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