On Thursday, February 4, the College of Education & Professional Studies took its first philanthropic steps by hosting the inaugural Board of Visitors meeting. The meeting was in conjunction with meetings of other Boards of Visitors at JSU. Dr. Meehan hosted a luncheon where he, Dr. Turner, Ms. Patty Hobbs, and Mr. Earl Warren updated and informed participates on the intent of the Board of Visitors at JSU. Following the luncheon, each college at JSU met individually with their Board of Visitors to discuss specifics of the vision for philanthropic pursuits.

Like other Boards of Visitors, the CEPS Board of Visitors is made up of alumni and friends of the college willing to devote a small amount of time and modest financial support in order to help move the CEPS forward into the 21st century.

During the CEPS breakout portion of the event, Dr. Hammett addressed the members of the Board of Visitors explaining the philanthropic vision for our college. He also explained the structure of the board with respect to committees. Initially there will be three committees: a Teacher Education Committee, Professional Studies Committee, and a Membership Committee. Dr. Hammett explained that each member of the Board of Visitors would initially serve on the Membership Committee. The goal of this committee is to increase membership to between twenty and twenty-five individuals. He also pointed out the distance a Board of Visitors member lives from JSU is not an issue. If someone cannot attend the meeting in person, conference call equipment is available.

“I look forward to working with these compassionate alumni and friends of the CEPS,” said Dr. John Hammett.
As the Spring 2005 term began at JSU, the College of Education and Professional Studies reauthorized Secondary Education as a standalone department. The newly reformed department was to be comprised of seven full-time faculty members, one graduate assistant, one secretary, and a department head. That spring, Secondary Education’s combined graduate and undergraduate credit hour production was 1,044. In the five spring terms since 2005, Secondary Education’s credit hour production has risen to a combined graduate and undergraduate total of 2,638. More impressive, though, is the fact that this department has managed the teaching load to accommodate the number of graduate and undergraduate students it has while being short one full-time faculty member. Presently, the departmental faculty is comprised of six full-time faculty, one pro rata faculty, and two adjunct faculty.

In addition to providing secondary education and foundation courses, faculty in the Department of Secondary Education also deliver in-service presentations for local schools, administer both the TIMES grant (with the Department of Mathematics and Computer Sciences) and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer Camp grant, publish in scholarly periodicals, present at the state, regional, national, and international levels, and participate in various college and university committee work.

The umbrella of secondary education includes fourteen undergraduate programs and nine graduate programs, all leading to teacher certification. Realizing that as public education is ever changing, the faculty in the department of Secondary Education have continuously worked to ensure that the teacher preparation programs offered have also evolved to meet the needs of our students. Secondary education faculty members are currently working in the Departmental Curriculum Committee to restructure undergraduate programs to include additional practicum hours in response to students’ requests for more time in the “actual” classroom. The curriculum committee is also evaluating the sequencing of courses to ensure that they allow students to logically progress through the teacher preparation program. Changes to the undergraduate program will also necessitate changes to the Fifth-Year Non-Traditional Masters Programs.

The Department of Secondary Education is excited about the upcoming changes and is looking forward to offering students more of the experiences they need. Principals constantly boast how competent secondary graduates are and how ready they are to enter the classroom. “We’re doing all we can to create an environment conducive to learning and to prepare future teachers; we’re simply waiting on our building, Ramona Wood Hall, to catch up to the community’s secondary classrooms. Our plans for the new Ramona Wood Hall include state-of-the-art classrooms that will allow us to truly model 21st Century teaching and learning,” concluded Dr. Barkley, department head of the Department of Secondary Education.

Dr. Jordan Barkley received his undergraduate degree in English and history education in 2000. In 2001, he earned his master’s degree as a reading specialist with a public school administration credential. In 2005, he graduated from Auburn University with his PhD in reading education. His emphasis was in middle and secondary literacy instruction.

Dr. Barkley’s primary teaching interests lie in the areas of literacy instruction and the teaching of English language arts in the secondary setting.

In addition to teaching and scholarship, Dr. Barkley has served JSU as a Gamecock Orientation advisor, program chair for undergraduate secondary education programs, a member of the Jacksonville State University Writing Project, both a sponsor and cosponsor of Kappa Delta Pi honor society, a member and chair of various college and university committees, and most recently as the interim department head for secondary education and the NCATE coordinator for the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Mrs. Diana Battles is the secretary for the Department of Secondary Education. She was raised in Miami, Florida, and attended court reporting school there from 1974-76. She was hired by the Dade County Public Safety Department and worked as a clerk/stenographer with the homicide division, typing police reports and recording witness statements at homicide scenes.

After moving to Alabama in 1978, Mrs. Battles was hired as the official court reporter for Circuit Judge Malcolm Street, Jr., in 1979, and served in that position for twenty-five years until her retirement in February 2005. She maintains her state license
as a Certified Court Reporter and her national credential as a Registered Professional Reporter. Mrs. Battles served as president of the Alabama Court Reporters Association for the 2007-08 term.

Dr. Virginia Cole, assistant professor of secondary education

Dr. Virginia Cole holds a BS from Stillman College and MA, EdS, and PhD from the University of Alabama. Dr. Cole’s research focus centers on co-teaching implementation, the actual state of co-teaching, and the implementation of accommodations in secondary school classrooms.

Dr. Cole worked with others on co-teaching practices in middle and high school science programs in a state funded project. The group’s work resulted in professional development workshops that were conducted throughout the summer and fall semesters with the Anniston City School System.

Along with her research interests, Dr. Cole will be participating in Gamecock Orientation and will be welcoming new and transfer students to JSU as a GO! Advisor beginning summer 2010.

Dr. Linda Mitchell, assistant professor of secondary education

Dr. Linda Mitchell began her teaching career as an education major at Jacksonville State University, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in history and English education in 1992. Later she also earned a master’s degree in history education from JSU. She spent eleven years teaching history and language arts in the public schools, first in Birmingham City Schools and then in Anniston City Schools. While teaching in the public schools, Dr. Mitchell developed a passion for improving urban education and also developed research interests that continue today, such as effective integration of technology into education.

After teaching middle school for eleven years, Dr. Mitchell decided to go to Auburn University to complete her PhD in history education. During that time she worked on numerous projects and became even more committed to the ideals of training better history teachers who would go out and teach the next generation of America’s citizens. After graduating from Auburn in 2006, she taught at Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia. In 2007, she returned home when she began teaching at Jacksonville State as an assistant professor in the Department of Secondary Education.

Dr. Charles E. Notar is an associate professor of secondary education. He holds a BS from Pennsylvania State University and both the MA and EdD from Memphis State University. Dr. Notar has been at JSU for twenty years as an adjunct, pro rata instructor, and tenure track professor. He brings secondary education teaching experience from the Memphis City Schools, adjunct work with several junior and community colleges, and twenty-four years as an instructional specialist with the Army to his work at JSU. Dr. Notar has numerous publications and presentations and is a reviewer for several journals. His diverse experiences include city councilman, city planning commission member, volunteer firefighter and ambulance driver, chair of a hospital board, and a Red Cross volunteer.
Ms. Sharon Padgett, mathematics specialist, joined the secondary education department in the spring semester of 2006 as a pro rata instructor. She became a full-time faculty member in August of 2008. Ms. Padgett comes to JSU after teaching in public schools for twenty-five years. She taught science in Mississippi before coming to Alabama. In Alabama she taught mathematics for twenty-one years.

Ms. Padgett received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a teaching certification at Mississippi University for Women and a second major in mathematics from Jacksonville State University.

Ms. Padgett has received numerous awards for outstanding teaching. She was selected as Alabama’s recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching in 1996.

To Ms. Padgett the greatest rewards are when former students tell her they remember something they learned in her class or some life experience they have had that was directly impacted by her classroom teaching. She is currently working on her Educational Specialist degree at JSU. She enjoys reading, scrapbooking, and putting together jigsaw puzzles. She lives with her father and two loyal dogs, Cammie and Sadie.

Dr. Sheila Anne Webb earned her BA, MA, and PhD at the University of Iowa. She received a Management Development certificate from Harvard University. She currently serves as a professor in the Department of Secondary Education. Dr. Webb spent twenty-three years in higher education administration, sixteen as a dean. From 1997-2003 Dr. Webb was dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Dr. Webb began her educational career as a third grade teacher and later moved to high school teaching speech and language arts. Her elementary and secondary credential areas stimulated her interests in teacher preparation programs. Prior to working at JSU, her higher education career included working at the University of Iowa, State University of New York, and California State University. Additionally, she was invited to work with a team of thirteen Americans in Indonesia. Specifically, Dr. Webb worked on evolving a structuralist curriculum at the doctoral level to a communicative curriculum.

As an avocation, she recently earned a Master Gardener certification and continues a passion for environmental education and protection for the world’s flora and fauna. Dr. Webb cultivates a collection of bonsai trees. Within the past six months, she’s given three presentations on bonsai growth and maintenance.

Dr. Marsha A. Zenanko holds a BS from Jacksonville State University, MS from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University, and PhD from Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Zenanko’s fondest memories of her undergraduate years at Jacksonville State University include performing with the Marching Ballerinas section of the Southerners directed by Dr. Dave Walters. Dr. Zenanko graduated from Jacksonville State University in 1971 with a degree in music. She taught secondary schools in Alabama for eleven years, completed a doctorate in English education, and began a career in higher education/teacher education in Plainview, Texas.

In 1989, she returned to JSU as a faculty member in teacher education where she now teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in secondary education, English education, and educational foundations.
Television Service Activities

The Department of Television Services produced two commercials for the Alabama State Health Insurance Assistance Program. These public service announcements are airing over the Alabama Cable Network and TV24. The sixty second video can also be seen on the Alabama State Health Insurance Assistance Program webpage at AlabamaAgeline.gov.

The department produced and broadcast the 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Fall Graduation Exercises live on Alabama Cable Network, TV24, and the Internet. The ceremonies were also rebroadcast at later dates and times.

DVD copies of the both graduation ceremonies are being sold through the JSU Campus Bookstore. TV Services taped the children’s opera, “St. George & the Dragon” for the David L. Walters Department of Music and the “Miss JSU Pageant.”

TV Services has a new student worker, Ashley Fort. Ashley, who started this spring semester, is a Junior Communication Major. She hopes to use her skills as a news reporter, anchor, and producer. She also is interested in working behind the scenes as a technician so she will have a good overall knowledge of what it takes to produce a program.

ECE Present and Future

On February 11, the Early Childhood majors and perspective majors met for a meet and greet. Sponsors of the meeting were Dr. Elizabeth Engly, Dr. Celia Hilber, and Dr. Nina King.

The meet and greet takes place every spring to answer questions and share changes to the ECE program of study. The group enjoyed good food and fun collegiality as they prepared for their professional future. Many of the attendees swap contact information. The Early Childhood Education program offers an undergraduate major in Early Childhood Education P-3, a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education P-3, an Alternative Fifth-year Master of Science in Education with a major in early childhood p-3, and Early Childhood Special Education P-3. A student can also earn an Educational Specialist Degree in Education with a major in Early Childhood P-3.
Wellness Wednesday Recipe

By Kim Townsel

Wellness Wednesday is sponsored by the JSU Wellness and Culinary Programs and provides JSU faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to have a delicious and nutritious meal with a presentation on how to improve our lives. In February, the JSU Wellness and Culinary Programs honored American Heart Month and served up Heart-Healthy tips and a Heart-Healthy meal. The “Very Veggie Lasagna” recipe is below.

Join us on March 31st for our “Under the Sea” adventure and again on April 14th for a little game of “Hide ‘n Seek.” Call Lynn Steward at 782-5054 to make a reservation for our next Wellness Wednesday.

Very Veggie Lasagna*

Ingredients
2 cups lowfat cottage cheese
1 (15 ounce) container reduced-fat ricotta cheese
¼ cup minced fresh parsley
26 ounces meatless marinara
9 uncooked oven-ready (preferably whole wheat) lasagna noodles
2 medium carrots, shredded
1 1/2 cups broccoli florets
4 ounces fresh mushrooms, sliced
1 small zucchini, thinly sliced
2 cups fresh spinach
2 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese

Directions
In a bowl, combine the cottage cheese, ricotta and parsley.
Use nonstick cooking spray to coat a 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in. baking dish.
Spread 1/2 cup marinara in the prepared baking dish.
In the baking dish, arrange three noodles.
Spread a third of the cheese mixture on top of the noodles.
Sprinkle with half of the carrots, broccoli, mushrooms, and zucchini.
Top with a third of the remaining sauce.
Arrange half of the spinach over spaghetti sauce; sprinkle with a third of the mozzarella cheese.
Repeat layers of noodles, cheese mixture, vegetables, sauce, spinach, and mozzarella.
Top with the remaining noodles, cheese mixture, sauce, and mozzarella.
Cover tightly and bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes.
Uncover; bake 15 minutes longer or until noodles are tender.
Let stand for 15 minutes before cutting.

*Adapted from allrecipes.com