



ITM Faculty Update

Sonja Chapman, Secretary of the U.S. Fashion Industry Association (USFIA).



Professor Sonja Chapman, who teaches international logistics and import/export regulations in the Department of International Trade & Marketing (ITM), has been elected national Secretary to the Board of Directors of the **United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)**. Founded in 1989 as the United States Association of Importers of Textiles & Apparel (USA-ITA) with the goal of eliminating the global apparel quota system, USFIA now works to eliminate the tariff and non-tariff barriers impeding the industry's ability to trade freely and create economic opportunities in the United States and

abroad. USFIA has its headquarters in Washington D.C.

Professor Chapman, a part-time adjunct assistant professor in ITM since 2003, was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in 2003 to represent importers in the Board of Directors of the **Cotton Board**, a national organization dedicated to the research and promotion of US cotton fiber and reviewing and approving the marketing and promotion plans of its sole source contractor, Cotton Incorporated. During her tenure as member of the Cotton Board, Sonja has chaired the Strategic Assessment Committee and participated in the Consumer Marketing, Global Supply Chain Marketing, and Importer Support committees.

Professor Chapman is a **Licensed Customhouse Broker** who has worked in the apparel industry for over 30 years. She is currently the **Director of International Traffic and Imports** for the Golden Touch Group, four companies specializing in women's and junior apparel. She has developed and conducted training workshops for companies such as Philipps Van Huesen, led industry workshops both domestically and internationally, and taught at the postgraduate level for the Bangkok International Fashion Academy and Moscow State University.

Professor Chapman says that her new role as national Secretary of the **United States Fashion Industry Association (USFIA)** will "enrich her classes at FIT with new experiences and current debates in international trade, especially at a time when new treaties, such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are being debated in Washington D.C."

ITM students and faculty congratulate Professor Chapman on her new assignment.

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