

I think what affected me most about Randy Pausch's "Last Lecture" was his attitude. Not just his optimism and cheeriness in the face of imminent death, but his overall view towards learning, teaching, and education overall. His gratitude towards both his teachers and students was so incredibly passionate and sincere. For example, when describing his "Building Virtual Worlds" course he talks about his the first few weeks of the course; "The first assignment, I gave it to them, they came back in two weeks and just blew me away." Not only does he have the technical knowledge to teach his students, but he learns and takes inspiration from them as well.

When describing his attempts to fulfill his childhood dreams, Pausch introduced his concept of (figurative) brick walls and how they "prove how badly we want things", as well as "show us our dedication". I think this is something that every college student can relate with. The past couple of weeks especially have been a cacophony of things to do and people to meet, all in a new and unfamiliar space. It would be difficult not to feel at least a little stressed or unsure in a situation like that. But in order to accomplish anything of real significance, something that I can be proud of, I feel that I need to get outside my comfort zone. Studying abroad, for example, has always been a goal of mine, but to go to a different country, especially one where I don't yet know the language, is daunting. Just thinking about the concept is enough to make me feel a sense of uncertainty, let alone planning for and actually doing it. But feeling that fear and remaining inactive because of it won't get me anywhere. I have to strive to actively pursue goals, actively climb over the brick wall, to get somewhere meaningful.