



Serving the international trade community since 1985.

## **WITnews**

### **First Quarter 2010**

WIT has had a busy first quarter while focusing on key Customs interests. We began the year with Duty Drawback, and it was, no doubt, well-attended. The economy drives our companies to look for any means to reduce expenses, or in this case, to obtain entitled duty refunds from the government. The seminar provided WIT members with a much needed update after major changes to the drawback industry. Two of our speakers included Maryann Carney, National Field Drawback Chief, who re-visited WIT members in the L.A. area after several years, and Velda Griffen, Field Director in the Office of International Trade, who is now also in charge of drawback within Regulatory Audit. Since part of Ms. Griffen's objectives is to review the current standards and structure for drawback audit, some of our more experienced drawback claimants in the audience gave constructive feedback to CBP as to the trade's perspective of the most effective and streamlined means of audit. This was an excellent example of receptive dialog exchange between CBP and the trade.

Our second event consisted of a User Group discussion on C-TPAT validation, graciously hosted by member American Honda Motors. The discussion included both experienced and those new to C-TPAT. The meeting offered members a chance to share best practices and learn recent experiences about CBP's apparent interests and concerns in security issues. Watch for the next User Group discussion in our Customs Professional Network Series on June 9<sup>th</sup> in which the topic will be Import Security Filing (ISF). WIT is pleased to provide this forum to help the trade comply with this newly implemented mandate.

Last but not least, WIT is pleased to reinstate its Customs Classification Seminar – a signature annual class for members for over 10 years now. WIT welcomed back Bruce Leeds, whose well-known techniques in teaching for the Customs Brokers exam served the audience well in the complex world of classification. CBP Senior Import Specialists Charlene Miller and Vernie Parrott provided fun examples of everyday life products, which made the class more interactive and entertaining. The seminar was followed by a networking mixer in which attendees had the opportunity to meet our CBP experts in person.

To kick off the second quarter, WIT will host a unique event featuring techniques to effectively utilize Social Media Networking tools for international businesses. After the presentation, guests are invited to stay later for the mixer to enjoy an evening of fine cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and sophisticated jazz at the trendy Wokcano restaurant in Long Beach.

Many more events are in store this year and the WIT board members look forward to meeting you at a future occasion!

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## Upcoming Programs

April 21 5:30 – 8:30PM	Utilizing Social Media Networking for International Business Wokcano Restaurant, Long Beach
May 1 10:30AM	Day at the Races (World Trade Week event) Hollywood Park, Inglewood
June 9 12:15 – 1:30PM	User Group Discussion (Members Only): Importer Security Filing American Honda Motors, Torrance
June 30	WIT Linguistics: Spanish El Camino College, Torrance

To register, go online to [www.wit-la.org](http://www.wit-la.org).

## Room to Read

As Room to Read (RTR) celebrates its ten year anniversary, WIT is proud, once again, to support its favorite charity. The race is on as WIT members join efforts to reach the highest sponsorship goals yet to help RTR continue its global expansion. We are excited to share with you, RTR's vision for the second decade which focuses on two key areas: literacy and gender equality in education. In the past ten years, RTR has worked with thousands of communities across nine countries to provide enhanced learning opportunities for millions of children in Asia and Africa. RTR's future goal is more ambitious than ever: to enable more than 10 million children in over a dozen developing world countries to maximize their education experiences by 2015.

We thank all who have contributed to this cause by attending or donating to WIT's "Christmas in July" and "WITmas" events in the past. We invite you to continue on this important journey with us. For sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, contact Wayne Jepson at [info@wit-la.org](mailto:info@wit-la.org).

## Membership

Not a member yet? The best time to join is at our April 21<sup>st</sup> event when we will offer special new membership rates. The value of a WIT membership cannot be beat - membership entitles you to reciprocal benefits at over 22 OWIT chapters around the world!

For membership info, contact Diane Hudson at [info@wit-la.org](mailto:info@wit-la.org).

## Scholarship

WIT proudly presents two awards each year to deserving students: The **Marjorie M. Shostak Scholarship Award** and the **Gladys A. Moreau Scholarship Award**.

The Marjorie M. Shostak fund was established in November of 1995 to encourage women and men to pursue an education in an international field. The winner will receive a one-time award of \$1,500 and will be chosen by the WIT-LA Scholarship Committee.

The Gladys A. Moreau fund was established to encourage women and men to pursue an education in an international field. The winner will be chosen by the WIT-LA Scholarship Committee and will receive a one-time award of \$1,500.

Both awards will be made directly to the recipient, who will be expected to apply the funds toward educational related expenses, for example, tuition, books, study abroad program or international trade related seminars/workshops.

Applications are now being accepted. For details on how to apply for these scholarships or to donate part of your membership dues directly to this award, please go to [www.wit-la.org](http://www.wit-la.org) or contact April Park at [info@wit-la.org](mailto:info@wit-la.org).