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# 2011-2012 Annual Luncheon & Ybor City Tour

Posted April 6, 2012 at 1:34 pm by [Alexis Searfoss](#)

In April 2012, Dr. Gary Mormino, former Frank E. Duckwell Professor of History at USFSP, spoke about St. Petersburg during WWII and the lasting impression the war would leave on the area. The following day, Dr. Mormino guided a group of Town and Gown members and guests through Historic Ybor City. From USFSP guests traveled to Arco Iris Cafe, the Ybor City Museum, the Italian Club, El Centro Espanol de Tampa, V.M. Ybor Cigar Factory, Jose Marti Park, Centro Asturiano de Tampa and enjoyed lunch at the Columbia Restaurant.

Gary Mormino, Ph.D. is a prolific writer, author of a wide range of academic and popular books. *Immigrants on the Hill* (University of Illinois press, 1986) won the Howard Marraro Prize as the outstanding book in Italian history. *The Immigrant World of Ybor City* (University of Illinois Press, 1987) received the Theodore Saloutos Prize for the outstanding book in ethnic-immigration history. In addition, two of his articles have received prizes for the best writing in Florida history. He has written for the St. Petersburg Times, Orlando Sentinel, and Miami Herald. He currently writes a bi-weekly column on state and local history for the Tampa Tribune.

Almost two decades ago, Mormino began to research a social history of modern Florida. *Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida* was published in the spring of 2005 by the University Press of Florida. Readers have called it a seminal study in state history. Michael Gannon, Distinguished History Professor at the University of Florida, writes that *Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams* “will be the book by which all future studies of modern Florida will be measured.” In 2006, the Florida Historical Society awarded the book the Charlton Tebeau Prize.

Dr. Mormino received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina and has taught at USF since 1977. In 2003 the Florida Humanities Council named him its first Humanist of the Year.

























