



Editorial

One of the roles of *AI Magazine* is to keep readers informed about the practical impact of AI research. One year ago, articles in the magazine described two robotics challenge domains, RoboCup rescue and urban search and rescue, both designed to promote research related to robotic agents for disaster search and rescue. In the tragic aftermath of the World Trade Center attack, research experiments were replaced by reality as search and rescue robots moved into the field, assisting in the World Trade Center rescue efforts. The current issue includes an article discussing lessons from this experience.

For many AAI members, the first news of the robot rescue efforts came from *AI Alert*, a AAI service that distributes selected items from the AI in the News page on AAI's AI Topics web site. The AI in the News page presents a fascinating snapshot of both practical applications and public perceptions of our field, as reflected in the press. To bring its highlights to *AI Magazine* readers, I invited the AI Topics web master, Jon Glick, to prepare a regular feature with some of its most noteworthy passages. I am delighted that he has accepted, and I welcome him to the magazine. His inaugural contribution, which contains a sampling from significant fall articles as well as more recent news, appears in this issue.

– David Leake
Editor, *AI Magazine*