

So he leaves me a message yesterday asking if he can give a lecture in class and film it because he wants footage of himself giving a lecture. I said ABSOLUTELY NOT -- all our lecture spots are filled this quarter and the students cannot be filmed without their explicit permission and I am not going to ask for 108 consent forms to be signed.

But the Dean asked him to be on his advisory board and so I am trying to be polite and told him he can mentor a team again (Bill said he did a great job last year) if he'd be willing to come out to pitch the idea to the class. The students get to pick the projects and some projects will not get picked by anyone.

....So if you guys want to see if you can do a better job of sniffing out a scam artist, you are welcome to come to my class tomorrow at 5:30 and ask him all the hard questions. The students would love it!

best,

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Prof. Dr. Anthony Nobles** <anobles@nmt2.net>
Date: Wed, Oct 2, 2013 at 3:55 PM
Subject: Re: left you a message
To: >

No problem, I will be there tomorrow. Can I be there for the 5:30?

The 2 projects I am going to bring in are as follows.

The development of a medical device for the use in Obstetrics and Gynecology. This device will use chemical reactions for generating an exothermic reaction to provide heat to an isolated fluid stream used for surgery. This is a catheter and balloon based project.

The second project is to complete the Percutaneous annuloplasty suture device development for congestive heart failure. This is a catheter and device project that is primarily mechanical in nature.

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On wrote:

Hi Tony,

Sorry I missed you call yesterday. Please let me know if you still plan to come out to campus tomorrow to pitch the project to the class for 10-15 minutes. We can schedule you at the beginning of

class (at 5:30-5:45) or at the end (6:35-6:50) depending on your preference. I can reserve a parking pass for you and provide you a map of the campus.

I would also need a write up of the project, as per my previous email.

Thank you!

best,

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Department of Biomedical Engineering
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So I might not be very good at cyber stalking someone, but since he had all these plaques of patents issued on his wall at work, Abe said this was something we could easily verify. I just went onto USPTO and all I could find under his name were 4 patents, one of which is a handle for a suturing apparatus. I obviously am not as successful a business person, but how do you build 28 multi-million dollar companies off of 4 patents?

These are the only 4 I could find, if you find more, please let me know:

US 8,348,962 B2

US 8,372,089

US 8,469,975 B2

US 8,496,676 B2 (the handle)

[Quoted text hidden]

Actually hold that thought. I need to reshuffle my class to accommodate last minute changes with my guest speakers. So I will ask Tony to come at the beginning of class on Tues the 8th instead. Let me know if you can make that class. THanks!

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Hi,

I think we should discuss him and his relationship to BME (and potential one to HSSoE), at the next faculty meeting.

Your thoughts?

I tried at the retreat, but Abe thought it would be too contentious (and he was right -- even BloENGINE was contentious!). So I kind of want to get to the bottom of this before I present anything. The truth is: I don't know what to make of this guy. Jim shed light on him and I would appreciate some critical eyes before he gets involved in BME180 in any way this year. I don't want a scam artist or a crook working with our students or lecturing -- but maybe I am over-reacting and there is a kernel of technology beneath all the smoke and mirrors. The TA said his lecture was good last year. But I'm too freaked out to let him come out to give a lecture in class!

Hi, I think has a good idea. We should discuss it at a faculty meeting.

My opinion on the guy is that we should just stay away.

Here's my problem with the guy:

In the 90's he was involved as the founder/CEO of a company called Surgical Visions. He sold the company to Northfork Ventures Ltd, which was listed on the Vancouver Stock Exchange (a shady place at the time). He was claiming that he had a BS in Electrical Engineering from UCLA, a BS in physics from University of Texas and a PhD in BME from UCLA "(in cooperation with the university of munich)". People checked on his degrees. UCLA never had a student with that name. Texas said he was a physics student from 1983-1985, but never graduated. Then, it gets complicated. Northfork Ventures stock collapses, some European pension funds lost their investment in Northfork. Nobles is also involved as a director of some related company. (This is all from an article published in the Vancouver Sun June 19, 1992. It's available through LexisNexis.)

OK, that was all 20+ years ago. Maybe he changed, but now he has these two fake PhDs. No one cares if you don't have a degree. Look at Steve Jobs/ Bill Gates/Mark Zuckerberg. So why does he have these fake degrees and everyone calls him "Dr. Prof. Nobles"?

I think he's using us to appear legitimate to raise funds for his latest company. He may not be running a 100% scam. He may believe that he has invented some revolutionary surgical suture. But the reality of it is that medical stitches is not a technology problem. It's a sales/marketing problem.

Anyway, it's a major risk to the reputation of the Department to be associated with this guy. The only potential gain is if he gives us money. I don't think he has a significant amount of money to make it worthwhile, so we should stay away.

Let's hire an in investigator. They are not that expensive.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Scent. form my iPhone

Good idea. I wouldn't be surprised if he did time in prison. Get a credit check too. Then we will know if he has enough money to make a serious donation.

do you know a guy?

—

I think all this discussion goes back to the critical, urgent need for this topic to be vetted at a faculty meeting.

All faculty have something critical (departmental reputation) at stake here, so they all should be involved.

I think it's strictly a presentation of facts (Jim's e-mail is an excellent start), followed by a presentation of the options we have.

Then let everyone else chime in with their opinions.

We then present a summary of the departmental discussion to Greg (if need be).

I think if everything is kept as factual and objective as possible, then this is the best foot we can put forward.

Also, it seems like we need to do this now, rather than in a reactive manner (which probably will be too late).

Are you each OK with me sending the following e-mail to Abe:

"At the next faculty meeting, , and I believe it is critically important to discuss the involvement of Anthony Nobles in BME departmental matters. Based on the limited information we currently have, and the potential increase in involvement of Anthony Nobles in both the department and School, we believe the entire faculty should have the right to participate in this discussion."

Best,

[Quoted text hidden]

Hi, that statement is fine with me.

Also, just so you guys know a while back (2004) we ran into a similar problem. One of the lecturers in the School had listed in the catalog a PhD from University of Devonshire, which was a fake buy-a-degree place. This was picked up on by a "Inside Edition", a tv news tabloid show. It was widely reported as "UCI Engineering Professor has a fake degree."

http://www.newuniversity.org/2004/05/news/lecturer_has_a_diploma147/

I'm fine with your statement.

[Quoted text hidden]

Er. I have been in discussions with Abe about this. He is asking his cousin (a patent lawyer) to look into this (btw, Abe found more patents than I did but I agree with Jim, they seem like quite trivial patents). But I don't want Abe to feel like we are trying to go above him in any way by pushing to present it to the faculty. Can we just ask to sit down and meet with him first, the 5 of us? This is a bit more efficient anyway, bc I keep trying to stall Prof Dr Nobles, but can't do it indefinitely. Now he wants to come out on Tues!

Can we ask to have a sit down meeting tomorrow to discuss?

[Quoted text hidden]

Hi, a sit down meeting with five of us and Abe is fine with me.

[Quoted text hidden]

Works for me.

- can you take the lead to coordinate the meeting?

Thanks,

[Quoted text hidden]

Are you guys around tomorrow? I know prob can't meet but I know Monday doesnt work for you.
Please let me know what works for you guys.

[Quoted text hidden]

Hi, I can't make it today. But I think everyone knows how I feel about this Dr professor guy. Feel free to meet without me.