

# Comments from the Editors

**THIS EDITION OF *AIB INSIGHTS*** is focussed on the process of *reshoring* or *backshoring*. Were we in the concrete construction business we might have encountered these terms related to using *forms* to support poured concrete structures. The online Merriam-Webster and Cambridge dictionary do not list either term; the Oxford Online Dictionaries does not list backshoring, but it does define reshoring as: *The practice of transferring a business operation that was moved overseas back to the country from which it was originally relocated*, indicating the term's first use in this context in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Searching the internet we found several people doing interesting work in the area, and we invited their contributions. In the first article, Lydia Bals, Anika Daum, and Wendy Tate inform us that the phenomenon of *backshoring* is not new, with documentation dating back to the 1980s. This useful article discusses distinctions amongst the definitions of the various terms *offshoring*, *backshoring*, *insourcing* vs. *outsourcing*, *outsourced backshoring*, and *in-house backshoring*, along with reasons firms engage in each.

In "Returning from Offshore: What Do We Know?"; Filippo Albertoni, Stefano Elia, Luciano Fratocchi and Lucia Piscitello discuss of some of the drivers of reshoring, and they provide tables of global statistics for the phenomenon. They point out that offshoring and reshoring require further investigation and research in order to understand their ultimate impact on economic systems.

In New Zealand, the process was recently discussed in *The Business* insert of the New Zealand Herald, 7 August 2015, which helped bring this topic to our attention. For counterpoint, Taghreed Hikmet and Peter Enderwick, in the final article of this issue, advise a thorough understanding of the cost savings of *offshoring* before making *reshoring* decisions.

**From Romie Littrell:** My three year term as editor of *AIB Insights* comes to an end with this issue. I have enjoyed the processes of interacting with those of you who have contributed and appreciate the time and effort spent in producing your articles. I have also enjoyed working with Associate Editor Daniel Rottig, who now takes the post of Editor for the next three year term. Daniel and I have received outstanding support from the Academy of International Business staff who manage the production of the journal. Thanks a lot to everyone involved.

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