

# DFI Student Paper Competition



**Gary Weinstein receives commemorative plaque from DFI President Richard Short**

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.