Panel: “America As a Work in Progress”

Lisa Bebout

Title: The Mythology of Ronald Reagan
Faculty Advisor: Dr. David Schuster
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Lisa Bebout is a double major in History and English, graduating in May 2014. She received acceptance to Phi Eta Sigma, a National Honor Society, for her performance as a first year college student. IPFW’s literary journal Confluence published a non-fiction prose story she submitted in its Spring 2014 edition.

Abstract

This paper includes an analysis of the policies of Ronald Reagan and how these policies were implemented or ignored. Ronald Reagan has gained an almost mythological status among conservative Republicans. This paper seeks to discover the factors that have contributed to this status, while also examining elements of Reagan’s presidency that conflict with this status and appear to have been left out of the popular narrative.

Bibliographical Note

In researching President Reagan's enduring popularity, several books provided the context in which Reagan's popularity emerged. Other sources provided an in-depth analysis of Reagan's economic policies, rhetoric, and cultural considerations that fostered Reagan's popularity. Primary sources, most importantly The Presidential Papers of Ronald Reagan, were crucial to an analysis of Reagan's policies and popularity.