



Women's Legacy Award

HONORING AGGIE WOMEN



Ilya Marotta '85

Ilya received a Fulbright Scholarship to study marine biology at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. She decided to change majors and study engineering at Texas A&M University at Galveston, which made her ineligible to continue as a Fulbright Scholar. After transferring to Texas A&M at Galveston, Ilya received a scholarship from the Organization of American States (OAS).

Ilya worked for the Panama Canal for over 30 years in numerous capacities including ship repairs, dredging, construction, accounting, engineering, and master planning. In 2012, Ilya was appointed

Executive Vice President of the Panama Canal Expansion Project, a \$5.2Billion project completed under her leadership in 2016.

Ilya has received numerous recognitions for her professional career including Outstanding Woman of the Year (2014) by the Panamanian Association of Business Executives, Engineering Achievement Award by the Intellectual Women of Panama, Distinguished Woman Award by the Association of Professional and Business Women of Panama, and 50 Most Powerful Women in Central America by Forbes Magazine of Mexico.

Ilya has had a tremendous impact on future generations of Aggie women through her reputation in science and engineering and as an international mentor. She was a keynote speaker for Aggie Women Weekend in April 2017, and presented at the Women in Science and Engineering in February of this year. She presented to graduate students at Cornell University, and at the Society of Women Engineers in Boston. In May, 2016 she welcomed a group of Aggie Cadets to the Miraflores Locks in Panama. In June 2017, she gave a guided presentation to the Traveling Aggies while they were transiting the Panama Canal.

Ilya has also served her community in diverse ways. A few include the Panama chapter of the Ronald McDonald House Charities, International Women's Forum, Women Corporate Directors, and Panama's National Cancer Association.

Ilya was selected for the judging panel of the Queen Elizabeth Prize, a global engineering prize that rewards and celebrates engineers responsible for ground-breaking innovation that has been a global benefit to humanity.