



April 20, 2017

Dear USC Students,

As the [Los Angeles Times Festival of Books](#) returns to our University Park Campus this weekend, I write to encourage you to take advantage of its many outstanding offerings. This is always a very special weekend at USC, as we come together in a spirit of community, creativity, and intellectual curiosity. I hope you will take some time to walk through the campus, attend author readings and panel discussions, and listen to the musical performances. The atmosphere is truly wonderful!

On a related note, I would also like to share this year's summer reading list. These books are *not* required for your classes. This is simply a list of exceptional works that we can read together, creating a common ground for discussions in the coming academic year:

Xenophon's Prince: Republic and Empire in the Cyropaedia, by Christopher Nadon

Notes from the Underground, by Fyodor Dostoyevsky

How America Lost its Secrets: Edward Snowden, the Man and the Theft, by Edward Jay Epstein

Indian Ink, a play by Tom Stoppard

We hope to see you on campus this weekend!

Fight On!

C. L. Max Nikias
President