



The Deep Foundations Institute is a not-for-profit association of contractors, engineers, manufacturers, suppliers, owners and academia.

DFI's membership promotes understanding and advancement of the deep foundations & excavations construction industry through conferences, publications, and community.

The technical committees, Augered Cast-In-Place Pile, Drilled Shaft, Driven Pile, Helical Foundations & Tiebacks, Marine Foundation, Micropiles, Seismic and Lateral Loads, Slurry Wall, Soil Mixing, Testing and Evaluation, and Tiebacks & Soil Nailing provide industry leadership for these foundation systems, through the publication of Guides, Specifications and References and by providing educational programs.

The membership is international.

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For Immediate Release

DFI 2007 Student Paper Competition Award

August 28, 2007, Hawthorne, NJ. The Deep Foundations Institute announces the winner of its 2007 Student Paper Competition, Ehab S. Shatnawi, of the University of Akron, Akron, Ohio, U.S., a PhD candidate in geotechnical engineering. Mr. Shatnawi will present his winning paper, "Transverse Isotropy Effects on P-Y Curves for Rock," during DFI's 32nd Annual Conference on Deep Foundations on October 11-13 in Colorado Springs, Colo. This year's award recipient received his undergraduate and masters degrees in civil engineering and his masters degree in geotechnical engineering at Jordan University of Science and Technology, and is currently working toward his PhD in geotechnical engineering at the University of Akron.



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An excerpt from the paper's abstract follows:

"It is common in practice to design laterally loaded rock-socketed drilled shafts using the p-y curve methods. However, the existing p-y curve criteria for rock were derived either semi-empirically or based on the assumption that the rock is an elastic isotropic continuum. The assumption of isotropy may be invalid for rocks with intrinsic anisotropy or for rocks with joints and bedding planes. Therefore, there is a need to develop a new p-y curve criterion to take into account the effects of rock anisotropy on the response of laterally loaded shafts. This paper presents a method for estimating the initial tangent K_i to the p-y curve for rock that can be characterized as transversely isotropic elastic continuum."

DFI also recognizes the runner-up paper, "Compressibility Behavior of Tropical Peat Reinforced with Cement Columns." The author, Youventhatan Duraisamy, was born in Malaysia and received his undergraduate degree in civil engineering with first honors from the University of Tun Hussein Onn in Malaysia in 2004. He is now pursuing a masters degree in geotechnical and geological engineering at University Putra Malaysia.

Both papers will be published in DFI's Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Conference on Deep Foundations. The winners receive complimentary conference registrations, a library of 20 DFI publications and two-year complimentary DFI memberships.

The Deep Foundations Institute applauds both winners of this annual competition, and invites all members to hear Ehab Shatnawi present his paper on Saturday October 13. For more information, on the conference or about DFI activities and membership, please visit www.dfi.org, or call 973-423-4030.