



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, Codes & Standards, Drilled Shaft, Driven Pile, Ground Improvement, Helical Foundations & Tiebacks, Marine Foundation, Micropiles, Seismic and Lateral Loads, Slurry Wall, Soil Mixing, Sustainability, 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.

#### **DEEP FOUNDATIONS INSTITUTE**

326 Lafayette Avenue  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506 USA  
T: 973 423 4030 F: 973 423 4031  
dfihq@dfi.org | www.dfi.org

Theresa Rappaport  
Executive Director

## For Immediate Release

### **DFI Appoints Four New Committee Chairmen**

April 10, 2009, Hawthorne, NJ: The leadership of four of DFI's committees has recently changed hands with the appointment of new chairmen by DFI President Rudy Frizzi.



Laurent Lefebvre is now the DFI Slurry Wall committee chairman following 7 years of service by Ray Poletto. Laurent is an executive vice president with Nicholson Construction Company overseeing the Florida/Puerto Rico District and Special Projects Group. He directs the tendering, planning, design, and construction operations for his district and group. He is also a member of the Nicholson Management Committee. Laurent has a Master of Science-Civil Engineering, from the L'ecole Nationale Superieure des Arts et Industrie. He has worked in the geotechnical construction field for more than 23 years and has extensive experience in all aspects of geotechnical construction.

Gerry Houlahan, new chairman for the DFI Marine Foundations Committee, leads Moffatt and Nichol's deep foundation practice, as well as working with the Oil and Gas Marine Terminals group in the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated from Monash University in Australia and has over 35 years of experience in design and construction engineering of bridges, offshore platforms and towers. Gerry's experience in deep foundations includes one project in which he was senior structural engineer for the design of concrete foundations constructed for an offshore platform 800 feet below sea level. More recently, he was the lead foundations engineer for the marine sections of the new San Francisco to Oakland Bay Bridge East Spans. One of his current projects is the seismic retrofit assessment and design of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit System's existing Trans Bay Tube under the Bay. He is also presently designing foundations for wind power turbine generator units. Gerry replaced Robert Bittner as the chairman of this committee.



Tom Nichols, new chairman of DFI's Driven Pile committee, heads the Business Development/Marketing efforts of Underpinning & Foundations Skanska while also contributing to estimating. Tom graduated the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana with a BS in General Engineering. Tom began his career with Thatcher Foundations in 2001 at the Soldier Field renovation in Chicago, IL. While at Thatcher, he worked on numerous projects particularly focusing on driven piles and steel sheet piles. Tom is now working to maintain Underpinning's position as a leading driven pile contractor in the New York market through the use of new technologies and methods. He will work closely with past chairman and DFI trustee Michael Wysocky during the transition of the chairmanship.



New chairman for DFI's International Committee is Dr. Conrad Felice who is Director of the Applied Sciences Laboratory at Washington State University, in Spokane, Washington and a Professor and Associate Director of the Institute for Shock Physics in Pullman. Dr. Felice's previous position was as the President/CEO of LACHEL FELICE & Associates, Inc. He is a registered Professional Engineer in twelve US states, Puerto Rico and two provinces' in Canada. Dr. Felice has served as a principal engineer on national and international projects that have included heavy industrial structures, commercial structures, road and bridges, marine structures, dams, tunnels, water distribution systems, energy systems, and pipelines with individual project costs exceeding \$250 million. Internationally, he has worked throughout Europe and Asia including as the principal engineering on a signature cable stay bridge that recently opened in Mumbai, India. Recently, Dr. Felice participated as a member of the four member ASCE Reconnaissance Team site visit in July 2008 to the affected earthquake damaged area of the Sichuan basin from the magnitude 7.9 event. Dr. Felice holds a B.S. in civil engineering from Ohio University, an M.S. in Facilities Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from the University of Utah. The International Committee serves as a liaison to DFI-Europe and is actively pursuing activities in the Far East. Conrad begins this role following long-term service by committee co-chairmen, William F. Loftus, one of DFI's founders and Trustee Emeritus, and Richard D. Short, past president of DFI and current chair of the DFI Educational Trust.

DFI looks forward to the continued productivity of these committees under the leadership of these four highly qualified individuals and thanks the past chairman for the time and dedication they provided to DFI and its members. To learn more about the activities of these and other DFI committees, visit [www.dfi.org/committees.asp](http://www.dfi.org/committees.asp).

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