

Fanni Reunion Foundation, Inc.



FRF's First International Student Paper Competition in Honor of Professor Mehdi Ghalibafian, PhD, SE

The Fanni Reunion Foundation, Inc. (FRF) is pleased to announce the First Graduate Student Paper Competition. The FRF's objectives for this competition include: (1) To motivate graduate students and young professionals to produce original and noteworthy work that contributes to the betterment of human welfare, (2) To promote research and active involvement of students in the field of seismic retrofit of structures. Such research is of vital importance due to the fact that earthquakes have caused approximately ½ a million fatalities during the past decade and over 8 million fatalities during the past millennium, and (3) To acknowledge the services of the Late Mehdi Ghalibafian, PhD, SE, an outstanding professor of Civil Engineering Department at *Fanni*, University of Tehran, and a respected professional and researcher in the field of seismic retrofit of structures

This competition will be held once a year. A team of judges will review the papers and the finalists will be announced on FRF's website. The rules and topic of competition may change each year. Anyone interested to make donations to FRF to continue this competition in the following years, please contact any of the FRF board members.

The winner of the competition will be invited to present his/her paper at one of the FRF lecture series in Los Angeles, California. A \$1,000 cash award and a plaque of recognition will be presented to the winner in the annual FRF Gathering. Two other runner-ups will be recognized at the annual FRF gathering as Honorable Mention with a certificate. The extended abstract of the winning paper will be published in the FRF newsletter and website, and any third party publication. Conditioned on release of copyright, the paper will be published in the FRF newsletter and website.

About Fanni Reunion Foundation, Inc.

The Fanni Reunion Foundation, Inc., is an association of alumni, faculty, and staff of the School of Engineering (*Fanni*), University of Tehran. FRF is a non-profit public benefit corporation, established in the State of California. Further information is available on FRF website (<http://www.fannireunion.org>).

A Short Biography of Professor Mehdi Ghalibafian (1933-2007)

The Late Prof. Mehdi Ghalibafian received his MS from Fanni, University of Tehran, Iran in 1959, and his PhD from University of Sorbonne, Paris, France in 1964. His PhD dissertation was on analysis and design of reinforced concrete structures. He joined the faculty of Civil Engineering at Fanni in 1965, taught and conducted research for forty years. Among the courses that he taught were 'Analysis and Design of Reinforced Concrete Structures' and 'Seismic Retrofit of Structures.' He published 18 books and scientific literatures in Farsi, 2 books in French, 8 textbooks for Fanni classes, and more than 80 engineering articles. Prof. Ghalibafian was a promoter of reinforced concrete design technology in Iran. As a consulting engineer, he got actively involved in the analysis and design of all types of structures. Dr. Ghalibafian is credited with seismically retrofitting over 300 major structures in Iran. He was extremely instrumental in establishing various Iranian engineering associations and developing national standards and building codes. His excellent services to humanity and the engineering community for half a century turned him to an engineering icon! During his professional lifetime, Professor Ghalibafian was a great source of inspiration for Fanni students and professionals in the field of civil engineering.

RULES

Topic

The topics of the papers should be directly related to **seismic retrofit of structures**. However, topics that have a broad impact on the society are preferred. Topics that are indirectly related to seismic retrofit are acceptable, but may not be competitive.

Deadline

Application forms and a 100-word abstract is due on **June 1, 2008**. Papers and all required materials for competition must be received by close of business on **September 1, 2008**.

Authorship

For graduate papers, the paper must be the original work of the student and this student must be listed as the first (primary) author. A faculty member, other advisor(s), or colleague may co-author the paper. The award and recognition, however, will be granted to the first author.

Qualification

Only current graduate students or those graduated within the last academic year are eligible for the competition. This competition is international and any graduate student from anywhere in the world is welcomed to participate. FRF may require a formal letter from the university. FRF does not discriminate based on gender, country of origin, religion, race, sexual orientation, age and/or color.

Papers published in any publication (journal, conference proceedings, meeting note, etc.) during the 12 months prior to the deadline can be submitted as an entry to the competition according to authorship rules below. For published papers a ***permission letter*** from the publishing entity is required which should allow FRF to publish/reprint the paper in FRF newsletter which distributed electronically through the public FRF website as well as hard copy. However, FRF will reserve the copyright to the extended abstract and reserves the right to grant permission for publication to any third party. FRF permits that the full papers be submitted to other organizations, but not the extended abstract. Each author can submit only one paper for the competition.

Language and format of the Paper

All papers must be in English. Guidelines for preparing and submitting the manuscript can be obtained from **<http://www.fannireunion.org>**

Selection of Jury Members

A jury committee will be recommended by the competition committee and endorsed by FRF board of directors. The judges shall be prominent professionals in the field of earthquake engineering.

Administration of Contest

The competition is administered by a committee assigned by the Board of Directors.

Judging Criteria

Extended Abstracts and Papers will be judged based on relevance, intellectual merit (work's importance in advancing the state of the art), broader impact on the society, English standards, presentation and writing style, clarity, and innovation and originality of the concept, the technical approach and quality of methodology, rational, sufficient and consistent results, validity of the conclusions drawn from the results (if applicable). Papers will be judged in a one or two round screening process, depending on the number of paper entries. Extended abstracts maybe used for initial screening of the papers.

Submission

Electronic versions in **both PDF and Word** formats must be received at **papercompetition@fannireunion.org**. Save the PDF in "print" resolution. The PDF and Word files may be put inside a zipped file. Do not e-mail files greater than 5 megabytes in size. Files, however, can be sent separately with proper subject. For files exceeding the 5 megabyte limit, submission via CD and direct mail (snail mail) is recommended. All manuscripts will be acknowledged upon receipt.

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