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The Last Lecture

“The Last Lecture” was a beautiful reminder of the briefness of life and what truly matters during our time on Earth. The lecture was put on by Randy Pausch, less than a year before he passed away due to complications from pancreatic cancer. The lecture inspired me to do what makes me happy in life and to not waste any more time dwelling on things I can't control.

During the lecture, Randy went through his list of childhood dreams that he once thought would be impossible or unlikely to be achieved. Examples of these dreams include “Playing in the NFL” and “Being in zero gravity”. Randy then went through, one by one, which of his dreams he was able to achieve and what he did to achieve them. While talking about his dream of playing in the NFL, Randy said that he was the smallest football player in his league and that it was apparent from a young age that Randy wasn't going to make it to the NFL. Despite being undersized, Randy continued to play football through much of his youth, allowing him to take away lessons about life that still apply to him at the end of his life. I can relate to this story, because my dream when I was younger was to become a professional soccer player. While I didn't achieve this task, I still played soccer all throughout my youth, learning many lessons about leadership and perseverance that still apply to me today.

Randy also went into detail about his time as a professor at Carnegie Mellon University. During this time, he taught a master's degree-level class centered around virtual reality and creating virtual reality worlds. He said that the students he taught became so good at creating and demonstrating these worlds, that people from all around the campus, as well as their family members, would come to see demonstrations of the projects created by the students. I thought that this part of the lecture was incredibly interesting, as it showed me what people my age are capable of creating when they work hard and enjoy what they are doing. It also showed me the

value in my academic pursuits, and what I could be capable of doing one day if I keep putting in effort in my classes.

Overall, I thought that Randy's lecture was really impactful, as it taught me how to work towards my goals in life, and how to find happiness in the face of adversity.