“Expanding the Panama Canal”

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006
4:00 – 5:00 pm
Refreshments available at 3:30 pm

Location:
The Transportation Center
Chambers Hall, Lower Level Conference Center
600 Foster, Evanston

Abstract: The Panama Canal Expansion Program was approved by the citizens of the Republic of Panama on October 21, 2006. This allows the project to expand both the Canal’s capability and capacity – both of which are greatly needed given the ongoing globalization of the world economy.

Following a brief review of the history of the Panama Canal, the focus will be on the steps required to accomplish the expansion. Special emphasis will be placed upon the innovative technologies and techniques being brought to bear to assure the expanded Canal meets its objectives as a “collective asset” of the international transport and logistics communities.

Biography: Aaron Gellman is the former Director of Northwestern’s Transportation Center, a position he held from January 1992 through August 2000. A noted transportation economist he has published many articles on transportation economics and policy, research and development, the regulation of transportation and the management and utilization of research and technology.

He is founder and former President of Gellman Research Associations (GRA) with over twenty years experience in consulting. Before founding GRA, Dr. Gellman was a Vice President of the Budd Company in Philadelphia and Vice President for Planning at North American Car Corporation in Chicago. He served for twenty-four years as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, offering graduate courses in transportation and in the management and utilization of technology.

Research projects in which Dr. Gellman has recently been engaged include an analysis of the prospects of the Airbus A380, the economic evaluation of innovative methods of handling intermodal freight traffic, and the identification and evaluation of the catalysts and barriers to innovation in transportation enterprises. He is studying means by which new air traffic management technology and techniques can be brought into widespread use quickly and efficiently.

Dr. Gellman is a member of the FAA Research, Engineering and Development Subcommittee on Safety and Air Traffic Services, the American Economic Association, the Transportation Research Forum, the Transportation Research Board and the American Railway Engineering Association. Since 2003, Dr. Gellman has served on the Advisory Board to the Panama Canal Authority.

Dr. Gellman received the 1995 Salzberg Honorary Medallion for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Transportation. He was President of the Transportation Research Forum 1998-99.

Dr. Gellman received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia, an MBA in Transportation from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.