The Last Lecture was an interesting video and the speaker Randy Pausch lived such a full life. It was sobering knowing that this was the last talk he would do before passing away due to pancreatic cancer complications. There were a lot of quotes he said that rang a chord with me and the first was “you can’t change the cards you are dealt; you just play the hand you’re given.” There are circumstances beyond our control, but there are also things we are in control of as well. Sickness is something we can’t control. A goal we want to work towards is definitely something that’s in our hands that we can see to completion. He had a lot of childhood dreams, some funny and some serious, but he worked towards them and in roundabout ways completed all of them, even if it wasn’t the exact outcome he was expecting. But he still managed to learn something from each dream. I didn’t have childhood dreams going up; I never thought about what I wanted to be, or if there was anything I had to see in life, or anything of that nature. For the longest time I thought that meant something was wrong with me. But I think that’s just who I am, and it’s ok to accept that, and move and learn from it. I didn’t have childhood dreams, but as an adult I am working hard to find my passion, and it’s not easy and it’s discouraging some days but I am learning a lot and learning new and different skills. I just can’t wait for the day that I find my niche and spend all my efforts being good at one thing instead of a jack of all trades. I have my own children now and I want to give them the things I didn’t have growing up, like different hobbies, because maybe I can help them find a path they want to take early on, but if they end up not knowing what they want to do just like I did that’s fine too.

Another quote that stuck with me was “when you’re screwing up and nobody’s saying anything to you anymore, that means they gave up.” I didn’t realize it at the time but I had mentors that would push me, and I didn’t really understand why. But looking back I see they cared about me and they wanted me to succeed, and that’s a wonderful feeling. It will be nice to give back one day and mentor someone in the career field that I end up in.

The last quote that stuck with me was “you don’t know where the bar is and you’re doing a disservice by limiting it.” I have expectations of me that may be too high especially when I am learning something new, but I can also push myself if I start to think more outside the box. There’s always something that can be done for self-improvement.

I have not accomplished as much as Dr. Pausch did during his brief time here, but I have accomplished things that make me proud. His talk made me want to do more for myself, and I need to set more goals that are a little more structured to find what job I’d like to spend my life doing. At least this way I could say that I really tried to find what I’m good at and passionate about.