2003 Distinguished Service Award

The Deep Foundations Institute is pleased to announce Dr. Frank Rausche, P.E. as the recipient of the DFI 2003 Distinguished Service Award. Through this award DFI annually recognizes leaders in the deep foundation design and construction industry for their lifetime contributions to the profession. The award was presented at DFI’s Annual Conference on Deep Foundations in Miami Beach, Florida at the Eden Roc Resort on October 23, 2003 for Dr. Rausche’s lifetime achievement in pile research and dedication to the deep foundations industry.

Dr. Rausche is the President of GRL Engineers, Inc., formerly known as Goble Rausche Likins and Associates, Inc. Quoting from the Distinguished Service Award Selection Committee’s report, “Frank has made enormous contributions to the analysis of pile driving and sonic integrity testing of piles and has been a stalwart of DFI for many years.” He has 37 years experience in research and development of software and hardware for testing of deep foundations. Since 1969, he is the main author and developer of the CAPWAP® program and its documentation, originator of the Case Method Capacity and Integrity Formulas, and co-developer of the Pile Driving Analyzer®. In addition he was the co-investigator in the development of WEAP (1976), principal investigator of “The Performance of Pile Driving Systems (1982-1984), principal investigator of “Wave Equation Analysis of Pile Driving” (1986), main author of GRLWEAP and its documentation (1990), and has over 50 papers published in the area of pile dynamics.

Frank received his PhD from the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1970 and is a licensed professional engineer in the states of Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. As well as receiving this award, Dr. Rausche’s past honors include the ASCE 2000 Civil Engineer of the Year award. He is a member of the American Concrete Institute and the Deep Foundations Institute.

DFI Student Paper Competition

DFI’s new Student Paper Competition got off to a good start with the 2003 Competition.

The winner of the competition was Gary M. Weinstein of Polytechnic University, International Center for Ground Improvement, Brooklyn, NY. His paper was entitled “The Micropile Network: Practice Precedes Theory”. The runner-up was Brunella Recinto of the University of Napoli Fredrico II. Her paper was entitled “Numerical Analysis of the Osterburg Cell Loading Test.”

Both the winner and runner-up were the guests of DFI at the Annual Conference and Members’ Meeting. Their papers were published in the Proceedings Book and the winner was given the opportunity to present his paper as part of the Conference program.

The winning paper was a remarkably detailed history of micropiling and its evolution from the “pali radice”, or root pile, first introduced in Italy in 1952. He presented a review of the many applications of micropiles in the areas of structural support and in-situ reinforcement.

This is a field in which practice in the field has led the industry, with theory struggling to keep pace and explain why the methods developed in the field perform as they do.

In addition to a complimentary conference registration and the chance to present his paper, Mr. Weinstein received two nights lodging at the Eden Roc Resort Miami Beach, a travel stipend of $750, a library of 20 DFI publications and a two-year individual DFI membership. Ms. Recinto, as runner-up, also received a 20-publication library and a two-year membership in addition to having her paper published in the conference proceedings.

We look forward to having another successful student paper competition this year, where the winner will be presenting their paper in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada at DFI’s 29th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations on September 29 – October 1, 2004.