



MAPE

Partners

Mississippi Association of Partners in Education Newsletter

January 2009

Noted Author Tyre to Address State Seminar March 30



Peg Tyre

Ever wonder why boys struggle academically in school?

Veteran investigative journalist and author Peg Tyre will address this critical issue as the keynote speaker of MAPE's State Seminar, set for March 30 at the Jackson Hilton.

For parents, teachers, administrators, guidance counselors and social workers, this is one conference you don't want to miss.

Tyre, former senior writer at Newsweek, is author of *The Trouble with Boys: A Surprising Report Card on Our Sons, Their Problems at School and What Parents and Educators Must Do*.

In her book, Tyre takes an in-depth look at the growing mismatch between boys and school. Tyre maps the full extent of boys' under-achievement and explains why it is happening and what we can do about it.

According to a report by the National Center for Health Statistics, parents of nearly one of every five boys in the United States were concerned enough about what they saw as their sons' emotional or behavioral problems that they consulted doctors or health-care professionals. In comparison, about one out of ten parents of girls reported these kinds of problems.

Some experts suggest an epidemic of ADHD and say boys need more medication. Others say that environmental pollutants found in plastics, among other things, may be eroding their attention spans and their ability to regulate their emotions.

- See Peg Tyre, p. 3



REMEMBERING A PUBLIC EDUCATION CHAMPION. From left, Jack Reed Sr. and Gov. William Winter present the Winter-Reed Partnership Award honoring the late Sen. Grey Ferris to his family members: daughter, Lylen, wife, Jann, and son, Jason. See more photos on page 2.

Ferris Honored at Winter-Reed Tribute



Grey Ferris

On Oct. 14, 2008, an enthusiastic audience of more than 300 joined MAPE to honor the late Sen. Grey Ferris, 2008 recipient of the Winter-Reed Partnership Award. The event was held at the

Vicksburg Convention Center.

"This is not just a celebration of Grey and his accomplishments, but of parents and teachers and administration," said Ferris' wife, Jann. "It is so fitting that this award has the names of William Winter and Jack Reed on it. Grey told me they were his heroes, and tonight, they're calling him a hero."

Another speaker was Sherry Fisher, who taught in Vicksburg schools for 32 years and served on Ferris' campaign when he ran for state Senate.

"I found him to be a generous, kind, gentle and loving spirit," she said. "Just

knowing him made me want to fulfill God's purpose for my life — to be a teacher."

Sen. Ferris (D-Vicksburg) served two terms in the Mississippi Senate, from 1992 to 2001, and was elected chairman of the Senate Education Committee during his second term.

He was a co-author, along with Sen. Hob Bryan (D-Amory), of the Mississippi Adequate Education Act, which changed the funding formula for public education and channeled additional resources and funding into the state's poorest areas.

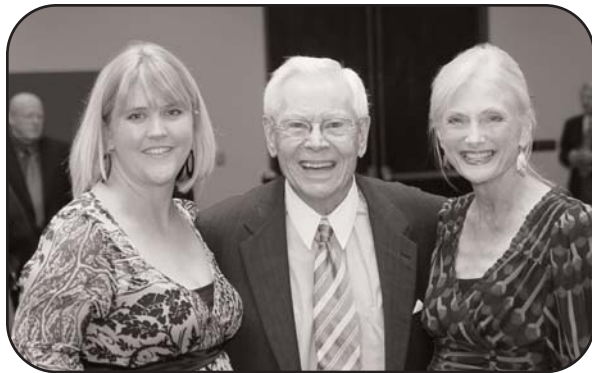
Sen. Bryan spoke at the event, as well as Sen. Ferris' brother, Bill Ferris, founding director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi and former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

His brother said Ferris never lost the simple life lessons of hard work,

- See Ferris, p. 3

Winter-Reed Tribute Dinner

Oct. 14, 2008 - Vickburg Convention Center



Lylen Ferris, Jack Reed Sr. and Jann Ferris



Jann Ferris and Gov. William F. Winter



Charlie Mitchell
Master of Ceremonies



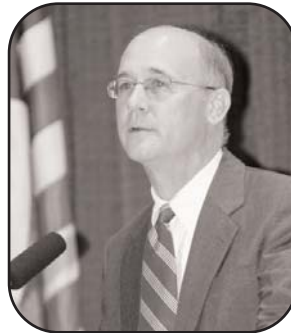
Bill Ferris
Brother of Grey Ferris



Sherry Fisher
Long-time Vicksburg educator



Mike Kansler, Entergy Nuclear
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Sen. Hob Bryan
Ferris' Senate colleague



Dr. James Price, Superintendent
Vicksburg-Warren School District



Linda Aldy (left), MAPE manager, and Cheryl Comans, MAPE president

Winter-Reed Tribute Sponsors

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With special thanks to Leah Rupp Smith and Andy Royes for video production.

Peg Tyre (cont. from p. 1)

Tyre has another suggestion. "Let's examine the way our child rearing and our schools have evolved in the past 10 years," she said. "Then we need to ask ourselves this question: 'Could some of those changes we have embraced in our families, our communities and our schools be driving our sons crazy?'"

Some researchers responded to the study by calling for more resources for mental health services for children — especially males.

But Tyre said the nation is facing a problem that requires a more fundamental change in our society than medication or weekly therapy.

"We need to ask ourselves whether we are raising and educating our boys in a way that respects their natural development," Tyre said. "And if we are not, let's figure out how we can bring our family life and our school back into line. It's a study that we ignore at our own peril."

For information about the State Seminar and online registration, please visit www.mapie.org.

Ferris (cont. from p. 1)

respect for the natural world and intellectual curiosity.

"Grey used to say, 'When you see a turtle on a fence post, you know he had help getting up there,'" Ferris said. "Most of us remember the teachers who helped us in our lives. Grey never forgot his. Grey was always surrounded by a family of teachers, past and present."

At the event, former Gov. William Winter congratulated MAPE for selecting Ferris for the honor, noting the organization had set a "high bar" for future honorees.

Quotations and portions of this article were written by reporter Megan Holland and were originally published in the Vicksburg Post.

25 Great Ways to Say 'Thank You!' to Your School Partners

Just as expressing gratitude is important in everyday relationships, showing appreciation also reinforces the reciprocal relationship that exists in a successful Partners in Education program.

The following list gives coordinators a few ideas to start the new year off right by reflecting on all that our partners do for us and finding unique and meaningful ways to express our thanks.

1. Host after-hour's reception featuring student-provided music to honor partners.
2. Recognize partners on school bulletin boards or display cases.
3. Honor with publicity in local newspaper, laminate article and send to partner.
4. Have students tape radio spots thanking partners for all that they do.
5. Present plaques recognizing partners to hang in their offices.
6. Deliver student-made thank-you cards.
7. Mail hand-written thank-you notes from teachers or coordinators.
8. Use cafeteria-baked cookies to fill gift baskets for partners.
9. Invite partners to special school luncheons or programs during the holiday season.
10. Recognize partners at Honor's Day program and have them make special presentations.
11. Have art students design window displays for businesses to highlight partnership role.
12. Ask metal trade or wood craft classes to create student-made gifts for partners.

13. Have art classes create student-made seasonal gifts for partners.
14. Enter float or walking unit in local parade with banner to honor partners.
15. Ask creative writing students to write poems to recognize partners during Valentine's Day.
16. Deliver freshly baked cinnamon rolls from cafeteria to partners for breakfast.
17. Schedule jazz band or choral groups to perform at partners' Christmas parties or at special events.
18. Loan media equipment to partners who do not have access to any.
19. Provide access to gym or auditorium for partner's use.
20. Give free tickets to sporting events and recognize partners during event.
21. Compile a scrapbook of partner activities and present to partner.
22. Present partner with a school logo T-shirt or sweat shirt to wear to special events.
23. Have cheerleaders paint partner appreciation banners to be displayed at athletic events.
24. Honor partners who are veterans during a Veterans Day or patriotic program.
25. Host end-of-the-year fish fry, hamburger cookout, or picnic to recognize partners.

This list of thank-you ideas was compiled by MAPE board member Lisa Merriman of the Grenada Public School District. Thanks, Lisa!

Nominations Due Feb. 20 for Gov. Awards

Make sure your partnership gets the recognition it deserves! The application deadline for the 2009 Governor's Awards for School-Community Partnerships is **Friday, Feb. 20**, and the awards ceremony will be held Monday, March 30, at the Jackson Hilton. The nomination form is available on MAPE's Web site at www.mapie.org.

Mississippi Association of Partners in Education

Keeping Children at the Center

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MAPE to Award Grey Ferris Scholarships

In honor of the late Grey Ferris' passionate support for education, a group of his friends established the Grey Ferris Scholarship Fund with MAPE in October 2008 and contributed seed money to launch the program.

The fund will allow MAPE to provide 10 Grey Ferris scholarships per year of \$100 each to teachers or partnership coordinators outside the metro Jackson area and \$85 for those within the metro Jackson area to attend the annual one-day MAPE State Seminar. Activities include Basic Partnership Training, the Governor's Awards for Exemplary Partnerships and other exclusive training opportunities.

The \$100 scholarship covers registration for the seminar and the luncheon plus a small travel stipend. Teachers within the metro area will receive \$85 scholarships to cover registration for the seminar and the luncheon plus a small travel stipend. If the travel portion of the scholarship is needed in order to attend the conference, the recipient should specify that in the application.

Participants from member school districts must complete an application form that includes sections to be signed by their administrators, a statement of their roles in partnership activities within their districts, and a pledge to use information gained at the conference to enhance partnership activities.

Winners of the scholarship will be asked to send a simple statement (via email) to MAPE after the State Seminar stating how they were able to use information gained at the Seminar.

Ferris Scholars will be recognized at the conference each year, and information will be given so that participants become aware of the opportunity to apply for a Ferris Scholarship. The application for the Ferris Scholarship is available at www.mapie.org, and details about the scholarship will also be included in mailed registration materials, through media publicity and in the Mississippi Department of Education's Monday Memo.

A three-member panel of MAPE members will select the winners each year.

All funds contributed to the Ferris Scholarship Fund will be held in a separate, interest-bearing account. To donate or download an application form, visit www.mapie.org.