



Dear Member of the Class of 2021:

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

You received a copy of the All Bonaventure Reads (ABR) book for 2017, *Nobody: Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond*. The author, Dr. Marc Lamont Hill, will visit campus to discuss this book with you in the fall. It is our hope you will be inspired when reading *Nobody* to challenge systems of inequity that remain in the world today.

I am assigning your first college essay at St. Bonaventure University. First, read the ABR book. Think about it as you read, reflecting on the connections to your own life and the world around you. Second, write a 500–750 word reflection essay. This essay is required for your SBU-101 seminar. Your topic is described below:

- ❖ Three important Franciscan values at St. Bonaventure University are discovery, community, and individual worth. These values are defined in the university's values statement as:
 - a. Discovery: We steadfastly pursue intellectual, spiritual and personal growth in a way that reflects our belief in the wonder, excitement and joy of discovery along life's good journey.
 - b. Community: We believe in an inclusive community that values diversity as a strength. We foster and celebrate practices that nurture living and learning in an atmosphere of caring, respect and mutual accountability.
 - c. Individual Worth: At the core of our identity is a strong belief in the goodness of life and the God-given worth of every individual.
- ❖ How do you see these values portrayed in *Nobody*?

Submit the paper no later than Friday, August 18, by emailing it to: bonareads@sbu.edu. Please send the paper as an attachment in MS Word and be sure to include your full name at the top of the paper. A team of faculty and staff will read the papers and select the best essays among those submitted by the Class of 2021. Winners will have their essays published and be invited to an exclusive dinner with Dr. Hill.

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

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Zimmer, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs