Author of new book says college desegregation has lost its way

By Craig Chamberlain

Our court ruling tells colleges to pursue enrollment parity based on race. Another ruling tells them they can’t take race into consideration.

And while one state offers scholarships to white students to attend public historically black colleges, another state threatens one of those same colleges with closure.

It’s no real surprise to M. Christopher Brown II, a UI professor of higher education and author of a new book on collegiate desegregation.

The problem, Brown said, is there’s never been a consensus on the goal of desegregation in public higher education, and it changes with new court rulings and presidential administrations.

“We’re spending money saying ‘we’ll know it when we see it,’ but we don’t know what we’re looking for.”

And those efforts are now further complicated by rulings against affirmative action, he said.

Brown, whose book “The Quest to Define Collegiate Desegregation” (Bergin & Garvey) was published in June, says courts and the federal government have gotten ahead of themselves.

“I think part of the reason they can’t define the goal is because what they’re trying to define is integration, instead of desegregation. They’re trying to define the end step and not the middle step... It’s like stepping from the porch to the second floor,” he said.

“All of the desegregation litigation that has ever been filed had one primary quest: equitable funding for a formally black institution,” Brown noted. Yet the rulings, often coming after federal government involvement, have focused more on enrollment.

“They want to see more brown people showing up at Ole Miss, and more white people showing up at Mississippi Valley State,” he said.

But that hasn’t worked, and for a number of reasons, Brown said, one of them being that it disfavors public historically black colleges. Most of those institutions have continued to be underfunded compared with their historically white peer institutions, he noted, and without equitable funding, to support equitable programs, they will have a difficult time attracting white students.

One possible and ironic result, already suggested in one state, is the closing of historically black schools to meet desegregation goals, Brown said.

But that disregards the vital role these schools have played in the education of African Americans, as well as the effect of their closing on their communities.

“The vestige (of segregation) is not the fact that the enrollments, in and of themselves, are polarized,” thereby suggesting a dual system is in place, Brown said. “The vestiges are those tangible realities that force people to choose not to select certain institutions.”

Instead of focusing on enrollment at individual colleges, people should focus on how a state’s higher education system as a whole is serving its various populations, Brown said. “The focus should be on quality of programs and student access … and on how well those are coordinated statewide.”

Program helps older women hone financial skills

By Jim Barlow

Women in midlife and older are finding help honing their financial knowledge and decision-making skills by taking a UI Extension program, according to a survey of those who completed the eight-week course in its first four years.

While the course is open to anyone, the survey’s findings were welcome news because the program, “Take Charge of Your Life by Taking Charge of Your Money,” was created primarily for women, said Vicki Fitzsimmons, a UI professor of consumer and family economics.

“When we initiated the program in Illinois, we wanted a program that would serve women who may not have given much thought about their own financial situation, in hopes of empowering them to take charge,” she said. “Given the likely financial situation of elderly women, feeling good about their financial management skills is crucial to maintaining their quality of life.”

Many older women, she noted, often face divorce or widowhood with little prior experience or knowledge about tackling money issues.

The evaluations of 576 participants over the last four years indicated that the respondents were more positive about managing their own finances, felt better about their own decisions, felt more confident about solving financial problems, and were more comfortable when it comes to seeking financial information or assistance.

Many of them have since evaluated their own financial situations and prepared financial statements (73 percent), purchased investments, reviewed or executed estate planning documents (61 percent) and determined retirement needs and decided where to invest retirement funds (52 percent).

“Take Charge of Your Life by Taking Charge of Your Money” consists of eight weekly topics that cover such issues as getting organized, realizing where the money goes, banking and credit, insurance, managing risks, retirement and getting help. It is taught by professionals, including bankers, financial planners, credit counselors, lawyers and UI Extension educators.

Nationally, the program, which was developed by the American Association of Retired Persons, is called the “Women’s Financial Information Program.” In 1991, consumer and family economists in the UI Extension had identified the financial problems of women as a priority area. They chose to use the AARP’s approach as a model and adapt it to the needs of Illinois residents.

People interested in enrolling in this program should contact their local UI Extension office to learn about program availability in their area.

Two UI scientists elected to RAS

By Huey Freeman

Nick Holonyak Jr., a professor of electrical and computer engineering, and Anthony J. Leggett, a professor of physics, were riding a bus to work together when they discovered that they both were elected to receive the same honor on the same day.

“What an American scientist desires next to being elected to our academy of sciences is to be elected as a member of a foreign academy,” Holonyak said. “It’s a nice warm and cozy feeling that someone likes your work and thinks you’re worthy.”

The two UI researchers were elected as foreign members of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) at its general meeting June 2.

Holonyak, the inventor of the light-emitting diode (LED) and the first semiconductor laser to operate in the visible spectrum, was the first doctoral student of two-time Nobel laureate John Bardeen, a UI professor who invented the transistor. The son of Slovenian immigrants who settled in Southern Illinois, Holonyak received the National Medal of Science, America’s highest honor for researchers, from President Bush in 1997.

Leggett’s research areas have included foundations of quantum mechanics, high-temperature superconductivity, general properties of superfluid systems and the thermal and acoustic properties of glass. He was cited in the announcement of the 1996 Nobel Prize in physics for assisting the prize winners in their interpretation of the discovery that led to a breakthrough in low-temperature physics.

(See RAS, page 4)
Weight-loss study to begin

Women who want to lose weight may sign up for a study at the University of Illinois. The 10-week study will incorporate regular food but with adjusted levels of protein and carbohydrates.

Donald Layman, a professor of nutrition, is seeking female volunteers between the ages of 45-55 who are 10 percent to 25 percent above their ideal weight. During the first four weeks of the study, all foods in the diet will be prepared in Beaver Hall. During the final six weeks, participants will follow the diet on their own. A registered dietician will monitor all foods and weights. Those selected will not be paid.

For more information, call Barb at 333-1326.

OBA offers training

Full training sessions for university fi- nancial and administrative systems are being offered by the Office of Business Affairs. The sessions will include continuous improvement of campus financial management, are offered to department heads as well as to departmental business office staff members. Selected refresher training every other year is appropriate and necessary. Most of the classes meet at the Combined Training Center in the base- ment of Illini Hall. Reservations may be made by calling the number indicated or at the OBA Web site, www.oba.uiuc.edu. The courses:

- Allowable Costs
  10:30 a.m.-noon Oct. 13. Judy Lubben, 244-4748.

- Cash Handling
  Classes held for departments upon request.
  Mary Brown, 244-2918.

- Contracts Policies and Procedures Update (New)
  2-4 p.m. Oct. 20.
  Marcia Rotunda, rotunda@uiuc.edu, or Judy Talboys, 333-0565.

- Electronic Order System (EOS)
  9:11 a.m.-10:29 a.m. Sept. 29, 27.
  Alana Bennett, 333-6232.

- Electronic Standard Time Report (ESTR)
  3-4 p.m. Sept. 30.
  Mary Shobe, 333-5895; or Sally Swan, 244-2852.

- Gift Processing and Stewardship Services
  9:11 a.m. on Oct. 13, 333-0675.

- Internal Controls,
  The Hotelier's Dream
  3-5 p.m. Nov. 10.
  Ed Mascorro, 333-0900.

- Inventories
  9:10 a.m. on Oct. 14 or Nov. 4.
  Bobbie Pittman, 333-0780.

- KEV/MASTER
  3:40-3:50 p.m. Sept. 30.
  Mary Shobe, 333-5895.

- KEV/MASTER/Using for Student Accounts Receivable
  Individually arranged; Alice Loflin, 244-2604.

- Ledger 3 Accounts
  8:30-10:30 a.m. Oct. 28.
  Marcia Miller, 333-4568.

- Procurement Card
  9:11 a.m. Aug. 11; Sept. 8; Oct. 6, 13 or 20, Nov. 3, 10 or 18; or Dec. 8, 1 or 15.
  Alana Bennett, 333-6232.

- Property Accounting– Custodialship Responsibilities
  9:11 a.m. Nov. 17.
  Judy Lubben, 244-4748.

- Property Accounting–Introduction/Acquisitions
  10:30 a.m.-noon Oct. 7.
  Becky Esslinger, 333-0467.

- Proposal Systems Access
  1:30-2:45 p.m. July 21.
  Judy Lubben, 244-4748.

- Proposals and Overview
  10:30 a.m.-noon. Oct. 7.
  Judy Lubben, 244-4748.

- Sales Invoices/General Accounts Receivable
  Individually arranged; Donna Fogerino, 244-6022.

- Stores Service Voucher and Transfer Voucher Preparation
  1:30-p.m. Sept. 16.
  Marcia Miller, 333-4568.

- Transportation Functions
  10:30 a.m.-noon. Oct. 21.
  333-3356.

- Travel Vouchers, Policies and Procedures
  9:11 a.m. Sept. 17 or Dec. 3.
  Bobbie Pittman, 333-0780.

- Travel Vouchers, Policies and Problems
  3-4 p.m. Nov. 17.
  Alana Bennett, 333-6232.

- UFAS, Introduction to
  The course:

  - Individually arranged; Dec. 9 or 15.
  - Alana Bennett, 333-6232.
  - UFAS, Online
  - 1:30-p.m. Sept. 29.
  - Marcia Miller, 333-4568.

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**Inside ILLINOIS**

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**Printed on:**

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betsy kleiss
on the job

Betsy Kleiss originally intended to use her degree in physical education from Eastern Illinois University to teach P.E. But after graduating college and waiting for a teaching position to open, she took a job at the UI. She has been here ever since. For 17 years, she has worked as an Admissions Records Officer, graduating students to the various colleges on campus.

Betsy and her husband, Mike, who is a research specialist at the South Farms, have a 14-year-old daughter, Kelli. For fun, Mike plays banjo, often with local bands. Betsy’s idea of fun is to navigate 80,000-cubic feet of hot air over Champaign County in a pink-and-black balloon called Flambanggo. She’ll be flying in the U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championships’ sports division in Rantoul, Aug. 6-15.

So have you found your passion in life?

That’s scary. But this is it. I’m going to balloon until I die.

How did you get interested in flying hot air balloons?

While on vacation in Santa Fe in October 1990, a girlfriend and I went to the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta for three straight days. We basically lived there, and the last day we got to crew.

How did you get involved in ballooning back here in Champaign-Urbana?

My girlfriend talked me into joining the Balloon Association of Greater Illinois. We went to a hot-air balloon class taught by Stan Jenkins at the Champaign Park District. When it became flyable in the spring I started crewing for Stan and then the fun began. I loved it, especially the camaraderie. It is a very family-oriented sport. And I like to see the excitement of a first-time rider when they go up in a balloon.

Did you intend to just be a crew person?

At first I did. But once I had what I call burner time – where I actually heat the balloon up so we can fly where we’re going to fly – I knew I had to be a pilot. It was just so much fun flying in the air and deciding if you’re going to gain altitude or drop to fly low. It was a very awesome feeling.

Did you intend to buy your own balloon?

No, I have a lot of people who crew for me and I just start calling when I think it’s going to be ‘flyable.’

How do you go about buying a balloon? Is it expensive?

I ordered my balloon from a company in Ann Arbor, Mich. I bought the envelope, which is the fabric portion, brand new – and I bought the basket and burners from a local pilot here. And I started taking lessons.

And, yes, it is expensive. Right now, to get a brand new balloon you’d probably have to pay a minimum of $20,000. So that’s why I chose to buy a new envelope and a used bottom end.

It was that important to you?

Yes. I’ve never had so much fun in my life. I have friends all over the country. I could show up on their doorstep and I know I’d have a place to stay that night. People who are ballooning are very friendly, very trustworthy, very honest people and they always open their doors to another pilot or crew member who just shows up.

Do you have your own set of people who crew for you?

No, I have a lot of people who crew for me and I just start calling when I think it’s going to be ‘flyable.’

What do you consider ‘flyable’? And where do you launch?

No rain or thunderstorms in the area and the winds usually have to be 10 mph or less. And although you can balloon year-round, balloons can only fly within two hours of sunrise and two hours of sunset to avoid thermal activity during the day.

A lot of times we’ll take off from Centennial High School’s band field, Parkland College or we’re allowed to take off from any of the Urbana or Champaign city parks.

Who goes up with you?

I’m insured to take up to two passengers. I just became a commercial pilot in November which means I can take paid rides. That fee is $175 for a ride with a champagne toast afterwards.

So have you found your passion in life?

I just live to balloon. In fact, I have a Christmas savings account that I use to go out to the Albuquerque Kodak International Balloon Fiesta every year. Last year I flew with 870-plus balloons.

That’s scary. But this is it. I’m going to balloon until I die.
The cast-bronze sculpture “Consonant Passage” (pictured) is a collaborative work by Roger F. Blakley, UI professor of art and design, and his wife, Cecilia Allen – is on display at Pier Walk ’99 through Nov. 11. The international sculpture exhibition is at Navy Pier, Chicago. On display is a limestone and granite sculpture (untitled) by William Carlson, UI professor of art and design.

vacation
(Continued from page 3)
unsouched by the trip. Most travelers carry camping gear, if I did, or drive motor homes. Campgrounds are readily available, but the lodges and inns do fill every night in the summer. With the nearly 24-hour day I did a lot in each day. Sleeping hours were reduced when sunlight entered my tent at 3:45 a.m.

Because people ask about the miles and costs, I’ll provide those statistics. However, my memories are of open spaces, wildlife, mountains, forests, lakes and friendly people. I camped at Fairbanks and the return was 40 days. The driving, inclusive of lunches and photo stops, but exclusive of side trips and visits to colleges was 7,442 miles. Total miles on the odometer was 10,300. I moved on more than 600 miles in 168 hours. Total miles on the trip and visits to colleagues was 7,442 miles. Total miles on the trip and visits to colleagues was 7,442 miles.