff and temporarily close as ISIS threatened Erbil.

Also, in 2014, Academic Director Jessica S. Johnson accepted a new position as Head of Conservation of the Smithsonian's MCI with the

understanding that she would remain heavily involved with IICAH. In 2015, the IICAH worked to reconnect with its U.S. partners while establishing new opportunities for collaboration. In direct response to the ISIS threat to cultural heritage, the IICAH hosted an "Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response" course in May and August. This course brought

together experts from the University of Pennsylvania and Smithsonian with funding from the Prince Claus Fund and the JM Kaplan Foundation. The effort provided needed training to twelve Iraqi heritage specialists; it was also notable as the first time the IICAH received and managed a grant without external assistance (Figure 8).

In 2015, as the ISIS threat decreased, long-time U.S. partners were able to again plan for comprehensive coursework at the IICAH. With the Smithsonian Institution providing primary guidance, classes began again in early 2016. Eighteen Iraqi students enrolled in the 22-week Fundamentals of Heritage Conservation course, which provides the foundational context and skills for more advanced courses in conservation of ancient and historic objects, architecture, and archaeological sites. Students were drawn from the active ranks of the SBAH, the KRG, provincial antiquities departments, and university faculty and staff. The course organizers continued to employ the proven model of teaching those already working in positions where they can apply their newly acquired training and access to international networks (Figure 9).

Throughout its history, IICAH has provided a rich assortment of introductory and advanced courses and opportunities in addition to the longer foundation courses. Other groups, such as the International Committee on Missing Persons, the World Monuments Fund, the University of Arizona, Boston University, and the Superior Institute for Conservation and Restoration of the Italian Ministry of Culture have used IICAH facilities for preservation-related courses and workshops. The IICAH has also hosted an international array of archaeologists engaged in field work and site analysis,

planned meetings of Governorate antiquities directors, targeted response and recovery workshops for cultural heritage, and led tours for Iraqi school and university groups.

Mohamed, a Master Trainer who works at Babylon, said that at the Institute he has learned to “do what is right, not what is easy in the nine years since I joined the IICAH family and I am so happy to be a part of it”.

Facilities

The IICAH occupies a 22,745 square foot building in central Erbil, just below the 8,000-year-old Erbil Citadel. Formerly the Erbil Central Library, it was generously made available, rent free, by the Governor of Erbil. The building was completely renovated in 2009 with funding totaling \$2.5 million provided by the Prime Minister of the KRG. The refurbished building provides classroom, laboratory, and dormitory space for IICAH. Staff from the University of Delaware, Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, the Walters Art Museum, and the National Park Service worked in partnership with the Governor’s Office to design and develop a well-equipped training institute where modern concepts in cultural and historic preservation could be taught. The KRG provides utilities and support staff (security, IT, housekeeping, etc.) and maintains the facility (Figure 10).

The Institute, located within a walled compound with a staffed security gate, now includes:

- ❖ two fully-equipped conservation laboratories
- ❖ a digital documentation laboratory
- ❖ a secure collections storage room
- ❖ two Wi-Fi equipped classrooms

- ❖ a library stocked with books (in English, Arabic and Kurdish) and periodicals donated by U.S and Iraqi individuals and institutions
- ❖ office, conference, gathering, and exhibit/event spaces
- ❖ outdoor demonstration areas (designed for showcasing traditional building techniques and performing mock archaeological excavations)
- ❖ a cafeteria for lunch and tea breaks
- ❖ full accommodations for up to 28 students (equal facilities on separate floors for 14 men and 14 women, including 2 kitchens, 2 living rooms, etc.) and a small gymnasium.

Because IICAH draws students from throughout Iraq, dormitory space was incorporated into the facility to provide safe, economic housing and to provide the opportunity to develop close relationships with colleagues throughout Iraq (Figure 11).

Curriculum

The IICAH curriculum is taught by an international cadre of expert instructors, each of whom works with the students from one to four weeks as part of longer-term courses. This ensures that different subjects are taught by individuals with the highest qualifications and experience. The program also builds long-term mentoring relationships between participants and instructors to foster ongoing learning. Mentors facilitate the participation of former students in international conferences and research and provide advice and contacts to assist them in continuing their education outside the IICAH (Figure 12). Mentors are also available for consultation with former students and their colleagues after they return to their home institutions. With this level of ongoing professional support and engagement, Iraqi professionals trained at the IICAH are prepared to



Figure 9. Jessica S. Johnson and Brian Michael Lione with IICAH students visiting the local Kurdish Textile Museum.

sustain the mission and programs of the IICAH over the long term, multiplying the project's benefits through teaching and outreach.

The foundation course for all students is the Fundamentals of Heritage Conservation, which focuses on introducing international standards for the preservation of cultural heritage, photography and documentation techniques, preventive conservation concepts, and practices including risk assessment, basic material science, and an introduction to the principles of cultural heritage stabilization (Figure 13). Each of the course modules lasts 4–6 weeks

and is followed by a 1–2 week practicum that students complete in their home office. Graduates of this course or those with appropriate experience are eligible for more advanced courses dealing with collections conservation, architectural and site conservation, and archaeological site preservation, as well as specialized courses in specific materials or techniques. All courses emphasize the use of critical thinking, teamwork, and problem solving as well as communication, computer, and outreach skills.

The language of instruction is English, the international language of the preservation profession, with in-

class translation in Arabic and Kurdish as necessary. In order to ensure that IICAH graduates can access professional information in English as well as interact with their international peers and contribute as professionals to the field, the program includes intensive language instruction tailored to those needs. Student candidates are nominated by their home organization in consultation with the Director of the IICAH.

Dr. Abdullah Khorsheed Qadir, Director stated “The Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage is a place where people come together with a passion for preserving



Figure 10. IICAH students learning how to examine and document artifacts.

heritage. People from around the world come to Erbil to share their experience and knowledge with Iraqi museum and heritage professionals to preserve museum collections, heritage buildings, and ancient archaeological sites. At the Institute, experiences, practiced experts work together with colleagues from the Iraqi heritage community to educate those who care for the legacy of some of the earliest civilizations.”

Staff

IICAH participants are taught by and work with internationally recognized conservation professionals supported by Iraqi staff.

Project Directors, 2009-2019

Brian Michael Lione has been with IICAH since 2009, first as project coordinator and as the inaugural Director, then as Director of the Architectural and Site Conservation program. He was also Executive Director in 2014-2016. Since 2017, he spearheads programs in Iraq at the Smithsonian’s Museum Conservation Institute (MCI) as their International Cultural Heritage Protection Program Manager.

Jessica S. Johnson has been with IICAH since 2009, first as Project Director for Conservation, and then as Academic Director from 2011 -2014. She oversees many Iraq projects as the Principal Investigator in her role as the Director of Conservation at the Smithsonian’s MCI, where she has been since 2014.

Dr. Katharyn Hanson initiated the IICAH Archaeological Site Preservation Program in 2013, and has supported IICAH activities since that time, particularly once she was brought

on board at the Smithsonian’s MCI as a Cultural Heritage Researcher in 2017

Visiting Faculty and Assistant Faculty, 2009- 2019

NOTE: Titles and institutional affiliations date to the year(s) in which the individual was active at the IICAH.

- ❖Rima Al-Ajlouni, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, Texas Tech University (IICAH Program Director, Historic Preservation, 2009-2010)
- ❖Alaa Al-Habashi, PhD, Turath Conservation Group, Cairo, Egypt
- ❖Fatima al-Nammari, PhD, Historic Preservation Architect, Amman, Jordan
- ❖Josephine Atkinson, Manager, Conservation and Collection Management, Museum and Art Gallery, Bank Negara Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ❖Harriet “Rae” Beaubien, Emeritus

- Senior Conservation, Museum Conservation Institute, Smithsonian Institution and Conservator in Private Practice, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA
- ❖David Biggs, Structural Engineer in Private Practice, Troy, NY, USA
- ❖Suzanne Bott, PhD, Urban Planner in Private Practice, Tucson, AZ, USA
- ❖Stacy Bowe, Training Coordinator, Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative
- ❖JP Brown, PhD, Regenstein Conservator, The Field Museum, Chicago, IL, USA
- ❖Scott Carrlee, Curator for Museum Services, Alaska State Museum, Juneau, AK, USA
- ❖Vicki Cassman, PhD, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Art Conservation, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, USA
- ❖Kim Cullen Cobb, Research Associate, Museum Conservation Institute, Smithsonian Institution, and Conservator in Private Practice, Washington, DC, USA



Figure 11. Students learn how to safely handle fragile books and manuscripts in the IICAH library.



Figure 12. A visiting lecturer teaches students how to identify pottery collected during survey of an archaeological site.

- ❖Ann-Marie Deisser, PhD, Conservator in Private Practice, Liège, Belgium
- ❖Sherry Fox, PhD, Director, Wiener Laboratory, American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Greece
- Usam Ghaidan, Historic Architect in Private Practice, Leidschendam, The Netherlands
- ❖Jessica Giraud, PhD, Archaeologist, Institut français du Proche-Orient (Erbil

- Office), Erbil, Iraq
- ❖Catherine Hawks, Conservator and Educator, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA
- ❖Paul Hepworth, Paper and Textile Conservator, HB Koruma ve Onarım Tic. Ltd. Ski., Istanbul, Turkey
- ❖Paula Ion, Architect in Private Practice, Romania
- ❖Tuna Kalayci, Geospatial Expert,

- Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies, University of Arkansas, AR, USA
- ❖Petr Justa, Conservation Scientist, Director of International Projects, GEMA Art Inc., Prague; and Faculty of Restoration and Vice-Dean for Science and International Affairs, University of Pardubice, Pardubice, Czech Republic
- ❖Stephen Kelley, Preservation Architect / Engineer in private practice, Chicago, IL, USA
- ❖Elizabeth Louden, PhD, Professor, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA
- ❖Molly McGath, PhD, Post doctorate Fellow, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA
- ❖Sebastian Meyer, Photojournalist, New York City, USA and Erbil, Iraq
- ❖David Michelmores, Director, Consultancy for Conservation and Development, Erbil, Iraq
- ❖Akbar Nazim Modan, Architect in Private Practice, The Hague, The Netherlands
- ❖Barbara Moore, Conservator in Private Practice, Rochester, New York, USA
- ❖Roisin Myles, Conservator in Private Practice, Ireland
- ❖Nancy Odegaard, PhD, Conservator, Arizona State Museum and Professor, Department of Anthropology and Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA
- ❖Evi Oehler, Museum Exhibit Designer, Washington, DC, USA
- Abdelhamid Salah Sayed, Conservator, Giza, Egypt
- ❖Abdulhamid Sayed, Chairman of the Egyptian Heritage Rescue Foundation (EHRF) and Manager of the Risk Assessment Unit in Disaster Risk Management Dep. Egyptian

Ministry of Antiquities

- ❖ Kent Severson, Conservator, Doris Duke's Shangri La, Honolulu, Hawaii
- ❖ Donna Strahan, Conservator, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA
- ❖ Rene Turner, Architect, Consultancy for Conservation and Development, Erbil, Iraq
- ❖ Julie Unruh, Conservator in Private Practice, Austin, Texas, USA
- ❖ Jason Ur, PhD, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
- ❖ Anna Wachtmeister, Architect in Private Practice, and Urban Programme Manager, Cortaid, The Hague, The Netherlands
- ❖ Robert Waller, Protect Heritage Corporation, Ottawa, Canada
- ❖ Terry Drayman-Weisser, Director of Conservation and Technical Research, Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD, USA
- ❖ Corine Wegener, Cultural Heritage Preservation Officer, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA

Governance

Board

To ensure a sustainable future for the IICAH, the SBAH and the Governor of Erbil signed a Memorandum of Agreement in 2011. This agreement established a five-member management Board—three members appointed by the SBAH, and two by the Erbil Governor. Dr. Abdullah Korseheed was named Chair of the Board, and he continues to serve in that position.

Board Members

- ❖ Dr. Omar Abdul-Razzaq, Director of Antiquities, Salahaddin Province, State Board of Antiquities and

Heritage (SBAH)

- ❖ Dr. Ali Alhyali Ghanim, Head of Training, SBAH, Baghdad
- ❖ Dr. Abdullah Khorsheed, Chair, Director, IICAH; Professor, Salahaddin University, Erbil
- ❖ Dr. Numan J. Ibrahim, Professor, Salahaddin University, Erbil
- ❖ Engineer Ayad Tariq Hussein, Director of Antiquities, Kirkuk Province, SBAH

Advisory Council

An advisory council of Iraqi and American experts was created in 2012 to advise the Board on academic programs and assist with fund raising. As conditions allow, the Advisory Council meets annually with the Board to assess current programs and plan for the future. The functions of the Advisory Council, as outlined in the by-laws, are to:

- ❖ Support the mission and vision of IICAH.

- ❖ Establish curriculum goals for programs at IICAH.
- ❖ Ensure that IICAH programs meet Iraqi needs and international professional standards.
- ❖ Promote and support the work of IICAH to increase public awareness and involvement inside and outside Iraq.
- ❖ Raise funds through Iraqi and international sources to support IICAH programs.
- ❖ Work with the Board of Directors of IICAH to help fulfill the mission of IICAH.

Current Advisory Council Members (2019)

- ❖ Debra Hess Norris, Henry Francis DuPont Chair of Fine Arts; Chair and Professor, Art Conservation Department; Director, Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation
- ❖ Jessica S. Johnson, Head of Conservation, Museum Conservation



Figure 13. Fundamentals in Heritage Conservation students practice using a light meter to understand how museum artifacts can be damaged by light.

Institute, Smithsonian Institution

❖Dr. Ayad Khadum Dawood, Director
World Heritage Department, SBAH

❖Dr. Nancy Odegaard, Conservator,
Head of Preservation Division, Arizona
State Museum; Professor, Materials
Science & Engineering, Professor, School
of Anthropology, University of Arizona

❖Lois Olcott Price, Chair, past Director
of Conservation, Winterthur Museum
(retired), Allied Assistant Professor of Art
Conservation, University of Delaware

❖Dr. Qaes Rasheed, Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Culture and Director, State
Board of Antiquities and Heritage

❖Vian Rasheed, Expert Civil Engineer,
Governorate of Erbil

❖Dr. C. Brian Rose, James B. Pritchard
Professor of Archaeology, University of
Pennsylvania; Curator-in-Charge of the
Mediterranean Section, Penn Museum
of Archaeology and Anthropology

❖Dr. John Russell, Secretary,
Professor, History of Art Department,
Massachusetts College of Art and Design

❖Gouhar Shemdin, Vice-Chair,
Heritage Advisor to the KRG Ministry
of Municipalities, Tourism & Heritage
(retired)

❖Jihan Rasheed Sindi, Advisor,
Presidency of Council of Ministers,
KRG

❖Dr. Jason Ur, Professor of
Anthropology, Harvard University

❖Terry Drayman-Weisser, past
Director of Conservation and Technical
Research, Walters Art Museum (retired)

❖Timothy Whalen, Director, Getty
Conservation Institute

Funding

Funding History

After U.S. funding for the initial project ended in 2010, Iraqi and American cultural heritage professionals made a strong case for continuing

American involvement and funding for IICAH programs. The University of Delaware agreed to administer the program. Generous grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Getty Foundation to match funding provided by the U.S. Embassy, Baghdad, provided funding through 2013. In 2012 the Governor's office in Erbil began funding the Architecture and Site Conservation course, while the Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau, U.S. Department of State, funded two Archaeological Site Preservation courses.

The KRG and the SBAH have made significant in-kind contributions of facilities, facilities maintenance, and operational staff, including 24-hour security. The Board of Directors has set user fees for all groups using IICAH facilities to conduct heritage related programs and educational activities.

By 2013, joint plans for shifting more funding responsibility for IICAH to the KRG were underway, but the sudden massive influx of refugees from Syria in 2013, and internally-displaced persons from across Iraq in 2014 diverted all discretionary funding to prevent a humanitarian crisis. For security reasons, classes were cancelled temporarily in August 2014. In order to meet immediate needs, short courses in disaster planning and recovery were offered in 2015, funded by the JM Kaplan Foundation (through the University of Pennsylvania Cultural Heritage Center) and the Prince Claus Fund. Regular classes resumed in early 2016 under the direction of the Smithsonian with funding from the Department of State.

While the University of Delaware continues to administer part of the program, responsibility for academic program management passed to the Smithsonian's MCI in 2016.

The Smithsonian established the Smithsonian Fund for the Iraqi Institute in 2016 to administer donations from private individuals and foundations in support of the Institute: <https://global.si.edu/projects/smithsonian-and-iraqi-institute-conservation-antiquities-and-heritage>

Donors—Academic Programs 2009-2015

US Embassy, Baghdad
The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
Getty Foundation
Bureau of Educational and Cultural
Affairs, U.S. Department of State
Governorate of Erbil
JM Kaplan Foundation
Prince Claus Fund

Donors—Student Scholarships

Leon Levy Foundation
Linda Noe Laine Foundation “To honor
the memory of her parents, Governor
and Mrs. Anna Gray Noe of Monroe,
Louisiana”
Gouhar Hazim Shemdin
Mrs. Babe Stofer
Tru Vue Inc.
Walters Art Museum, Elisabeth Packard
Education Fund

Special Projects

Bank of America
Brennan Foundation
Hollings Center for International
Dialogue
National Endowment for the Humanities
United States National Committee of the
International Council on Monuments
and Sites (US/ICOMOS)

In-Kind Contributors

American Institute for Conservation of
Artistic and Historic Works
Harvard University
International Institute for Conservation
The National Trust for Historic
Preservation (US)
Walters Art Museum
Winterthur Museum and Gardens
University of Arizona
University of Delaware
University of Pennsylvania

HELP THE IICAH

The Smithsonian Institution and the University of Delaware continue to provide training and support for cultural heritage preservation projects in Iraq. As ISIS is pushed out of the country, the damage and loss to cultural heritage is becoming more apparent. Iraq needs help to document, salvage, and recover that heritage. The community of people who support and work with the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage are in a unique position to bring international expertise to a strong community of Iraqi practitioners responsible for Iraq's cultural heritage.

We want you to be a part of that community. To make donations to the Smithsonian Fund for the Iraqi Institute to support this work, contact Jessica S. Johnson, Head of Conservation, Museum Conservation Institute, Smithsonian Institution, 301-238-1218 or johnsonjs@si.edu. For more information, see: <http://si.edu/mci/english/research/conservation/IraqiCulturalHeritage.html>

You can follow the Iraqi Institute on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/IraqiInst>

To contact Dr. Abdullah Khorsheed, Director of the Iraqi Institute, abdullahkhorsheed69@gmail.com.



Iraqi Institute visiting lecturer and students discuss using maps for documenting archaeological sites.



Iraqi Institute students visit Diween Citadel near Erbil in April 2019. The ruins are from the Soran Emirate, dating sometime before 1600 AD.

Some of the important posts in the cultural heritage sector held by IICAH graduates include:

- ❖ Director of the Mosul Museum
- ❖ Director of Training for Archaeologists at the SBAH
- ❖ Head of Heritage Building Section, Nineveh Province, SBAH
- ❖ Head of the Iraqi Museum conservation laboratory
- ❖ Director of the Conservation Laboratory at the Mosul Museum
- ❖ Director of the Conservation Laboratory at the Erbil Civilizations Museum
- ❖ Director of the Raparin Subdistrict Office of Antiquities (KRG)
- ❖ Conservators at the museums at Baghdad, Babylon, Erbil, Koya, and Suleymania
- ❖ Immediate Past Director of the Syriac Heritage Museum in Erbil

The Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage

المعهد العراقي لصيانة الآثار والتراث
 پهيمانگای عیراقی بۆ پاراستنی شوینهوار و کلهپور