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MART 120  
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**Last Lecture:**

The Last Lecture is one of the final lectures given by Randy Pausche before he retired, then passed away from pancreatic cancer. I’ll give some of my personal thoughts on the video, then take it from an academic point-of-view.  
 I’d argue that this lecture is almost dated due to how much has changed since this book and video came out. Randy has a lot of important lessons in regards to looking to your models for support, and belonging in the professional world. I’m personally not receptive to people telling me how they found success and the road they took. I’ve also had my fair share of athletic speakers that use football as a fundamental core of who they are. While I don’t take issue with what you choose to do for physical health or fun, I find the mindset of ‘work hard’ and if that doesn’t work just keep working harder. It also reminds me of my dad and his toxic work patterns that I’ve inherited. It also makes me think of those that don’t have the same opportunities as someone growing up in 60s Maryland. He’s an inspiring person, but I don’t believe in the idea of others enabling the dreams of others. That’s just not a personal experience I’ve had and don’t believe I’ll have. Overall, I just don’t find it particularly enlightening, but he’s an interesting person. I’ll acknowledge my learning bias as I switch perspectives.   
 I think there’s a good message to glean from this talk. Randy’s main message is persistence and being easy to work with. The old saying goes “you’ve got a PhD and I’ve got hemmroids-- they’re both pains in the ass.” You can be the smartest person in the room, but if you aren’t persistent, working towards your goals, or aren’t someone easy to work with you’re probably not going to be very successful. Find individuals that support you, in life or in academia. Most importantly, don’t let that child-like enthusiasm die. Follow your dreams!