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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**\*\*TWO PHOTOS ATTACHED\*\***

### **300-Plus ‘Real Men’ Read to Male Students as MENTors**

**Baton Rouge, La. – More than 300 local “real men,”** from Mayor-President Kip Holden, sheriff’s deputies and firefighters to **Daddy-Man, LSU baseball coach Paul Mainieri** and bankers, showed up at various elementary schools today, **February 9**. Their purpose? To read to at-risk boys who need strong male role models and **MENTors**.

As part of the **East Baton Rouge Parish School System program Real Men Read**, men like **Daddy-Man (*first photo*)**, aka **Carl Mahan dressed as a “super” father for a visit to Riveroaks Elementary School**, visited the schools to model reading and provide mentorship. Daddy-Man encouraged kindergarteners to “study hard and listen to your teacher.”

**Mainieri** made quite an impression on **15 fifth-grade students, like (*second photo, left to right*) Jarried Harris and Larry Thomas, at Lanier Elementary School**. The LSU coach, whose son is a writer, said, “Reading is not punishment. Reading is fun. I believe if you believe in yourself, you can move mountains. You can do anything you want.” Just like the Real Men Read **book, “Oh, the Places You’ll Go!”** says, “Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way.”

The pilot program started in Chicago Public Schools. These same men will continue with the program as MENTors during the 2009-2010 school year, when there will be about six opportunities for one-on-one events.

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