



April 7, 2016

Dear USC Students,

The *Los Angeles Times Festival of Books* returns to our University Park Campus this weekend, and I want to encourage you to take advantage of its many outstanding offerings. This is always a special highlight on our university's calendar, as we come together to celebrate community, creativity, and intellectual curiosity. I hope you will take some time to stroll through the campus this weekend, and attend the author readings, panel discussions, and musical performances that interest you the most.

On a related note, I would also like to share this year's summer reading list. This is a list of exceptional works that we can read together, creating a common ground for discussions in the coming academic year:

Antigone, a play by Jean Anouilh, inspired by Sophocles' masterpiece

Notes from the Cafe, by R. F. Georgy

The Wright Brothers, by David McCullough

The Death of Caesar, The Story of History's Most Famous Assassination, by Barry Strauss

These books are *not* required for your classes, but we'll have opportunities to reflect on them as a community, including two *Visions and Voices* events next year. On September 14 at 7 p.m., R. F. Georgy will discuss his work at a lecture on the second floor of Doheny Memorial Library; the following semester, on March 1 at 7:30 p.m., Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenca will present a flamenco interpretation of the text and themes of Sophocles' *Antigone*. Both of these events will be outstanding opportunities to engage the above works more deeply.

I hope to see you on campus this weekend!

Fight On!

C. L. Max Nikias
President