



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's Blockbuster 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference

A record-breaking 575 DFI members congregated in New York City for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting and 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference in October. About 20% of the attendees were from outside the U.S. and over 90 exhibitors were among crowd, which overflowed some meeting rooms. Chair of the highly successful event was William F. Loftus, a founding member of DFI and past president.

New York City itself was the unacknowledged star of the show, beginning with the welcome address by Joseph F. Trainor, vice president and chief engineer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Capital Construction. He described his agency's \$15.4 billion project workload, including three subway jobs, mostly extensions of existing lines, plus two projects in downtown Manhattan that will require extensive subsurface work, a new transit center and a new South Ferry Terminal. The largest project at \$7.24 billion includes 3.5 route miles of new tunnel.

The 2008 Outstanding Project Award went to another New York City project, the opening of the new South Ferry subway station. Partner David Cacoilo accepted the award for Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, a 98-year old New York City firm. Another award presented was the Distinguished Service Award to M. Byrl Williams, former owner of American Piledriving Inc. and current chief engineer for Foundation Constructors Inc., for his accomplishments in the industry.

The four technical sessions addressed groundwater control, construction in urban areas, novel design and construction as well as installation and testing. From outside the U.S. there were presentations from Canada and several from Germany, Italy and the U.K. U.S. projects included a history lesson based on the open well caissons for a turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century bascule bridge in New London, Conn., and how the investigation impacted the design of new lift bridge at the same site. A panel discussion on "Should There Be More Interaction Between Engineers and Contractors?" was another highlight of the Annual Meeting with contractor and engineer panelists. The group agreed that project participants should be able to tell the client that "the contract is not right for this job."



Two memorial lectures were also presented during the conference. David E. Sherwood, Chairman of Bachy Soletanche Limited, gave a masterful overview of major developments in geotechnical engineering over the past 20 years, which concluded with his ideas about current and future trends during the John Mitchell Lecture. The Hal Hunt Lecture was provided by Peter Mac Kenna, CEO of Skanska USA Civil Southeast, who spoke about the infrastructure crisis, saying that "Money is not the problem" but rather the crisis is brought on by our own industry failure. "We have failed in our obligation to communicate the vital role our industry plays in the very fabric of civilization."

Further details on this conference can be found at [www.dfi.org](http://www.dfi.org) and in the Fall 2008 and Winter 2009 issues of DFI's quarterly magazine, *Deep Foundations*.