



DFI EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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For Immediate Release

DFI's Educational Trust 2009 Jorj Osterberg Memorial Lecture

May 25, 2009 Hawthorne N.J. The Deep Foundations Institute Educational Trust held this year's Jorj O. Osterberg Memorial Lecture and Gala Dinner on May 7th at the Riva Café in Chicago, IL. It is an annual event, established in 2008, courtesy of a grant to the Trust from Loadtest Inc. The event honors the memory of Jorj Osterberg, innovator and educator. Dr. Osterberg was a professor of civil engineering at Northwestern University for almost 60 years. The lectures focus on innovation and/or education in the engineering and construction industries, with an emphasis on deep foundations.

Bill Loftus, of William F. Loftus Associates, representing the Educational Trust, thanked Jack Hayes of Loadtest for the generous grant and idea that launched the annual lecture event. Bernie Hertlein of AECOM, was emcee for the evening. The lecture was delivered by the team of Clyde N. Baker, Jr., of AECOM (formerly STS Consultants) and Bob Lukas, of Ground Engineering, who regaled the audience with their stories of Osterberg's influence on their careers and projects.

Baker is renowned for his research and engineering achievements concerning deep foundations for high-rise buildings. Eight of the 20 tallest buildings in the world have benefited from Clyde's expertise. He expressed gratitude for Osterberg's contribution to advancing the soil sciences, and his help in increasing allowable design bearing pressures in the Midwest. Osterberg's inventions, the pressure cell, the piston sampler and the O-cell load test device, made significant contributions to the evolution of soil mechanics, particularly in the Midwest.

Lukas was a student of Osterberg's at Northwestern University, and a former colleague of Baker's at STS. Lukas is known as the father of dynamic soil compaction in the U. S., and was a pioneer of the Menard Pressuremeter, the soil strength testing device that was also enormously influential in increasing allowable bearing pressures in Chicago.

Both speakers received a framed portrait of Osterberg from the DFI's "Art for the Office" collection, drawn by Peggy Magovern. The portrait joins Charles Berkel, Ben Gerwick, Dick Goettle, and Larry Rayburn in the artist's gallery of industry icons. Sponsors of the fundraising event included AECOM and Hayward Baker, at the Gold level of \$1,000 each. The organizing committee included Hertlein, Steve Scherer of Hayward Baker, and Mike Wysocky of Thatcher Engineering.

Anyone interested in supporting the DFI Educational Trust through donations, sponsorship of fundraising events or purchase of a portrait through the "Art for the Office" program should contact the headquarters office at staff@dfi.org.



Lukas (left) and Baker (right) receive portrait of Osterberg in recognition of their lecture in his honor.

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