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**Happy Birthday RAS!**

This being the first issue of 2007, I wish you all a great 2007 full of nice results and robotics challenges. This year is a special year for our Society since 20 years ago, Robotics and Automation became a Society. Tony Bejzy, one of the fathers of our Society, will give a nice historical overview of the birth of the Society in this issue! We have added a capsule history of RAS and list of milestones to Tony's account. It was funny for me to realize that exactly that year, as a 17-year-old student, I built my first 6x DOF robot from scratch: machining, electronic, and programming included. I was then not even aware of the existence of the birth of a society that was promoting exactly what I loved to do and of which I am now really proud to be a part!



As suggested by John Hollerbach with whom I had the pleasure to climb the Chinese wall before IROS2006 in Beijing, what is a better picture to symbolize a scientific challenge than the Chinese wall itself!

This issue is devoted to some robotics challenges, and I hope it will be inspiring for our readers. Beside the topical features, which have been guest edited by Dr. Adriana Tapus, Dr. Mark Yim, and Jim Ostrowski, you will find in this issue the second and last part of the splendid Visual Servoing tutorial by François Chaumette and Seth Hutchinson. I continue to receive good feedback of appreciation for the tutorials, which seem to really trigger interest in our members and are being used as a real useful start point for students.

I hope you will enjoy the issue!

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