The Last Lecture

Randy Pausch’s conversation about achieving his childhood dreams was an effective and inspiring discussion. Pausch starts the conversion by addressing his terminal diagnosis. This was very powerful for me because if he had not said anything about his sickness, I would have never have thought he was a dying man. He seemed energetic and positive, emotions that are probably difficult to exert when you know you only have so much time left. Once he began speaking on his childhood dreams and how he was translating those dreams into his adult life, it made me wonder about my own dreams and aspirations that I had as a child. I was thinking for a longtime and I really could not remember any of them, other than wanting to be a Disney Princess and to have my own herd of elephants. I came to the realization that I had pushed some of my childhood dreams so far away, due to doubting myself and worrying what others would think of them, that I had forgotten them entirely. Between early childhood and now, I have created new dreams but they look a little different; going to law school, owning my own highland cows, being somehow involved in women's soccer, and maybe opening my own coffee shop one day. I have all these dreams but I get so overwhelmed thinking about them that I create “brick walls” for myself. But as Pausch said, “brick walls let us show our dedication” and “don’t complain; just work harder”. I can identify with both of these ideas as I constantly have to remind myself that the barriers that I am facing to achieve my goal are just making me more dedicated and stronger as they are making me work more for what I would like to achieve. Pausch motivated me to reassess how I am working towards achieving my goals and how I am thinking about them. “Luck is where preparation meets opportunity” said Pausch and that is something that will now always be in the back of my mind.