



Dear Member of the Class of 2018:

Welcome to St. Bonaventure University. Orientation is the beginning of an exciting journey toward becoming extraordinary. We want you to grow and learn in all areas of life – intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual.

As your Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, my primary role is to ensure that you experience a vibrant, challenging, and vitally engaging learning environment at St. Bonaventure. With this in mind, I am placing your first academic challenge before you.

You have received a copy of *The Promise of a Pencil*, the All Bonaventure Reads book for 2014. In this book, the author, Adam Braun, describes how he created a non-profit organization that has opened over 200 schools across the globe, providing access to education for impoverished children in developing countries. Our ABR 2014 theme surrounds the last chapter of Braun's powerful story: "*Make your life a story worth telling.*"

I am asking you to do three things between now and when you begin your SBU journey:

- ❖ First, read the book. Think about it as you read, reflecting on the connections you see to your own life.
- ❖ Second, as your first official college assignment, I ask you to write a two-page reflection paper.
- ❖ **Submit it to me no later than August 15.** Email the paper to: [bonareads@sbu.edu](mailto:bonareads@sbu.edu). Please send the paper as an attachment (preferably in MS Word) and be sure to include your name and e-mail address on the paper.

A team of faculty and staff will read the papers and select a group of winning essays. Winners will have the chance to meet the author, Adam Braun, when he comes to campus in September and the winning essays will be published.

In your essay, please reflect on how one or all of the following helps you understand this book;

- ❖ What personal connections do you have to the themes in the book?
- ❖ What connections can you make to current events, life situations or how you view the world?
- ❖ How has your education shaped you so far? Why is pursuing your college education important to you?

I look forward to receiving your essay. Welcome to the exciting world of college thought!

Sincerely,

Michael Fischer, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs