## Letter to the Editor, Iowa State Daily September 2003 Laura Bestler-Wilcox

So, two years ago, September 11, 2001 brought a new perspective to me and perhaps others on what we need to be grateful for. We often go through many days, thinking, that we have too much to "deal" with or stress sometimes gets to us, and then something happens, a family members gets ill, your pet gets hurt, you learn about someone who has had something traumatic happen to them or I think about days like September 11, 2001, and remember what I need to be grateful for.

I need to be grateful for the world I live in. I may not be wealthy, but I have shelter, food, water, a job, and someone to care for and to care for me.

I am grateful for the people I have the blessing to work with. This place is filled with people who care about people, and that makes it extra special.

I am grateful for the students I get to see work through challenges and celebrate successes.

I am grateful that I live in a part of the world that is mostly calm.

I am grateful that I live in a world where I can share my opinions, because there are so many other places in the world where they cannot.

I am grateful for the privilege to vote for the leaders in our country, and I hope that the people who are elected consider themselves grateful for the honor we have given them.

I am grateful for my ability to learn from others. I am constantly given the chance to learn something new from someone not like me, and that I take that educational opportunity and strive forward with it.

I am grateful that I can help others. Whether it be holding the door open for someone, donating toys to a local children's home, spending time with someone in need or smiling at people - those little things help the world to be a better place...

I am grateful for the precious times we have with each other. I cherish every moment I speak to my family members and friends, because we never know what tomorrow will bring... be grateful for those moments.

I recently had a friend remind me that things will always get better... to be honest – I really didn't want to believe her, and then I remembered, I should just be lucky that I have the opportunity to be reminded that it will get better, because as my Mother always says, it will... it always gets better... Be grateful for who you are, what you have, and take advantage of being you... you will do amazing things with the world around you, if you remember to be grateful for what you have...