

April 16, 2015

Dear USC Students,

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

On a related note, I would like to share this year's summer reading list. This is a list of exceptional, thought-provoking works that we can read together, creating a common ground for discussions in the coming academic year. These books are *not* required for your classes, but we'll have opportunities to reflect on them as a community:

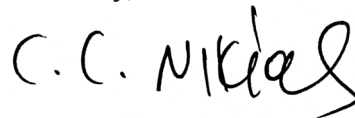
The Beginning of Infinity: Explanations That Transform the World, by David Deutsch

Conquest: Cortes, Montezuma, and the Fall of Old Mexico, by Hugh Thomas

All the Way: A Play, by Robert Schenkkan

All of these books are available in the USC bookstore. I hope to see you on campus this weekend!

Sincerely,



C. L. Max Nikias
President