

The Geo-Institute (G-I) Student Chapter

By *Adam Lobbestael, President*

The University of Michigan **Geo-Institute** (G-I) student chapter has had a successful first year since our formation at the beginning of the academic year. G-I is a specialty membership organization of the American Society of Civil Engineers focused on the geo-industry, with the purpose of enhancing the education and personal experience of students in the geotechnical engineering community at U-M.

Over the course of the winter semester the G-I hosted two speakers for the Geotechnical Seminar Series. The first speaker, Larry Jedele of Soil and Materials Engineers, Inc., gave a presentation entitled, “Geotechnical Lessons Learned and Solutions.” We also hosted Steve Maranowski, CEO of Spartan Specialties LTD, with a presentation on micro-piling, jet grouting, and compaction grouting case histories.

The G-I also worked with the CEE Department, EERI, and GREENPEAS to

jointly host the third annual CEE Technical Symposium. During this event, graduate students throughout the department were given the opportunity to present their research on a broad array of topics.

Our organization has also been working on its outreach efforts, which extend beyond the department. Several G-I members took part in the Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP) this spring. DAPCEP is an outreach program offered to 7-9th grade inner-city Detroit students, aimed at raising awareness of engineering possibilities at a young age. The G-I coordinated one day of the event, in which students explored some of the possibilities in geotechnical engineering and built small-scale models of mechanically stabilized earth walls.

We are very pleased with the progress that our first year has brought and look forward to the upcoming year. G-I will soon begin planning events for the Geotechnical



Guest speaker Steve Maranowski, CEO of Spartan Specialties LTD, gives a presentation on micro-piling, jet grouting, and compaction grouting case histories.

Seminar series for the coming fall semester. We are also looking to form a student team to compete at the annual National GeoChallenge Competition for the coming year.

If you have any questions regarding our organization or are interested in supporting our efforts please contact the officers at gi-officers@umich.edu or visit www.umich.edu/~geotech for a link to our website. ■