**My Thoughts on the Last Lecture**

I had never heard of Randy Pausch or any of the things he did before now, but what he had to say was indeed intriguing. It was interesting how someone so close to the end of their life and with so much to lose could be as jovial as he was about it; that is quite an impressive mindset. Although I haven’t lived nearly as long as he had, I could relate with him on things such as his stable family background and relationships and such. I didn’t share any of his childhood dreams though, as I was either never interested in what he was, or was too realistic as a small kid to have seriously considered things like being in zero gravity or playing in the NFL to be a genuine possibility worth expending emotional energy to desire.

I would say that what affected me the most was hearing about his accomplishments and how he pursued them so relentlessly. That is how I want to be, I want to find something I am great at and accomplish things I can be proud of. Perhaps I do not know exactly what these things are at my young age, but my aspirations are sure to dilate as time goes on. I am sure that the skill of programming will indeed be helpful, though! Especially in this time period.

I do identify with his message to pursue one’s dreams and passions, as those are the things that one will naturally be most inclined and willing to learn and master. It can certainly be a very successful and fulfilling endeavor if one in fact is able to “make it”. I myself would add a filter of caution onto that optimistic message, though, as there is never any real guarantee that chasing a passion will lead someone to a fulfilling and comfortable life. It might be that whatever the desired occupation or role or whatever else it is might simply be unavailable and not at all demanded to a great enough amount to be accessible, at least not accessible \*enough\*. That’s not to say “don’t chase your dreams”, but just to be realistic about it, of course.