

2008 Forest Service *Engineer of the Year* Winners

Congratulations to:

Melissa “Misty” Shafiqullah—Managerial engineer of the year

Dick Karsky—Technical engineer of the year

Robert S. Ingram—Engineering technician of the year

Ben Gentry—Engineering technology applications employee of the year

The winners will be traveling to Washington, DC, in May for the 2008 Forest Service *Engineer of the Year* awards ceremony.

A summary of the winners’ accomplishments follows:



Misty Shafiqullah—2008 Managerial Engineer of the Year

Misty Shafiqullah (Melissa Shafiqullah) has served as the forest engineer for the Coronado National Forest since 2005. She has advocated “matrix organizational” structures (sharing of resources beyond boundaries) both on her forest, as well as within the region and nationally.

In her first year as forest engineer, the majority of her staff participated in rotating details to support the forests of North Carolina and their 2004 hurricane disaster ERFO (Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads) response. She assisted the Southwest Region by making her employees available for regionwide engineering assignments. She

has partnered with several Rocky Mountain Region forests that provided road crews to help address border road maintenance workloads along the United States/Mexico border. Throughout 2008, Misty was the acting public services staff officer managing the recreation, special uses, and heritage programs in addition to the engineering/fleet program.

Misty began her Forest Service career as a civil engineering trainee after graduating from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in geological engineering in 1989. She is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Arizona.

Misty worked on design and inspection of recreation facility construction projects, transitioning into transportation operations, maintenance, and planning-related duties. From 1993 until 2005, she worked as an engineering liaison with the Federal Highway Administration, Pima County Department of Transportation, design consultants, and construction contractors on the \$70 million Catalina Highway reconstruction project, recognized with the 1997 Marvin M. Black Excellence in Partnering Award and the 1998 Federal Energy and Water Management Award.

Misty fostered strong relationships with other agencies. She works with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), providing input and guidance for State-administered road projects on forest lands. She received special recognition from an ADOT district as the "Swift Trail Project Partnering Champion for 2003-2004." Misty developed a partnership with the local office of the U.S. Border Patrol helping to maintain forest roads with the goal of gaining operational control of the Coronado National Forest along the United States/Mexico border for the safety of the public and employees.

In addition to her managerial role, Misty volunteers to take on numerous collateral duties. She is the chairperson of the Southwest Region Green Team, and is the chairperson for the Coronado Green Team. She served as the women's special emphasis program manager for the Coronado National Forest for 6 years and was the chairperson of the forest's Civil Rights Action Committee. Misty also volunteers with the Girl Scouts and supports women and girls by facilitating programs for Girls Inc. of Tucson.



Dick Karsky—2008 Technical Engineer of the Year

Dick Karsky (Richard J. Karsky) heads the GPS (global positioning system), forest health, and watershed, soil, and air programs at the Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) in Missoula, MT.

Dick began learning the practical applications of agricultural engineering when he was growing up on a farm in North Dakota. In 1967, Dick graduated from North Dakota State University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering. He worked on agricultural tillage equipment for Allis Chalmers Mfg. Co. before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1969.

After his discharge, Dick attended the University of Minnesota, where he received a master's degree in agricultural engineering/mechanical engineering in 1972. He worked

on agricultural tractors as a project engineer for the White Farm Equipment Co. before coming to MTDC in 1977.

During his early years at MTDC, Dick helped modify equipment used for mine reclamation, helping mine operators meet the Bureau of Land Management's reclamation regulations. Dick traveled to Venezuela to help with a mine reclamation demonstration project.

The projects Dick recalls from his career of more than three decades at MTDC include:

- Working on two different sizes of small cable yarding systems for removing forest residues and slash.
- Developing equipment to help make Forest Service nurseries safer and more efficient.
- Developing a machine to evaluate steam treatment for fumigating nursery soils without having to use the pesticide methyl bromide.
- Working with Forest Service Research & Development to build an “in the woods machine” that produces wood chunks that can be burned to produce energy or used to build temporary roads for low-volume traffic.
- Evaluating commercial GPS receivers and working with manufacturers to improve the accuracy of GPS receivers under a forest canopy.
- Serving on an interagency team that evaluated GPS receivers under difficult canopy conditions throughout the United States.
- Helping train Indonesian land managers in the use of GPS technology.

- Designing accessory attachments for smokejumper aircraft so smokejumpers can attach parachute tether lines.
- Helping develop a protocol for testing bear-resistant containers that has become a standard.

Dick is a licensed Professional Engineer in Illinois, Minnesota, and Montana. He has been a member of the SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) and the ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) for more than 40 years.

Dick has been active in a booster club that helped raise funds for the school his son and daughters attend and has been active in his local church.



Robert S. Ingram—2008 Engineering Technician of the Year

Rob Ingram is acting as the team leader for the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) highway liaison team on the Tonto National Forest.

Rob began his Forest Service career in 1971 working on a timber stand improvement crew as a seasonal employee for the Coconino National Forest. He spent several seasons working in fire management on an engine crew and a hot shot crew before he returned to Arizona State University, where he received a second degree in environmental resources.

In 1978, Rob accepted a position as a range conservationist in Silver City, NM. In 1981 he became the range and wildlife staff officer, based at Truth or Consequences, NM. In 1983 Rob moved to Payson, AZ, to work as the range and watershed staff officer. In 1997, he became a highway project coordinator for the forest, working as the forest's agent for the Federal Highway Administration and as a liaison with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). Rob saw the need for improved erosion control on State highway projects and became a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control in 2001. He has participated in the design and implementation of highway construction projects costing more than \$300 million during his career.

In 2006, Rob was recognized for his participation in the ADOT Stormwater Program and in 2008 for helping to develop the ADOT guidelines for highway construction on U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service Lands. As a member of the design team for the Arizona Route 260 project, he received the 2008 National Environmental Excellence Award from the National Association of Environmental Professionals for environmental stewardship for improving wildlife connectivity across State highways. He served as a member of the Payson Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for 4 years and is active in the local area transportation planning process for Payson, AZ.

Rob and his wife, Ginger, enjoy traveling, outdoor activities, and their dogs. Rob and Ginger have two adult children who attend Arizona State University.



Ben Gentry—2008 Engineering Technology Applications Employee of the Year

Ben Gentry began his current position as a GIS (geographic information systems) technician on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests in the Southern Region during 2005. He works for both the Boston Mountain and Mt. Magazine Ranger Districts, but is also involved in forestwide projects. His responsibilities include updating and maintaining the forests' travel route GIS database, updating travel route information in the INFRA Travel Routes application, and assisting district engineering personnel with INFRA updates. Ben is involved in updating the forests' access travel management information in INFRA and in producing the forest motor vehicle use maps each year. Ben provides GIS/GPS support across the forest and provides GIS products for district-level project work.

Ben is also a certified timber marker, prescribed fire crewmember, firefighter type II, and qualified GIS specialist for the Incident Command System. He recently passed the Forest Service's Public Works and Trails National Construction Certification Program exams.

Ben joined for the Forest Service in 2001 as a temporary student worker on the Ouachita National Forest, performing biological field surveys and marking timber. During 2003 and 2004, Ben worked as a SCEP (student career experience program)

cartographic aide on the Huron-Manistee National Forests in the Eastern Region. He received a bachelor's degree in spatial information systems from the University of Arkansas-Monticello in 2005.

During his time off, Ben enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping with friends and family.