Historic Famagusta:
Art and Architecture in Cyprus’ Forgotten City

Presentation by visiting Global Virtual Faculty Member,
Michael Walsh, Associate Professor of Art History, Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus

The historic walled city of Famagusta, located just inside the borders of the internationally unrecognized Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, is a priceless cultural resource in the Eastern Mediterranean. Here, forgotten, lies the enormously wealthy artistic and architectural legacy of Byzantine, Lusignan, Genoan, Venetian, Ottoman, British and Cypriot rule. In its one thousand year history, Famagusta has been the meeting point of East and West, Christian and Muslim, Greek and Turkish, and today lies on the border / fault line between the Europe Union and Asia. A matter of a few kilometers from the UN Green Line which divides the island of Cyprus militarily, and now doomed by its isolation in an unrecognized state, the art and architecture of Famagusta faces an inappropriately bleak future, to follow its rich though turbulent past.

This presentation examines the historical and cultural legacy of Famagusta and places it within a modern understanding of the nationalism and internationalism which still determines its fate. It also looks at the efforts made to re-engage the international community and reports on some early successes in this process of heritage welfare management. It asks too, how UNESCO might return to the city even in the event of political failure in the on-going re-unification talks between North and South.

Even Dante could hardly have appreciated how fully his prophecy was to be realized when he wrote of a destiny characterized by "Wailings and groans in Famagosta's streets."

Date: Wednesday, November 17, 2010
Time: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Orangerie, Library, College at Florham

For more information contact:
Diana Cvitan, dcvitan@fdu.edu or 201-692-7161

Sponsored by: FDU’s Office of Global Learning and Becton College's Department of Social Sciences and History