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Currents

Locked and Locked

## Worth a Closer Look

[Panama Canal Expansion Project](#)

## Jorge de la Guardia, MS Eng '74, The \$5.3 billion Panama Canal expansion

Imagine a floating barge 160 feet wide and longer than four football fields. Fill it w

## The Panama Canal Expansion's local connection: Cornell grad Jorge de la Guardia, '74

Written by Administrator

Wednesday, 05 March 2014 14:23 - Last Updated Wednesday, 05 March 2014 18:11

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Big dig: Jorge de la Guardia, MEng '74, has spent much of his career at the Panama Canal.

If all goes according to plan, by June 2015 the passage of these enormous "post-Panamax" ships will be

As a youth, de la Guardia dreamed of teaching at the University of Panama, where he later earned an un

De la Guardia described his vocation in a campus talk last November, six years into working on the worl

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Jorge de la Guardia, MEng '74

Blame it on bad cement. The new locks are made of steel-reinforced concrete that must resist moisture

It was the explosive rise in trade between Asia and the Americas that led to the construction of post-Panama

Comparisons to other manmade wonders help put de la Guardia's project into perspective: the new locks

The real engineering novelty of the expansion, says de la Guardia, is its use of water-saving basins built

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Once the job is done, says de la Guardia, "I think it will be time to retire."

— Franklin Crawford