The Power of Legends
The Impact of Legends on Our Lives and Societies

A lecture series developed in collaboration with Mt. San Jacinto College.

February 6th: Legends and Society and You: The Need for Legends in Our Lives
Larry Barkley, Professor of English at Mt. San Jacinto College
From personal anecdotes to cultural traditions, legends permeate our world. No culture exists that does not include legends. But what is a legend? Explore this complex question and discover how legends impact our daily lives.

March 6th: The Human Nature of Bigfoot
Pam Ford, Professor of Anthropology at Mt. San Jacinto College
Accounts of the legendary Bigfoot have been linked to the mythological creature called Sasquatch. How can anthropologists use scientific investigation to explain reported human encounters with this creature in western North America?

April 3rd: The Blues and its Legends: Myth, Mysticism, and Mystique
Dr. Jeremy Brown, Professor of Music at Mt. San Jacinto College
Bluesman Robert Johnson and his forerunners are a mystery to most of us, but the blues form part of the foundation of nearly every contemporary style of music. The focus of conversation about Robert Johnson is often his myth—his deal with the Devil, his early death—instead of his musical mastery. In this session, we will dispel pieces of that myth and delve into the musical riches of the blues masters.

Erik Ozolins, Professor of Anthropology at Mt. San Jacinto College
National legends are often studied to learn about the national identity of various cultures, but can they also be used to create a national identity. The epic poem, Bearslayer, was written as the Latvians were experiencing a "National Awakening". Did it help to create the identity of the Latvian people or did it simply reflect that identity?

May 8th: Mermaids and Megalodon: Why We Need to Believe the Unbelievable
Ted Blake, English Dept. Learning Center Coordinator at Mt. San Jacinto College
Legends persist in the popular media, and a rise in documentaries citing scientific evidence has created a frenzy of new, committed believers. Why are these phenomenon so captivating, and what social function do these legends fulfill?

Time: 7:00pm in the Western Science Center Theater
Cost: Free to Members, $5 for Student with I.D., $8 for Non-members