



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

May 29, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to verify that Dr. Paul J. Hearty, a faculty member at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, has the university's full support as he and several colleagues undertake a research expedition to the Republic of South Africa, June 3 to 30, 2012.

Dr. Hearty is a principal investigator on a grant, funded by the National Science Foundation, to build a comprehensive model of past climate change. In addition to Dr. Hearty, the research team for the expedition includes Prof. Maureen Raymo (Columbia University, Chief Scientist), Dr. Alessio Rovere (Columbia University), and Dr. Michael O'Leary (Curtin University, Perth Australia).

The primary objective of the expedition is to locate, map, measure, and sample ancient shorelines formed during a period known as the mid to late Pliocene climatic optimum, about 3.5 to 2.9 million years ago. The team's research will take them along the western and southern coastlines of the Republic of South Africa.

Dr. Hearty and his colleagues are collaborating with the RSA Council for Geoscience (Drs. Dave Roberts and Luc Chevalier) centered in Cape Town, as well as the Iziko Museum (Dr. Romala Govender) where fossil specimens will be examined, photographed, and possibly loaned. Their research equipment will include an Omnistar differential GPS, computers, GPS, and other field gear that will be returned to their home universities after the project is completed.

The research activities of Dr. Hearty and his research team are fully endorsed and supported by the University of North Carolina Wilmington. UNCW greatly appreciates any and all assistance that can be made available to Dr. Hearty and the research team as they undertake this promising expedition in the Republic of South Africa in collaboration with the RSA Council for Geoscience.

Sincerely,

David Cordle, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN