2005 DFI Student Paper Competition and Young Professor Award Winners

As previously reported, Emre Biringen of the University of Wisconsin-Madison won the 3rd Annual DFI Student Paper Competition for his paper titled “The Effects of Cylindrical Pile Insertion on the Vertical Stiffness and Strength of the Surrounding Soil”. He was presented with his award at the September 23rd Business Luncheon during the 30th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations in Chicago, IL by DFI Secretary, Rudy Frizzi. The award included a two-year DFI individual membership, 20 DFI publications, full conference registration, lodging, travel stipend and the opportunity to have his paper published and presented during the conference program. His presentation was well-received by the conference attendees.

Mr. Biringen received a B.S. in Civil Engineering at the Istanbul Technical University in 1998, Pre-MBA and M.S. in Geotechnical Engineering at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey, and recently completed his Ph.D. Dissertation in Geotechnical Engineering at University of Wisconsin-Madison. While at Bogazici University, he was a Teaching and Laboratory Assistant as well as a Graduate Research Assistant from 1999-2000. He continues his work as a graduate research assistant at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and also serves as a Senior Teaching Assistant there instructing on Properties of Geosynthetics, Engineering Properties of Soil, Retaining Structures, Foundations and Seepage and Slopes courses. Emre is a member of the Union of Chambers of Engineers & Architects, Turkish Civil Engineers Chamber and ASCE.

DFI’s 1st Annual Young Professor’s Award was received by Dr. Monica Prezzi of Purdue University. She presented her winning paper, “Overview of Construction and Design Technologies of Auger Cast-in-Place and Drilled Displacement Piles” on the last day of DFI’s Chicago Conference at the Fairmont Hotel and it was published in the conference proceedings.

As the winner, Dr. Prezzi also received full conference registration, lodging, travel stipend, two-year DFI membership and 20 DFI publications. Monica holds an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), in Porto Alegre, awarded in 1986. She followed that with a period of work in the industry, during which she worked on several large construction projects, including power plants, metropolitan train stations and chemical plants. She then went back to graduate school. She obtained a Master of Engineering degree in geotechnical engineering from UFRGS in 1990, and both a Master of Science degree in geotechnical engineering and a Ph.D. in civil engineering materials/geotechnical engineering from Berkeley in 1995. At Berkeley, she was the recipient of the CAPES and the Carlson-Polivka Ph.D. fellowships.

After graduation, she stayed at Berkeley working as a Postdoctoral Fellow. This was followed by several years of work as a consultant on foundation engineering and foundation and structural repair. In 2000, Dr. Prezzi joined Purdue University as a lecturer and, in 2003, as an Assistant Professor.

“When we are sick, we want an uncommon doctor; when we have a construction job to do, we want an uncommon engineer, and when we are at war, we want an uncommon general. It is only when we get into politics that we are satisfied with the common man.”

- Herbert Hoover