



## **Panama Canal Expansion Program**

Dennis and Leslie Drag Distinguished Lecture Series  
Friday, February 29, 2008, 4:00 PM  
Bowen Laboratory, Purdue University

**Stephen P. Wanders, P.E., Vice President**

**CH2M HILL**

In October 2006, the people of Panama voted to expand the capacity of the Panama Canal by adding a third set of locks on the Atlantic and Pacific ends of the canal. The Panama Canal Authority (Autoridad del Canal de Panama, or ACP) selected CH2M HILL to serve as its program manager. This \$5.25 billion project will be completed in seven years, and the completion will coincide with the canal's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 15, 2014.

More than 73 percent of the world's cargo fleet is too large to pass through the canal. The expansion will ensure a robust future for Panama's maritime route, boost the national economy, and enhance safety and efficiency. The expansion will be the largest project in the canals' history since it opened in 1914.

**Steve Wanders**, Operations Director for CH2M HILL's Ports & Maritime Group, will present an overview of the **Panama Canal Expansion Program** and the firm's role on the project. He will also discuss his career path since graduating from Purdue, leading to his current role in the firm and involvement on the program.

Steve was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, and received his BSCE and MSCE in Structures from Purdue University in 1978 and 1979. He joined **CH2M HILL** as a structural engineer in January 1980 in Portland, Oregon, when the firm had 1,400 employees and \$150 million in annual revenues. Steve has held various positions with CH2M HILL over the past 28 years, during which time the firm has grown to a \$6 billion company with 26,000 employees providing engineering, construction, operations and related technical services to public and private clients worldwide.

After having moved with CH2M HILL from Portland to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, then to Dayton, Ohio, Steve and his wife, Lori, also a Purdue graduate, now live in Savannah, Georgia. They have two daughters - Jennifer, a seventh-grade science teacher in Atlanta, and Natalie, a senior at Indiana University in Bloomington.