



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 2006 Student Paper Competition Award

August 30, 2006, Hawthorne, NJ: The Deep Foundations Institute is pleased to announce James A. Schneider, P.E., of the University of Western Australia, as the winner of the 2006 DFI Student Paper Competition. Mr. Schneider will present his winning paper entitled "Impact of Offshore Site Investigation Practice on Reliability of Axial Pile Design in Siliceous Sands" at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on Deep Foundations, Washington, DC, USA, October 4-6, 2006. Mr. Schneider's paper will also be published as part of the Annual Conference Proceedings.

Schneider is currently a Ph.D. Candidate in Civil Engineering at the University of Western Australia. He holds a Masters of Science in Civil Engineering with a Geotechnical focus from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he also graduated with high honors as an undergraduate in Civil Engineering. James has four years of consulting experience in addition to his academic achievements and he has worked on such prestigious projects as the Port of Los Angeles, Pier 400 Container Wharf in California as well as the San Francisco International Airport Airfield Development Project.



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An abstract of the paper follows:

*The evolution of the American Petroleum Institute (API) design method for axial capacity of driven piles in siliceous sands is explored, and complemented with an overview of how changes in offshore site investigation practice have increased the level of knowledge with respect to vertical variability of soil characteristics. Increased use of the cone penetration test (CPT) provides near continuous profiles of soil type and strength which can be used in calculation methods that address variation in local shaft friction rather than the API method which seems to have initially been based on observations of average shaft friction in relatively uniform sand deposits. Development of a formulation for CPT correlations to axial pile capacity in sand is discussed, along with implications to existing factors of safety used in routine design.*

The runner up of the competition, Luo Yang of the University of Akron, OH, will also have his paper "Incorporating Set-up into Reliability-Based LRFD Design of Driven Piles" published in the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference Proceedings. The competition awarded both students with complimentary conference registrations, a library of 20 DFI publications, and a two-year individual DFI membership.

The Deep Foundations Institute congratulates James and Luo for a job well done, and we hope you will join us as James presents his paper on Wednesday, October 4, 2006. The Annual Conference runs from October 4-6, 2006 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. For more information on this conference and other upcoming events or to become a DFI member please visit us online at [www.dfi.org](http://www.dfi.org) or call 973-423-4030.

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