

## Last Lecture

On first clicking into the “Last Lecture” video, I thought there was no way I’d get through an hour-long video and continue to be engaged. However, I found myself enjoying the talk and resonating with what was said. I’ve recently been thinking about the things that I wanted to achieve in my childhood and think it is a great indicator of what truly drives us as adults because children often don’t think about money or limitations. That pure mindset driven by joy and excitement is something that is frequently overlooked but is something I would enjoy reflecting on some more.

As a child, I went through many phases of careers I wanted to have when I got older. I wanted to be a spy and dancer, a hairstylist, a marine biologist, and up until my sophomore year thought I would be a doctor. Although none of those are in my near future, I knew I enjoyed art and science but didn’t know how to combine those interests. I loved painting and drawing and excelled in chemistry and math. I never really thought about coding or design until much more recently largely because I didn’t identify with the stereotypical gamer and computer science person. Most recently I’ve become interested in pursuing a career in UI/UX design which is something I didn’t even know about starting college. I believe Professor Pausch’s message to look introspectively and decide what is important and enjoyable to you is a very critical message.

I cannot imagine undergoing the day knowing your life could end at any moment and continue to be so upbeat about everything. I am struck by the energy Randy Pausch gives off and the way he looks at his life, goals and accomplishments. It is amazing to me how much on his list he was able to accomplish and maybe more importantly the paths that got him there. In telling his story one of my key takeaways was the importance of connections and impactful people in your life. To be able to look back and see how one person or one sentence opened a door and changed the pathway of his life crazy. I know this happens in my life, and everyone’s around me but think it’s important to acknowledge this and appreciate all the things that had to go right to get to the movement we are living in.

Another key takeaway was that even if you accomplish your goals there is always something bigger to work for. Helping others achieve their dreams is even more gratifying and means that it will always be possible to have a mission and purpose. To live in a way that brings joy propels you to work hard while being grateful for the present is possibly the most powerful goal. I absolutely enjoyed “The Last Lecture” and hope to chart a path that fulfills my childhood goals while also aiding others to accomplish theirs.