I was very moved by Randy Pausch and his thoughts in his *last lecture*. Here is a man with obviously has so much going for him. He has accomplished much in his life and had life been fair could have so much left to contribute. He has a young family, beautiful wife, and amazing career as a computer science professor at Carnegie Melon University. It’s hard to see a 45-year-old get pancreatic cancer and only have a few months to live. What a great human being to teach us about not complaining, appreciating the experience you are given, celebrating failure, and achieving childhood dreams. Coming from him made it that much more powerful. His amazing attitude was what affected me the most.

With everything happening in his life it was incredible that he taught others about not complaining. “Complaining does not work as a strategy. We all have finite time and energy. Any time we spend whining is unlikely to help us achieve our goals. And it won’t make us happier.” “Too many people go through life complaining about their problems. I’ve always believed that if you took one tenth the energy you put into complaining and applied it to solving the problem, you’d be surprised by how well things can work out.” Those are a couple of quotes from his lecture. He was a great example of putting his energy into being productive, not complaining. That is apparent by all he accomplished.

When I learned about his Penguin Award, an award given to a student who had the greatest failures because they took the highest risks, I knew this was a man that has helped many students reach a potential they could not have without him. We all need to recognize more that our failures are ways we learn and strengthen ourselves.

I loved his childhood dream of being captain kirk. His big red “X” on being and changed it to meeting. The idea that you can adjust those dreams and still make them the most that they can be. He made an impression on me about making the most of the experience. “Experience is what you get when you didn’t get what you wanted.” How great is that that he met Captain Kirk and was even on an episode of Star Trek.

To pick on message that I identified with was too hard. There are so many great messages that he taught in his *last lecture.* Randy Pausch has an amazing outlook on life and how to navigate through all it brings. He will be on my list of positive influences that inspire me.