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USF St. Petersburg presents “A Tale of Two Cities: Tampa and St. Petersburg,” June 2

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (May 10, 2002) – “A Tale of Two Cities: Tampa and St. Petersburg” will be told by University of South Florida history professors Raymond O. Arsenault and Gary Mormino at 4 p.m. June 2 at USF St. Petersburg, 140 7th Ave. S in St. Petersburg.

The program is part of the USF Libraries’ Florida Conversations lecture series that is sponsored by the Resource Center for Florida History & Politics and the Tampa Bay History Center. The event, to be held in Davis Hall 130, is free and open to the public.

Arsenault and Mormino will discuss the comparative aspects of Tampa and St. Petersburg. They will ask “What If” questions, such as “what if Ybor City had been founded in St. Petersburg?”, and “What if Tampa had the beach?”. They also will address lost opportunities for each city, as well as pivotal events and each city’s interesting characters.

Arsenault is the John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History and director of the University Honors Program at USF St. Petersburg, where he has taught since 1980. He is the author of two prize-winning books, The Wild Ass of the Ozarks: Jeff Davis and the Social Bases of Southern Politics, and St. Petersburg and the Florida Dream, 1888-1950. Arsenault also wrote the prize-winning article, “The End of the Long Hot Summer: Air-Conditioning and Southern Culture.”

Mormino is the Frank E. Duckwall Professor of Florida History at USF-Tampa, where he has taught since 1977. He authored Immigrants on the Hill: Italians in St. Louis, which won the Howard Mararro Prize in Italian history. The Immigrant World of Ybor City, published the following year, received the Immigration History Society’s book award in ethnic history. He recently completed Hillsborough County Goes to War: The Home Front, 1940-50.

For more information, contact the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at (727) 553-1094.