Thoughts on Last Lecture

Aubrey Frissell

While long and somewhat sad, I found Randy Pausch’s Last Lecture to be heartwarming and moving in a lot of ways, and I can relate to some of what he said. I feel very strongly that the most important thing we can do is never let go of our childhood wonders. This is a sentiment I’ve heard my favorite author, Neil Gaiman, speak about. It is a driving force and is incredibly important for people in creative fields. Not only does it inspire wonder and curiosity, but it is also incredibly motivating. Even if you fall short of certain dreams (like being in the NFL) there are other dreams that you can follow, and you may be better off for it in the end.  
 Brick walls also aren’t there to stop you, but rather to prove how much you want things. Certain things may feel utterly impossible, and people are inclined to tell you “no” a lot. But if you stay motivated, and find ways around brick walls, you separate yourself from the people who don’t want it enough. For me, I really want to live in Germany, at least for a few years. Right now this feels like an impossible goal with a number of brick walls. Language, money, a lack of travel experience. But I want to do it and have been working through the process of overcoming these walls. I’ve been working and saving money, learning German, and reading up on German programs and universities. While I started my goal with walls that I simply had no means of immediately overcoming, I have started the long process of climbing those walls.   
 Finally, and perhaps most noteworthy, I found his emphasis on helping others as a really thoughtful and empathetic point that I really relate to. Often times helping others and empowering them is the most rewarding thing you can do. I try to be that for my friends, motivating them to work towards their goals. To finish projects or keep working through school. Seeing my friends succeed inspires me. Their hard work and push towards their goals motivate me to work hard and push toward mine. It’s clear Randy Pausch really cares about the people around him, from his family and friends to his students. It’s a really powerful driving force.