

For immediate release
November 1, 2001

Michigan writer to speak at USI

University of Southern Indiana's RopeWalk Reading Series will feature author Thomas Watson at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 15, in Kleymeyer Auditorium in the Liberal Arts Center on campus.

His short story collection, *See Rock City and Other Stories*, placed as a semi-finalist in the 2001 Julia Peterkin Prize competition, and his most recent essay, "The Bug Beacon," appeared in *Peninsula: Essays and Memoirs from Michigan*, published by Michigan State University Press last year.

Watson lives near Grand Rapids, Michigan, where he teaches writing to at-risk students as well as an on-line graduate creative writing course for educators through Indiana University. He received an M.F.A. in writing from Vermont College, and his stories have appeared in numerous magazines and journals, including the *Southern Indiana Review*.

A book signing at the USI Bookstore will follow Watson's reading. Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Evansville, also is carrying his works.

The University's School of Liberal Arts sponsors the free reading series, which is made possible through the support of RopeWalk Writers Retreat, the *Southern Indiana Review*, USI Society for Arts & Humanities, Indiana Arts Commission, and USI Student Writers' Union.

Matthew Graham, USI associate professor of English, will present the next reading in the series at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 6, in Kleymeyer Auditorium.