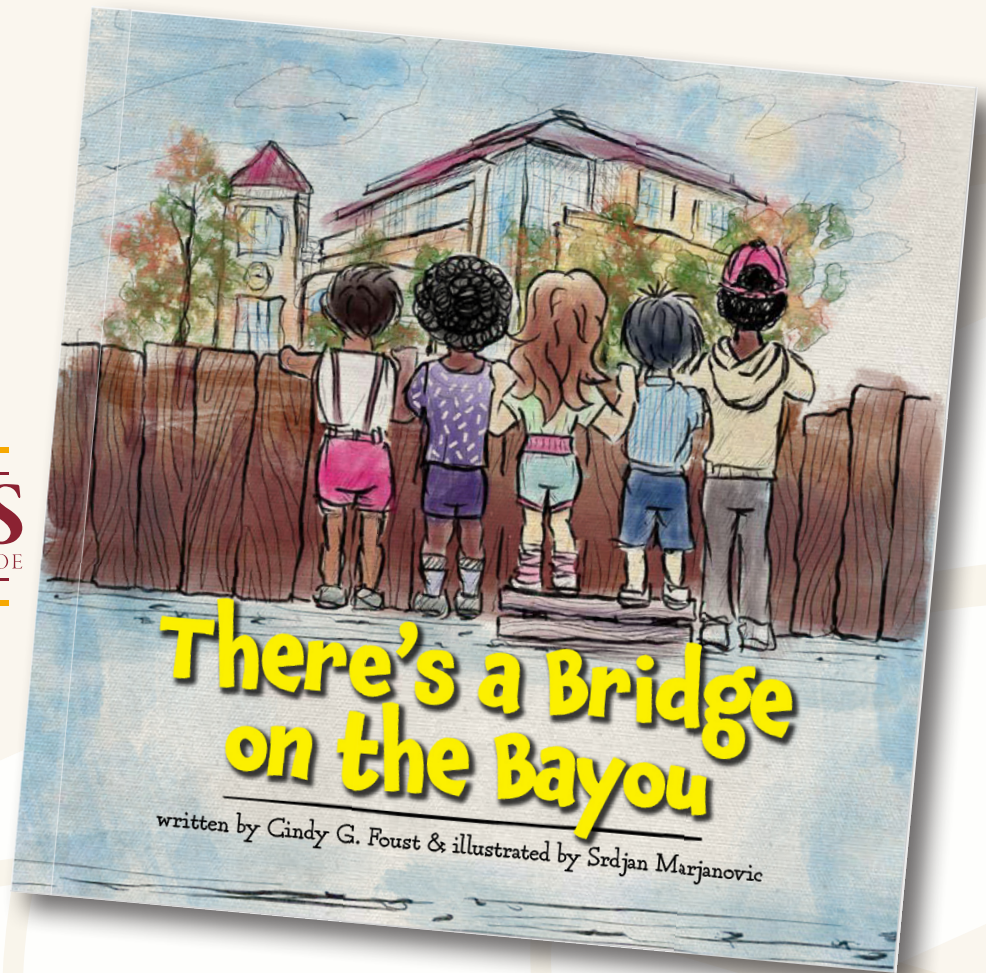




90 YEARS
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA MONROE

1931 2021

Changing Lives



“Take Flight through Reading”

During the week of its 90th anniversary and the investiture of its 9th president, the University of Louisiana Monroe (ULM) provided over \$1 million in future scholarships to area 3rd graders. Data shows that students are four times more likely to drop out of school if they cannot read proficiently by the 4th grade. Moreover, Monroe, Louisiana is one of the most impoverished regions in the country and the state ranks nearly dead-last in education nationally.

In collaboration with area schools and the United Way of Northeast Louisiana, ULM provided a book, authored and beautifully illustrated by ULM staff, to over 2,000 area 3rd graders. The book's main character is the President, Dr. Ronald Berry, who tells the story about how education and the University of Louisiana Monroe changed his life. The book is intended to inspire hope in the belief that students can do and become whatever they set their minds to, as long as they continue to dream.

Over 100 volunteers helped read the book on the university's campus and in local classrooms. Printed on the first page of the book is a “2031 Centennial Scholarship” award, amounting to \$500. Each 3rd grade student can present these inaugural books to ULM's scholarship department when they are college freshmen in 2031, which also marks ULM's 100th anniversary.