Randy Pausch, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University, was more than just a professor. Mr. Pausch was, throughout his life, a fun-loving, efficient, inspirational visionary with a talent for bringing out the best in others. When Randy had a dream, it was never just some idle fantasy to be longed for in the lonely hours at night and forgotten when real life returned. To Randy, dreams were goals, ambitions. They were something to work hard for every day, and when he hit a brick wall, as so many often do in pursuit of dreams, he didn't stop. "Brick walls are there to stop the people who don't want something badly enough," Randy said. "They're there to stop the *other* people." To Randy, brick walls weren't a stopping point; they were an obstacle to be overcome.

For so many, brick walls are insurmountable. They're an obstacle with seemingly endless height, width, and depth. However, Randy didn't see them that way. Some walls are insurmountable for a person, but *people* will always find a way through.

"Ask for help," Randy said. "Don't try to go it alone." It is important to use the other people in our lives. Our mentors, our peers, our elders, and rivals. One particular part of the Last Lecture that stuck with me was when Randy was in football. His coach would harp on him again and again, pointing out mistakes and keeping up the pressure. When Randy was done, someone walked up to him and commented on how the coach was really on him that day. "That's good," He said. "Because when you're screwing up and no one's saying anything anymore, that means they gave up." When people care about you, they'll tell you when you're making a mistake. So often we get frustrated when other people criticize our work; no one likes to be told they're making a mistake; but when the people who care about us stop trying to help us better ourselves, it means they no longer care enough to try. It's hard to accept criticism, but it is far better to own up to our mistakes and work on fixing them than it is to continue wallowing in our imperfections, completely unaware of the mess we've made for ourselves.

There are a lot of things I can say about the Last Lecture. Many things were said that made me think, and I identified with what Randy was saying in a lot of ways. However, to stay within the bounds of this essay, I will conclude with this: dreams aren't just childish fantasies waiting to be brushed aside by reality. Dreams are visions of the future, ready to be fulfilled if we just take the right steps.