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NEWS RELEASE

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**USI lecture and panel discussion
to focus on free trade and labor
relations between Mexico and the U.S.**

A USI School of Liberal Arts Distinguished Scholar program will bring a University of Texas expert on Mexican history to USI to deliver a lecture and participate in a panel discussion on NAFTA as part of a year-long program on Mexico initiated by the Indiana Humanities Council.

Dr. Jonathan Brown will speak on "Labor and Free Trade in Mexico and Latin America: An Historical Perspective" at 7 p.m. Monday, April 24, in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center on the USI campus. Dr. Brown is the author of *Oil and Revolution in Mexico*, published by the University of California Press at Berkeley in 1993.

A panel discussion, "After NAFTA: Indiana, Mexico, and the Impact of Free Trade", will include Dr. Brown and local panelists at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 25 in Mitchell Auditorium. The panel participants already confirmed are Mr. Roy Mabrey of the Central Labor Council; Robert Griffin, president of Escalade, Inc.; Gerardo Osequera, contract engineer with Azteca Milling Company; Professor Alan Sandstrom, an anthropologist with IU-PU Fort Wayne; and Catherine Blitzer of the Indiana Humanities Council who will serve as moderator.

Both the lecture and the panel are a part of the larger Indiana Humanities Council project, "Mexico and the Twentieth Century", which seeks to encourage contacts on all levels between Mexico and the U.S. When deciding on this focus, the Indiana Humanities Council realized that most citizens in Indiana know little of the shared history and aspirations of this North American neighbor. Mexico is the fourth largest trading partner with Indiana. Programs are being organized in ten Hoosier cities including Evansville.

Local organizers for the USI events are Dr. Casey Harison, USI assistant professor of history, and Dr. Oscar Ozete, chair for the Foreign Language Department, and they would be available to answer your questions about this program. Dr. Harison can be reached at 465-7150 and Dr. Ozete at 464-1742.