



June 2010

Dear First-Year Student,

Welcome to Niagara University! During college, you'll have many opportunities to explore new ideas and engage in intellectual study. Reading is integral to many of these experiences; it is also essential for lifelong learning.

Niagara Reads, the university's summer reading program for first-year students, introduces you to our intellectual community by reading and discussing a common book. This summer we would like you to read ***Escape from Slavery* by Francis Bok**. This biography, which recounts Bok's ten years as a child slave in Sudan in the late 1980s-early 1990s, is a story of courage and resilience in the face of a lost childhood. Many faculty, staff, and administrators on campus will also be reading this book.

At CARE sessions in July, all first-year students will receive a copy of *Escape from Slavery* as a **gift from Niagara University**. If you're unable to attend CARE but live nearby, you may pick up your copy in Student Affairs, O'Shea Hall, 1st floor, Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM or Fridays from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM. If you don't live nearby, you may borrow the book from a public library to read during the summer and then get your copy when you come to campus in August.

You'll be discussing *Escape from Slavery* in your "First-Year Niagara" class (NUS 102), so **be sure to finish reading it by August 30**. In the fall, your NUS 102 instructor will also ask you to write a two-page response to your book. Part (a) of each question is on your book cover so as you read the book this summer you can begin thinking about which question you might want to answer. Part (b) of each question, which will involve library research in the fall, will be described by your NUS 102 instructor in class. The questions are also at <http://www.niagara.edu/niagara-reads-response-questions/>.

In conjunction with reading this book, we are pleased to announce that author Francis Bok will be speaking to the freshman class on Tuesday, September 28 at 4:00 and again at 7:30 PM. Both talks will be in the Gallagher Center, upper level and are free and open to the public. The 7:30 pm talk will be followed by a book signing.

You are also encouraged to enter the Niagara Reads **contest**, described at <http://www.niagara.edu/care/nrcontest.htm>. We will be awarding three prizes valued at \$125 each.

The university community is excited about this opportunity to join you in reading and discussing *Escape from Slavery*. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Sharon Green

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