



**BOOK-SIGNING RECEPTION  
SET FOR USI PROFESSOR**

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A book-signing reception will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 27, in Forum II at the University of Southern Indiana for Ronald C. Roat, assistant professor of journalism whose first novel, *Close Softly the Doors*, was released February 18 by Story Line Press of Brownsville, Oregon.

Roat plans for the novel, which has received favorable reviews in *Kirkus Review* and *Booklist*, to be the first in a series about Michigan-based private eye Stuart Mallory. He now is working on a Mallory sequel and a textbook on copy editing and publication design.

He will read from *Close Softly the Doors* at the reception. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and he will sign them. The USI Bookstore will provide refreshments.

Roat is a Michigan native who was a news reporter in Michigan, West Virginia, and Ohio before becoming the consumer advocate for the City of Dayton, Ohio, in 1976, a job that included handling complaints, inspecting weights and measures, licensing home contractors, and investigating white collar crimes through Ohio fraud statutes.

In 1981, he pulled up stakes and spent several months motorcycling through the West before enrolling at Oregon State University to work on a master's degree. He focused his research on the origins of the American consumer culture. In June 1983, Roat became managing editor of *The Times* in Frankfort, Indiana, and joined the USI faculty in 1986.