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Business Report

Lisle Fulbright scholar to lecture in India

by Deborah Bullwinkel
Lisle resident Dr. Ben Chieh Liu will lecture on urban planning during a visit to India this summer, under a Fulbright Scholarship.

The lecturing award is from the 1991-92 Fulbright Scholarship program by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES).

"The purpose of the (program) is to provide a platform for the international exchange of scholars between the United States and other foreign countries," Dr. Liu said.

Dr. Liu, who is a management and information systems professor at Chicago State University, said the Fulbright program is "a worldwide program without political constraints."

Although he isn't exactly sure of the date, Dr. Liu will probably travel to Delhi, India, sometime this summer, where he will discuss urban planning and environmental quality management.

"Everything is approved from both sides — the Council and the hosting university in India — except for my departure date," Dr. Liu said.

"My lecture will be somewhat challenging to any developing country because they are fighting between two complicating objectives," Dr. Liu continued. "Those are, industrial growth and nature and environmental protection. They are still striving for economic growth rate at the expense of environmental deterioration."

Closer to home, Dr. Liu says he is concerned about Lisle's rapid growth rate, and its effect on the environment.

"I have seen various environmental problems coming out from the growth of Lisle," Dr. Liu continued. He believes Lisle is in "trouble," and developers should think twice about the environment before building more offices and hotels.

"Who will pay for the costs from urban growth?" Dr. Liu asked. "It will be paid by (Lisle) residents instead of developers." He says Lisle's growth spurt has increased water pollution, air pollu-

tion, traffic jams and urban infrastructure, such as sewage problems.

"I've seen a number of hidden costs that have come (around) in recent years, such as increased local government expenditures," Dr. Liu continued. He believes Lisle residents face similar problems as the residents of Downers Grove, Naperville and Woodridge. This problem, Dr. Liu says, is the County's annual property tax increase, which has been occurring for the last five to six years.

Although increased building in Lisle creates more jobs, money and brings more people, Dr. Liu believes other things, such as crime and peace disturbance, should also be considered when making expansion decisions.

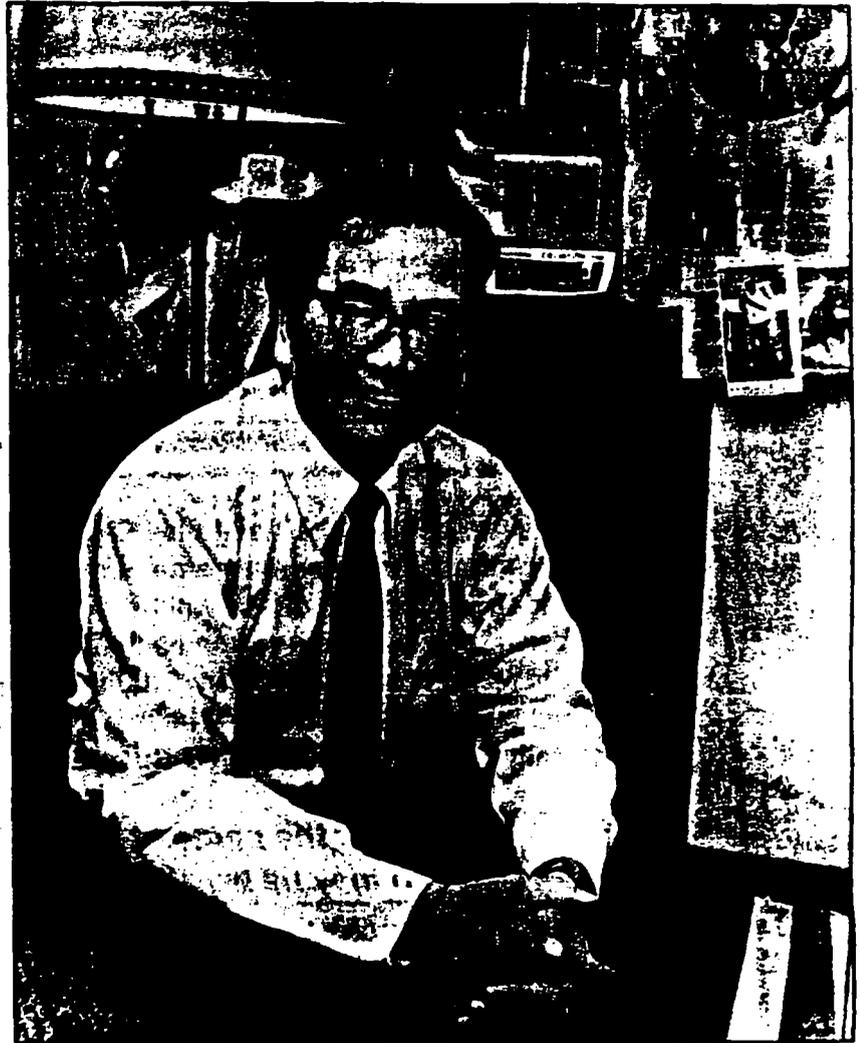
"The local government decision makers seem to think the more growth is the better. This may be true, but they tend to forget the environment and social consequence that comes along with the growth. They tend to overlook this," Dr. Liu said. "People are looking at tangible things (increased building) rather than environmental things."

Dr. Liu said the Fulbright Scholarship provides funds for "hundreds" of individuals going abroad, as well as those coming to the U.S. from other countries, for lectures and to do research. "It's a two-way street," he said.

The Fulbright selection process takes approximately five months. The United States Information Agency (USIA), the agency of the United States Government, provides the funds and administers the Fulbright program.

Fulbright Scholarships provide both long- and short-term opportunities, Dr. Liu continued. A long-term scholarship is for those who will lecture and conduct research for one year or more, he explained.

Dr. Liu requested and received a short-term scholarship. The short-term program can last from several weeks



(Photo by Jim Cleary)

Dr. Ben Chieh Liu has received a Fulbright Scholarship to lecture in India.

to several months.

To qualify, candidates must have an advanced degree, such as a master's or Ph.D., and have a specific geographic destination and purpose for their proposed trip.

Last December, Dr. Liu spent two weeks in China, traveling to Zigong, Chongqing and Chengdu, where he gave talks on urban development in Lisle and DuPage County. Dr. Liu's China trip was sponsored by the United Nations. He was the only per-

son "solicited" by the U.N. to take the China trip, he said.

The visit to China was unrelated to the Fulbright Scholarship program.

"My special request was to talk about management science and information systems in reference to urban development and planning," Dr. Liu said. "They (Chinese) were very much interested in how these activities are funded and how they are planned and implemented."

Using Lisle as an example of urban development, Dr.

Liu cited four categories: population growth, industrial and economic growth, social infrastructure, and environmental and recreational planning, in conjunction with the Lisle Park District, Lisle school system and the County's highway development.

Dr. Liu received his Ph.D. degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., and has published articles and books. He is the current president of the Chinese Economic Association of North America.