



For Immediate Release

DFI Educational Trust Student and Young Professor Winners 2011

December 13, 2011, Hawthorne, NJ: The DFI Educational Trust announces the winners of its 2011 Paper Competitions. Each year papers are solicited from students and entry-level faculty members on topics relating to deep foundations design and construction.

The winning author of the 2011 Student Paper Competition, Fawad S. Niazi, is a doctoral student in the In-Situ Testing Research Group of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Fawad's research relates to the evaluation of axial deep foundation response using seismic piezocone tests. His winning paper titled "Axial Pile Displacement Evaluations from Seismic Piezocone Data and Back-analysis of Load Tests" is part of his broader attempt to develop a SCPTu-based generalized direct method for complete axial pile foundation evaluations, intended for a wide variety of pile and soil types. He credits his PhD advisor, Dr. Paul W. Mayne as his main source of guidance for advancing his research. The paper was published in the DFI 36th Annual Conference Proceedings and was presented at the conference on October 21, 2011 in Boston, MA at the Seaport World Trade Center. Fawad received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering from National University of Sciences and Technology in Pakistan. He received a national scholarship from Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in 2007-08. To fulfill his doctoral work, he transferred to Georgia Tech in 2008, where he is partially supported by ConeTec Investigations, GRA and GTA assistantships in CEE, and instructor roles in College of Engineering. Fawad is a professional engineer registered with the Institute of Engineers Pakistan and Pakistan Engineering Council, and a student member of the ASCE.

The 2011 Young Professor Paper Competition winning submission titled "Impact of Shear-Flexure Interaction on P-Y Curves of Pile Foundations" was co-authored by Anne Lemnitzer and Leonardo M. Massone. Anne Lemnitzer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of California, Irvine. She received her BS from the University of Applied Sciences in Leipzig, Germany, an MS in Geotechnical Engineering as a Fulbright Scholar at CSU Long Beach and a MS and PhD in Structural/Earthquake Engineering from UCLA. Her research work focuses on soil-structure interaction of various bridge foundation systems and lead to significant changes in the California bridge design (Caltran's Seismic Design Criteria). She serves as reviewer for multiple geotechnical journals and conferences and is an active committee member of DFI, EERI and an ASCE. Her research interests include laboratory and field testing, bridge engineering and soil-foundation-structure interaction. Leonardo M. Massone is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Engineering and Mathematics at the University of Chile, Santiago. He received his BS degree (1999) from the University of Chile, and his MS (2003) and PhD (2006) degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). His research interests include analytical and experimental studies of reinforced concrete systems, with emphasis on seismic response. His work is published in many leading journals and conferences, most of them related to reinforced concrete shear walls. He currently teaches courses at the University of Chile such as reinforced concrete design, advanced reinforced concrete design, and nonlinear structural analysis and serves as the chair of the graduate (MS) program of the department. The authors have elected to publish their paper in the *DFI Journal* rather than the conference proceedings.



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 or the *DFI Journal*, please visit www.dfi.org or call 973-423-4030.