



DFI EDUCATIONAL TRUST

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2009 Paper Competition Winners Announced

August 10, 2009, Hawthorne, NJ: The DFI Educational Trust announces the winners of its 2009 Paper Competitions. Each year papers are solicited from students and entry-level faculty members on topics relating to deep foundations design and construction.

The winner of the 2009 Student Paper Competition is Paul Doherty, a doctoral research student at the University of Dublin, Ireland, for his title "*Cyclical Axial Loading of Offshore Piles-An Issue of Concern?*". Paul received his B.E. degree at University College Dublin (UCD) civil engineering in 2006 and just graduated with his M.S. in civil engineering, and is currently undertaking a Pd.D. on the subject of offshore piles subjected to working axial loads. He is supported through his PhD research by a scholarship from *Sustainable Energy Ireland*. He received a Geotechnical Society of Ireland scholarship in both 2008 and 2009 and was also the recipient of the annual Roughan & O'Donovan award for an undergraduate research project investigating the role of soil suction in slope stability.



Winners and runners-up

To obtain this photograph as separate file, contact DFI headquarters.

The winning paper for the 2009 Young Professor Paper Competition was submitted by Debra Laefer. Dr. Debra Laefer is a tenured lecturer at the University College Dublin in Ireland, where she has taught since 2004. Prior to that she taught at North Carolina State University. She holds degrees from Columbia University, Polytechnic University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Laefer's protection of existing structures subjected to nearby construction, such as adjacent excavation, tunneling, blasting, and dewatering. She is also involved in foundation reuse issues. The paper, titled, "*Impact of Clay on early Jet Grouting Strength*" presents an experimental investigation where 150 grout samples were subjected to 0-10% levels of Kaolinite and Bentonite inclusion to determine the impact of clay on the strength of jet grouting. The investigation uncovered that even small amounts of clay considerably reduces the soilcrete strength and stiffness.

Dr. Laefer is an active member of the DFI's Sustainability Committee and is also a long-standing member of the Geo-

Institute of ASCE's Deep Foundations Committee and Earth Retaining Structures Committee. Additionally, she serves as an associate editor for their Geo-Strata magazine. Most recently, she was appointed to the Deep Foundations Committee for the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. Dr. Laefer also holds the distinction of being the final year project supervisor of Ms. Julie Clarke and Ms. Laura Hannigan, this year's DFI Student Paper competition runners-up for their paper titled, "*Three-Stage Assessment Process to Predict Risk Levels Due to Subsurface Construction.*"

All three papers are being published in DFI's Proceedings of the 34th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations and Doherty and Laefer will present their topics on October 21 and October 23 respectively during the conference in Kansas City at the Westin Crown Center Hotel. The winners and runners-up receive complimentary conference registrations, a library of 20 DFI publications, and two-year complimentary DFI memberships. Winners of each competition additionally receive a \$750 award and lodging during the conference.

To learn more about the upcoming conference, about DFI and the DFI Educational Trust activities, or to obtain a copy of the proceedings, please visit www.dfi.org or call 973-423-4030.