What affected me the most about Randy Pausch’s Last Lecture was Randy’s overall demeanor throughout the entire presentation. Even with the life-threatening cancer stewing inside of his body, and despite what doctors informed him of with the state of his health, he seemed remarkably upbeat and cheerful throughout his lecture. Rarely, if ever, did Randy let his demeanor fall, essentially telling that audience that even in the face of struggle and hardship, it’s best to keep yourself upbeat and happy and to keep focusing on your goals and wishes while you’re still able. In other words, “Fake it ‘til you make it.”

In terms of the messages of his that I identified with most, I’ll make a short list of them.

* “When you’re screwing up, and nobody’s saying anything to you anymore, that means they gave up.”
  + Having this newfound quote in mind is incredibly meaningful. I’ve often found myself giving up on myself, and I’ve never taken the time to think about how those people telling me that I can do better haven’t.
* “Experience is what you get when you didn’t get what you wanted.”
  + Sometimes I’ve found myself outside of my comfort zone. Ending up in situations that I’ve never wanted to be in. Even so, those uncomfortable situations have allowed me to grow my knowledge of both me and of the world. I’ve been able to develop as a human being.
* “That’s one of the best things you can give somebody: The chance to show what it feels like to get other people excited and happy.”
  + As a people-pleaser, this one hits really close to home. Whenever I have one of these chances in a class or in my life in general, I feel obligated to take full advantage of it. People deserve to be happy and to smile, and when I get the opportunity, that feeling is the best thing that I can give others.