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