Many companies are making moves to bring manufacturing back to American soil because it makes good business sense. The business news section is full of examples. The new Tesla lithium ion battery factory in Nevada, called the Gigafactory, is scheduled to begin cell production in 2017. Boeing builds planes in Washington. Many Toyota trucks are made in Texas. Even the production of pink yard flamingos is being moved back to the U.S.

“The Made in America” segment on ABC’s World News Tonight with David Muir is a testament to Americans’ renewed interest in manufacturing at home. Recently, a May 2016 segment covered Marriott’s decision to replace towels made in the U.S. rather than the manufacturing that left decades ago into other countries,” McCormick said. “Warehouses are no longer dark and dirty. Warehouses now are highly automated, robotic wonderlands.”

With the increased automation of manufacturing, other stages of the supply chain are being affected, like transportation and communication. By 2025, Daimler expects to mass produce a driverless tractor-trailer, a move that faces safety concerns and potential legal restrictions.

Though the influx of plants and factories to the U.S., the technological improvements reduce manual labor needs, and the job openings that are available require more tech savvy skill sets. Many Americans, including politicians, are concerned with the effect increased trade liberalization will have on this upward trend. The displacement of unskilled labor and the wage stagnation of recent years is often falsely attributed to trade increases rather than technological improvements, according to Emeritus Professor of International Economics Jo McKinney. McKinney attributes the negative connotations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to technological shifts in labor needs in the 1990s and early 2000s.

“When you look at the data, there were special provisions for trade adjustment assistance for people displaced by NAFTA,” McKinney said. “‘Among other benefits, it will reduce tariffs of some important trading partners, so it will open up considerable export opportunities.’ TPP will come into effect within two years, if all 12 countries ratify it. The agreement could go before the U.S. Congress following the 2016 elections. Meanwhile, President Obama’s administration has been pushing to conclude the Trans-Pacific Trade and Investment Partnership (TPP) negotiations by the end of the year. With the election, it’s unclear what trade policies will take effect and whether it will affect the growth of manufacturing in the U.S., but regardless of a person’s stance on trade liberalization, the next few years should prove important. McCormick believes America will continue to grow manufacturing domestically and weep away from its historically recent push for a more service-based economy. ‘We’re making it,’ he said. ‘We’ve created in the image of the Maker. Maybe we’ve lost that maker image deep inside of us, but we’ve added to co-creators. This is the backbone of our economy. My opinion and my hope is that we’ve hit the high-water mark of the service economy. And we will begin to revive and reshape a new kind of manufacturing and maker economy.’

DEAN TERRY S. MANESS ELECTED AACSB INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER

Dean Maness of Baylor University’s Hankamer School of Business was elected to the Board of Directors for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB). Maness was elected to a three-year term, beginning July 1, 2016. AACSB international advances quality management education worldwide through accreditation, thought leadership and value-added services. Fewer than 5 percent of business schools have the prestigious AACSB accreditation. Baylor’s Hankamer School of Business achieved provisional associate membership in AACSB in 1985. It achieved full accreditation and membership in 1959.

MCKINNEY TO LEAD BAYLOR MBA CANDIDATES PROVIDE $180,000 IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Baylor Executive MBA program in Austin has announced an innovative new delivery of its MBA curriculum beginning in fall 2016 that combines classroom and online learning. Working professionals will attend class only one night a week while they also participate in online class activities, so they can earn the MBA degree in just 21 months.

BAYLOR MBA CANDIDATES PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CANADIAN CITY

The Baylor MBA Focus Firm project concluded in April with a presentation of recommendations based on primary research to the city of North Bay, Ontario. Nineteen graduate students handled the second phase of the project, which focused on the key areas of opportunities (identified in Phase I of the project—the development of strategic priorities as well as the need for enhanced communication, retention and promotion.)