Overview:
In 2008-2009, Robert S. Blackwood, Jr. ’78, ’82 chaired the University of Southern Maine’s Board of Visitors (BOV). The vice-chair was Michael Dubyak. They focused their work on two main areas of interest: the financial condition of the University and the development of the strategic plan.

1. USM Financial Issues
   In light of the current financial situation, the Board continued its advocacy efforts on behalf of USM, working to influence the Legislature, Board of Trustees, and community leadership.

2. USM Strategic Plan
   The Strategic Plan was developed during the 2008-2009 academic year and was completed by year-end. The Board participated in its development and will be active in its implementation during the 2009-10 year.

In 2009-2010, The University of Southern Maine’s Board of Visitors (BOV) plans to focus its work in three areas: 1) advocacy efforts on behalf of USM, working to influence the legislators, Board of Trustees, and community leadership; 2) implementation of the Strategic Plan, especially the goal of increasing student engagement by helping to increase the diversity of internships through businesses represented on the BOV and USM Corporate Partners; 3) advice to USM as to the corporate and community needs anticipated in the post-recession economy, helping to identify programmatic gaps and opportunities.
The USM Board of Visitors meets five times annually.
The Annual meeting is scheduled in June of each year.

**Friday, September 12, 2008** (12 voting members attended, 4 non-voting members, 2 guests, and 11 staff)

This was the inaugural meeting for President Botman. She articulated her plans for the year highlighting her interest in strategic planning, data collection and “friend raising.” Matt Jacobson, President of Maine & Company, made a presentation. The Alumni Association Board announced its excitement to work with Selma, USM and the 30K alumni to advance the Alumni Association.

**Friday, November 14, 2008** (10 voting members attended, 3 non-voting members, 1 guest, and 3 staff)

President gave a preview of USM’s new television ads. The President addressed the budget situation, described her visits to high schools in Maine, and expressed the importance of the provost search. President Botman introduced the strategic planning process. The Board continued its work on the Southern Maine Imperative II. Chancellor Pattenaude spoke on the funding formula of the University of Maine system.

**Friday, February 13, 2009** (12 voting members attended, 4 non-voting members, 1 guest, and 3 staff)

The President commented on the January Board of Trustees meeting held at USM and the Chancellor’s decision to create the New Challenges/New Directions task force to assist the University of Maine System with a plan to mitigate the financial challenges. She introduced the first draft of USM’s Strategic Plan. Susan Campbell, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, led a discussion of USM’s peer institutions and provided comparative data.
Friday, May 1, 2009 (This meeting was canceled)

Friday, June 12, 2009 (9 voting members attended, 4 non-voting members, 1 guest, and 5 staff)

The President gave a recap of the budget cuts for the 2008-2009 year and stated that the budget at the end of the fiscal year would be balanced. The FY 2010 budget will require consistent attention and monitoring especially with regard to enrollment and costs.

Dr. Timothy Stevens gave a presentation on the newly completed strategic plan entitled *Preparing USM for the Future 2009-2014.*