The Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering will celebrate twenty-five years of successful growth at the Academy annual meeting in April 2011. A brief history of the Academy from inception to present follows:

In May 1986, Dr. Bob Emerson, Department Head of Industrial Engineering, realized that an Academy would be beneficial for both the IE Department and alumni. Bob planted the seed and began to seek support from interested alumni. Larry Stephens (BSIE ’58), President of Mid-South Engineering, was the driving force that organized the Academy and became its first president. The Academy was established to recognize the achievements of University of Arkansas IE graduates and to provide continuing guidance and support to the Department of Industrial Engineering. The following fourteen Industrial Engineering alumni were initiated into charter membership of the Academy in the spring of 1986:

John Addington (BSIE ’61)  
Malcom P. Lawrence (BSIE ’54)  
Clell A. Callaway (BSIE ’57)  
J. William Sanders (BSIE ’57)  
William L. Cravens (BSIE ’56)  
Norman L. Self (BSIE ’56)  
David P. Davison (BSIE ’59)  
John D. Selig (BSIE ’58)  
James J. Hawkins (BSIE ’65)  
Larry G. Stephens (BSIE ’58)  
G. Lowrance Hodge (BSIE ’61)  
M. Palmer Terrell (BS/MSIE’57/’60)  
James M. Hubbard (BSIE ’57)  
James F. Townsend (BSIE ’56)

Although Department Head Dr. Bob Emerson was instrumental in the beginning, it was Dr. Eric (Rick) Malstrom, succeeding Bob as IE Department Head in 1987, which provided the leadership that solidified the relationship of the IE Department and the Academy. Rick provided the forum that successfully bonded the Academy and the IE Department.
Greetings Academy Members,

You will have to forgive me if I am already looking forward to the Spring Banquet. At the banquet we will celebrate the 25th anniversary of AAIE. I am not at all surprised that the Academy has reached this milestone in longevity. However, the tremendous success in endowing scholarship funds is very surprising. We can be proud that our organization has maintained a focus on the mission of providing scholarship support to IE students. As of our Fall Board meeting, the total value of endowments and accrued interest for all AAIE funds was approximately $1.19 million.

While on the one hand we are prepared to celebrate the success of the organization, on the other hand, the board has recently recognized that in some respects we are not keeping pace with current economics. After studying the expenses of the organization for the past several years, it was determined at the Fall board meeting that the time had come to increase our dues. After much discussion about dues, the board voted to enact an increase. Effective with dues statements mailed in December, we will be increasing dues from $150 to $250 per year. The board is confident this will assure the financial stability of AAIE for a number of years.

As a last note, I wanted to mention that the Academy was diminished in the last few months by the loss of two people. Steve Tidwell (BSIE 1978, MSIE 1981, AAIE 1999), passed away in September of this year after a long illness. We also lost Dr. Vernon McBryde (BSIE '57, MSIE '60, AAIE Honorary Member 1988), a long time member of the IE faculty and Academy member. He passed away in August of this year. I hope for all that knew them, you have an opportunity to recall some of the positive influences they had on friends, family, and IE students.

I hope to see all our members at our 25th Anniversary Banquet!

— Lee Hartz, ’78

A man called his neighbor to help him move a couch that had become stuck in the doorway. They pushed and pulled until they were exhausted and it wouldn’t budge. “Forget it,” the man finally gasped. “We’ll never get this in.”

The neighbor looked at him quizzically and said, “In?”

The other day, there was a bomb scare in town at the local gas station. Of course, the bomb squad had to be called out to investigate, which in turn brought the news crews.

In the local paper the next day, there was a picture of a bomb squad member, wearing a shirt that read:

"I am a bomb technician. If you see me running, try to keep up!"

"Your Honor, my most women would love to have a husband who still believes in opening the door for her out of chivalry."

"Mr. Smith," replied the judge, "I am granting the divorce. I cannot believe chivalry was your motivation while driving 65 mph."
Dear Academy Members,

Hello! We are off to another great academic year. Great things are happening at the university, college, and department levels. I am happy to report that preliminary figures show that for the fall 2010 semester, the U of A has posted its largest numerical enrollment increase since 1946. A total of 21,406 students were enrolled on September 7, the 11th day of classes, when the state requires universities to take an enrollment “snapshot.” This number represents an increase of 1,557 students from last year, a 7.8 percent increase. This is the largest percentage increase since 1975. What does this mean for the College of Engineering? Our 11th Day Data shows that the total number of new students is 688 (532 new freshmen plus 156 new transfer students) representing a 29.3% increase from the 532 students in 2009. You will be please to know that this increased number of students does not come at the sacrifice of quality. This class is not only bigger, but brighter than before. As we increase retention efforts to hold onto these students, we will address our growing needs to expand our infrastructure and student support.

The College of Engineering’s undergraduate program was ranked in the top 100 programs among the nation’s doctoral-granting institutions in the recently released 2011 edition of America’s Best Colleges, published by U.S. News and World Report. Its ranking of 98 is a 4-point jump from the college’s 2010 ranking, and the first time the college was ranked in the top 100. The great leadership that we have had under Chancellor Emeritus John White, Chancellor Dave Gearhart, and Dean Ashok Saxena has been instrumental in this achievement. In addition, the constant hard work and success of our outstanding faculty, staff, students and alumni (yes, all of you) make this accomplishment possible.

Now, getting on with departmental news, there have been some changes in the faculty administrative roles and several promotions. Dr. Manuel Rossetti, who was recently promoted to Professor, was named the Associate Department Head. His position as Chair of the Graduate Studies Program is being filled by Dr. Justin Chimka. Dr. Nebil Buyurgan remains as the Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Program. Drs. Nebil Buyurgan and CS Nam were promoted and tenured at the Associate Professor level. In addition to Dr. Nam’s recent promotion, he received the prestigious Faculty Early Career Development Award, also known as the CAREER Award, from the National Science Foundation. His research project is intended to help visually impaired students study science. Funding began this fall at nearly $500K over 5 years.

There were several faculty departmental awards of note for 2010. Dr. Scott Mason received the Outstanding Teacher Award, Dr. Manuel Rossetti received the Outstanding Student Service Award, Dr. Justin Chimka received the Outstanding Research Award, and Dr. Russ Meller received the AAIE Faculty Member of the Year Award. Dr. Meller and co-author Dr. Kevin Gue (Auburn) were awarded the Outstanding Research Paper published in IIE Transactions for their paper entitled “Aisle Configurations for Unit-Load Warehouses” at the IIE Conference this past June. Dr. Chase Rainwater and his co-authors received the IERC Best Paper Award in the Production Planning and Scheduling track. Dr. Ron Rardin was elected a Fellow of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), an honor reserved for very few select members.

Staff members received new awards from AAIE. Ms. Nancy Sloan was the recipient of the 2010 AAIE Administrative Staff Member of the Year Award. Nancy serves as Program Manager for the MSOM Program, overseeing the operations of six OM sites. She has been with the U of A for 21 years. She also was awarded the inaugural Collins R. Geren Award for Excellence in Graduate Education for Support Staff. Mrs. Tamara Ellenbecker was the 2010 AAIE Support Staff Member of the Year Award. Tamara serves as Administrative Support Supervisor & Graduate Recruitment Coordinator for the department. She is also responsible for helping to develop and maintain the department’s new web page and producing our annual report.
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Academy needs your help. Our growth and strength depends on the participation of our members. One way to participate is for you to identify and nominate candidates for the Academy. A strong Academy will allow us to continue to assist the University of Arkansas IE Department to be the one of the best in the country and to offer scholarship opportunities to aspiring students.

The basic membership requirements are: University of Arkansas Industrial Engineering graduate in or before 1996, and professional activities that attest to a distinguished record in their career field.

Each candidate that is nominated will be reviewed by the Membership Committee and then sent to the Academy Board. After the Academy Board reviews and recommends the nominees, a ballot will be sent to all active members for final acceptance.

To nominate a candidate, please fill-out the nomination form which can be downloaded from the AAIE website at http://aaie.ineg.uark.edu/. Click on the Membership tab and then the Nominate a Member section. Please complete the nomination form with as much information as possible and send to Karen Standley at standle@uark.edu or mail to:

AAIE  
c/o Department of Industrial Engineering  
4207 Bell Engineering Center  
University of Arkansas  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Nominations should be submitted no later than December 31, 2010.

Thank you for your help. If you have questions, you may e-mail Mike Gross, Membership Chair, at MGross@ElderIndependence.com, or call 501-847-6102.

— Mike Gross, ‘84

The old believe everything; the middle-aged suspect everything; the young know everything. – Oscar Wilde

A man went to the hardware store with his Great Dane and when he arrived, he tied the dog up outside and went in to shop. A few minutes later, another fellow walked in and the following conversation ensued:

Second man: Is that your dog outside?
First man: Yes. What of it?
Second man: Well, I think my dog may have killed him.
First man, stunned: What kind of dog do you have that can kill a Great Dane?
Second man: Well, he's a Chihuahua.
First man: Ha! How can a Chihuahua kill a Great Dane?
Second man: Well, I think he may have gotten stuck in his throat.
The John L. Imhoff Global Studies Endowment (GSE) continues to provide supplemental scholarship funding for IE students pursuing for credit overseas study experience. The AAIE board approved three students to receive GSE scholarships in 2010 ranging from $1500 to $2500. These students completed overseas study in England, France and India. Based on our analysis of historical overseas study program total expenses, the GSE helped defray approximately 20 percent of the total expenses necessary to fund these experiences. The GSE Development Committee continues to investigate ways to increase the GSE endowment asset base in order to provide increased GSE scholarship amounts.

In a related GSE activity, Dr. Ed Pohl, IE Department Professor and GSE Studies Coordinator, traveled to Bangalore, India in June 2010 and taught a course in Global Competition and Innovation at Christ University to 10 students (7 U of A and 3 Vanderbilt students). Upon completion of course work, Ed and the students toured several local manufacturing facilities, including Bosch and TVS Motors. While in Bangalore the students lived in apartments and became fully integrated into Indian culture. During the trip the students were able to meet Indian students at the new Christ University engineering college in Bangalore and absorb additional local culture.

— Bill Denton, ‘76

("Anniversary" - from Page 1)

Through Rick’s insight in many areas and consultation from Dr. John Imhoff (IE Department Head from 1951 to 1986 and AAIE mentor), the IE Academy became one of the most productive and proficient in the college of Engineering.

Dr. John L. English was named as IE Department Head upon the unexpected death of Dr. Malstrom in early 2000. John continued to strengthen the Academy and IE Department bond. He worked closely with the Academy to improve the effectiveness of Academy assistance programs, initiated the concept of the AAIE Financial Scholarship Endowment, helped develop the John L. Imhoff Global Studies Endowment, and committed increased department support to expand the AAIE newsletter.

Dr. English was named of Dean of Engineering at Kansas State University in 2007 and was succeeded by the current IE Department Head, Dr. Kim L. Needy. Kim continues to support the Academy and IE Department partnership including ongoing Academy assistance programs, involvement of Academy members in the Department Strategic Plan 2015 initiatives, and increased alumni visibility.

The Academy membership has grown from its initial 14 members in 1986 to a current membership of over 175 and remains one of the most proactive and vibrant of the engineering academies at the University of Arkansas. The Academy continues development of current scholarship endowments over $1,000,000 and assists the IE Department in the acquisition of department lab equipment, faculty recruiting, student placement, and strategic planning. The accomplishments and sustained twenty-five year success of Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering could only have been possible by the special partnership of the Academy and the IE Department faculty and staff. I invite all members to plan on attending the planned twenty-five year celebration in April 2011 and join in the special activities.

— Bill Denton, ‘76
Some engineers are trying to measure the height of a high pole. They try building a contraption by piling up unstable ladders, but after one of them gets hurt falling off of it, a technician comes, removes the pole, lays it on the ground and measures it. One of the engineers sneers at him: “What an idiot, he didn't measure the height, he measured the length...”

Teeth are the only parts of the human body that can't repair themselves.

The bloodhound is the only animal whose evidence is admissible in an American court.

The only rock that floats in water is pumice.

A lump of pure gold the size of a matchbox can be flattened into a sheet the size of a tennis court.
Memorial scholarships. AAIE awards a one-time named scholarship in memory of our members in the year following their death. Memorial scholarships are sometimes overlooked primarily because we have been fortunate to seldom have an occasion to award them. This past year, a memorial scholarship was awarded in the name of Virgil O. Floyd who passed away in 2009. This summer, AAIE members were saddened to learn of the loss of their fellow members, Vernon McBryde and Steve Tidwell. So, at the 2011 IE Student Awards ceremony, scholarships will be presented in memory of them.

In addition, members and non-members may make donations in memory of AAIE members to the AAIE scholarship endowments managed by the U of A Foundation. When the designated memorial donations reach $500, then an additional memorial scholarship will be awarded in the name of the deceased member.

“100 for 100” Campaign. Our campaign to raise additional funds for the Academic Scholarship endowment continues. If you made a pledge, your pledge needs to be completed before the 2011 annual meeting to receive recognition.

The 2010-11 AAIE scholarship campaign to increase the AAIE Academic Scholarship endowment by $100,000 from at least 100 AAIE members was initiated in September, 2009. As of this writing, a total of $42,626 has been added to the endowment as gifts from members, company matches, and a Board transfer of funds. When all current pledges are paid, the endowment will be increased by a total of $45,150. Sources of paid in funds are:

- Direct Contributions: $31,726
- Company Match: $6,900
- Board transfer from General Fund: $5,000
- Total Campaign: $43,626

Thank you to these members and friends of AAIE contributing through July 1, 2010:

- Frank Broadstreet
- Kent Burnett
- Ronald Classen
- Bill & Mary Lou Cravens
- Bill Denton
- Grant & Trisha Ducote
- Lee Lane
- Michael Limbird
- Bob McKuin
- Ron & Betty Morris
- Glenn D. Palmer
- William F. Pazdera

(See “Scholarship” - Page 9)

Three condemned people are to be executed via the guillotine...
First condemned person steps up, a minister. Switch is pulled. Blade doesn't come down. Minister cries out: "God knows I am innocent!" He's pardoned.
Second condemned person is a revolutionary agitator. Switch is pulled. Blade doesn't come down. Guy cries out: "The revolution cannot be stopped!" He's pardoned.
Third condemned is an engineer. Same deal. He looks up, points up, says, "I think your problem is that the cable is binding right here..."

Engineers aren't boring people, we just get excited over boring things.
—Anon.

Arguing with an engineer is a lot like wrestling in the mud with a pig. After a few hours, you realize that he likes it.
Superstitions

If a bee enters your home, it's a sign that you will soon have a visitor. If you kill the bee, you will have bad luck, or the visitor will be unpleasant. * If you sweep trash out the door after dark, it will bring a stranger to visit. * It's bad luck to leave a house through a different door than the one used to come into it. * For good luck throughout the year, wear new clothes on Easter. *

Antarctica is the only continent without reptiles or snakes.

If a bee enters your home, it's a sign that you will soon have a visitor. If you kill the bee, you will have bad luck, or the visitor will be unpleasant. * If you sweep trash out the door after dark, it will bring a stranger to visit. * It's bad luck to leave a house through a different door than the one used to come into it. * For good luck throughout the year, wear new clothes on Easter. *

Honey is the only food that does not spoil.

Honey found in the tombs of Egyptian pharaohs has been tasted by archaeologists and found edible.

Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineers Annual Golf Tournament!
Friday, April 15th
Celebrating 25 years!

Please sponsor a hole and help us support our Industrial Engineering students

Cost: ONLY $100 per hole

Company Name ________________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________________
City ___________________________ State _____ Zip ____________
Phone ___________________________

Please make checks payable to: AAIE

Send completed form and payment to:

AAIE
4207 Bell Engineering Center
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
The AAIE scholarship endowments are a key part of the legacy of our organization built over the last 25 years. These endowments are designed to carry on our tradition of service to the students, the IE department, and the University of Arkansas. We as members of AAIE have a right to be proud of these accomplishments.

There is an abundance of information on giving available through the UA Foundation. The website is http://development.uark.edu and http://plannedgiving.uark.edu.

Dewey Freeman, '74

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In Remembrance

Dr. Vernon E. McBryde, PhD (BSIE '57) passed away August 3, 2010 in Fayetteville, Arkansas, at the age of 77. Vernon was born February 3, 1933, in Palmyra, Arkansas. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean conflict prior to completing his BSIE at the University of Arkansas in 1957. He later completed his MSIE from Arkansas in 1960 and earned his PhD in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1963. He was a retired Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering at the University of Arkansas, and he was inducted into the AAIE in 1988. Preceded in death by his wife, Nellie McBryde, his parents, and a brother, Robert McBryde, Vernon is survived by a son, Bryan (Barbara); a daughter, Pamela (Greg) English; and a sister, Angie (Darrell) Perryman.

Steven L. (Steve) Tidwell (BSIE '78) passed away September 18, 2010 in Rogers, Arkansas, at the age of 54. Born December 12, 1955, in Star City, Arkansas, he completed BSIE in 1978 and MSIE in 1981 at the University of Arkansas, began his professional career with Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and returned to Arkansas in 1992 to work in the Information Systems Division at the Wal-Mart home offices in Bentonville. He was inducted into the AAIE in 1999. Steve is survived by his wife of 30 years, Gaye Lee (Gasaway); two sons, Scott and Drew; one daughter-in-law, Stacy; his mother, Wille Tidwell; and a brother, Tom.
The Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering will celebrate its 25th Anniversary in April, 2011. The membership has grown from an initial 14 members in 1986 to 172 members in 2010.

The AAIE has raised more than $5 million dollars for scholarships and provided financial assistance to the IE Department, faculty, staff, and students to equip computer laboratories, awards for excellence, and scholarships to numerous IE students.

We need your input and HELP!

All of us in the Academy have participated in Annual meetings, Board meetings, senior student critiques, open houses, and a host of other activities with faculty, students, and other AAIE members. There have been a lot of fun times, funny people, and funny events.

The Academy Past-President, Melinda Faubel, appointed a 25th Anniversary Committee to gather memorabilia from these good time events or even stories that, after all these years (especially those that happened long after the statute of limitations expired), can now be told. Many stories about the precious “Golden Chicken Award” could be told as well as with other “family friendly” stories and tales.

The Memorabilia Group solicits your input – whether it is written stories, verbal recordings, photographs, tall tales, white lies, and other funny acts. For example, Duane Neal showed up at an Annual meeting in a chicken costume. Someone can tell “the rest of the story”. Bill Keltner was the “Big Kazoo Band” leader who serenaded the Annual Meeting Banquet members and guests not once but two or three times. He was actually a better “chorus director” than a “Big Kazoo Band”, but that’s still another story. There is a story about Rick Malstrom complaining about having to wear a RED Jacket. A lot of you know a lot of stories about John Imhoff, but “keep them short.”

I’m sure there are numerous stories that could be told about Rick Malstrom, John English, John Imhoff, John White, Scott Mason, Richard Cassidy, Vern McBryde, and many others. Send them to us. Likewise, I’m sure there are many stories that happened when we were students, which could now be told, with a little editing or censoring.

Again, we will take stories, photos, or verbal recording, emailed or delivered by mail. We want you to help us remember the good times we had. We plan to copy the memorabilia you send us onto a DVD to play during the Annual Meeting and provide copies to take home with you.

Please help us by sending your stories and photos to Karen Standley at standle@uark.edu, or mail to her at Department of Industrial Engineering, 4207 Bell Engineering Center, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Jim Hawkins, ’65

We’re on the web!  www.ineg.uark.edu/aaie

"NOW will you get rid of that chair?!"
Our talented students have also received numerous honors. At the undergraduate level, Maci Dickson received the *IIE President’s Scholarship* and the *College of Engineering Michael Joffe Scholarship*. Ryan Black received the *IIE A. O. Putnam Scholarship*. Mattie Bookhout finished her year as Associated Student Government President and received the *Arkansas Alumni Association Senior Honor Citation Award*. Brittany Bogle was a recipient of a *National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship* which she will use during her Ph.D. studies at Northwestern University. The College Industry Council on Material Handling Education (CICMHE) and the Order Fulfillment Council (OFC) announced that the U of A industrial engineering team consisting of Mattie Bookhout, Prabuddha Lohani, Elizabeth McCallion, and Cameron Ramoly won first place in the 2009-2010 Material Handling Student Design Competition beating out 2nd and 3rd place teams from Georgia Tech and California Polytechnic State University.

At the graduate level, Ph.D. student Hugh Medal was one of 20 students nationwide selected to present his research at the *Fourth Annual Department of Homeland Security Network Summit* in Washington, D.C. as a representative of our Mack-Blackwell Rural Transportation Center. In addition, Ph.D. students Nabil Lehlou and Steve Sharp were selected to participate in RAND’s Graduate Student Summer Associate Program. Jennifer Pazour was approved for a U.S.-Austria Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Project (DDEP) for her dissertation research “Improving the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain through Order-Fulfillment Technology” where she will spend the fall working in Austria.

Two of our alumni received recognition. Dr. Lee Lane (B.S. in Chemistry, M.S. in O.R., and Ph.D. in Engineering, all from the U of A) received the 2010 *Engineering Alumni Award from the College of Engineering*. This award was also bestowed on Mr. Lowrance Hodge (B.S.I.E. 1961). Mr. Bob Davidson received the 2010 *Engineering Manager of the Year Award* from the American Society for Engineering Management (ASEM). The department hosted this conference October 13-16 at the Embassy Suites in Rogers, AR. The theme of the conference was *Lean and Green: Building a Sustainable Future through Engineering Management*. Keynote speakers included our very own Chancellor Emeritus John White and Mr. Bill Harrison, President of Trane Arkansas and AAIE Past-President (1995-1996).

A very special thanks goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Morris whose recent gifts totaling $500,000 will help high school graduates in Marion or Baxter counties in Arkansas.

I am certain that you will agree the department is doing great things, and I can promise you that we plan to continue on this trajectory. In closing, don’t be a stranger. If your travel plans bring you onto campus, please stop by to learn more about some of the wonderful things that we are doing.

Together, we can make this an even greater program!

Warmly,
Kim Needy

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Saturn has such a low density that it would float if put in water!

Just a pinhead of the Sun's raw material could kill someone up to 160 kilometres away!

That the comet with the longest ever recorded tail is the Great Comet of 1843. Its tail stretched over 800 million kilometres! This is about the same distance the Earth is from Jupiter!
The Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering (AAIE) was established in 1986 to recognize the achievements of University of Arkansas Industrial Engineering graduates and to provide continuing guidance and support to the Department of Industrial Engineering.

The Academy also provides its members with the opportunity to nurture and support the organization that played an important role in their professional growth and development.

The DODECAHEDRON is a publication of the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering, and the views expressed are those of the AAIE only and do not reflect the official view of the University of Arkansas, the College of Engineering, or the Department of Industrial Engineering. THE DODECAHEDRON is published semi-annually and is intended for the membership of the Arkansas Academy of Industrial Engineering.

You may contact the editor at

WHAT IS IT? (from Page 2)

snippy's cross.

angles. Also called a

the correct lines

each and every need

a plumb line or a

a vertical line

The cross was the 

Deep within a forest a little turtle began to climb a tree. After hours of effort he reached the top, jumped into the air waving his front legs and crashed to the ground. After recovering, he slowly climbed the tree again, jumped, and fell to the ground. The turtle tried again and again while a couple of birds sitting on a branch watched his sad efforts. Finally, the female bird turned to her mate. "Dear," she chirped, "I think it's time to tell him he's adopted."

Oldest Civilization May Be in Antarctica

The existence of the civilization in Antarctica started drawing attention of professional historians after the World War II. The hypothesis can be proven by medieval maps and the research of Western paleogeologists and glaciologists.

In January 1820 the lieutenant of the Russian Imperial Fleet Mikhail Lazarev discovered a new continent. About twenty years later, the head of the Istanbul National Museum Halil Edhem found an old map while revising the library of Byzantine emperors in the old sultans palace. The author of the map was Piri Reis, admiral of the Ottoman Empire Fleet in the early 16th century. He depicted the Western coast of Africa, the Southern coast of South America and the Northern coast of Antarctica. The ice edge of the Queen Maud Land south of 70th parallel was free of ice. The author mapped a mountain chain at this point. In 1949, the joint British-Swedish expedition conducted a thorough seismic exploration of the southernmost continent through the thick ice. The results coincided with the map of Reis.

Medieval maps show Antarctica without ice cover or partly covered with ice. The accuracy of maps of the 16th century is incredible. Their data can be compared with those of the late 18th century and sometimes with those of the 20th century.

According to the Reis' map the coastal edge of the continent is not covered with ice. Two hundred years later academician Buache depicted Antarctica without the ice.

In 1949, the Admiral Richard E. Byrd's expedition drilled the Ross Sea bottom in the approximate places marked with riverbeds. The cores contained fine-grained rocks, well-lithified deposits, brought into the sea by the rivers, the heads of which are located in the middle latitudes (i.e. not covered with ice).

Scientists of Carnegie Institute of Washington managed to establish precisely that Antarctic rivers that contained these deposits were flowing about 6000 years ago. About 4000 B.C. the ice began accumulating at the bottom of the sea. This was preceded by a long period of warmth.

As a result, the maps mentioned above depict Antarctica of the period when Egyptian and Sumerian civilizations were born. Most of the historians disclaim this point of view.

However, there is a hypothesis that between the fifth and the tenth millenniums B.C. a human civilization lived on the planet. It possessed great knowledge in navigation, cartography, astronomy, the level of which was not lower then of that of the 18th century.

This civilization was rather a predecessor of ours than a product created by aliens. Its age could be several millenniums. It was probably located on the northern coast of the southernmost continent or the archipelago of large islands - that was Antarctica with a moderate climate at that time.

The civilization could have disappeared because of the icing up of the southern land that began not earlier than in the tenth millennium B.C. Another possible reason could be large inundations that led to long-lasting local floods, which are not disclaimed by archaeologists. Such natural disasters could destroy almost the whole material culture of the proto-civilization. It can be possible that some part of it is covered with thick Antarctic ice. Another possibility is that some of the representatives of this proto-civilization could have survived. In this case, they could have passed their knowledge to Egyptians and Sumerians.

We can hope that further archaeological research will solve the mysteries of the southernmost continent. There could be lots of surprises hidden here.