

## *Dear usmnews.net*

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Reading the Does Evil Lurk in Our Community series has made me \_\_\_\_\_. I'm not sure what word to fill in the blank with. Appalled. Horrified. Sick at heart. Disgusted. All of them apply as well as some that you probably wouldn't print.

I have heard the same kind of accusations reported in the series (and worse) against you to anyone in the College of Business they can corner. No one dares challenge any of them or ask questions. Who wants to be their next victim?

During the time I have been at Southern Miss, I have learned to smile and not say much. If someone decides I do not have the "correct world view", I hate to think what could happen to my career and my life. I have decided to work on building a research portfolio so that I can find a better academic home.

For the University to tolerate and encourage these people -- who seem to be more interested in gossip than research, teaching or service -- reflects poorly (now, is that an understatement or what?) on the University and the College of Business.

Keep up the good work.

Name withheld

Dear Name withheld,

Since you mentioned ongoing claims made by people at the College of Business, I wanted publicly provide the following information for the first time.

A few months ago, I received an email with language and a photograph so graphic and hardcore that it shocked me with its malevolence and perversion. Whoever sent the picture also went to the trouble of enrolling me in a pornography site. All of this was done using my name, and a fabricated email address.

My attorneys wanted to take action to find out who had sent these vile and disgusting materials so that I could file criminal charges. They contacted Yahoo and were pretty sure they could track down the culprit. However, I told them, no. I suppose I didn't want to know who I had worked with that was sick and perverted enough to send such materials. I say "someone I

worked with" because given the threats, accusations and claims contained in the email, it was obvious the source was someone with current or former associations with the College of Business. The next time it happens, I am unlikely to feel so generous.

The moral of this story is, there are bad people out there, who will act from the shadows of perceived anonymity. You have a plan for your future and are working toward implementing it.

Good luck and take care.

Marc