

I thought Randy Pausch's speech about doing everything you can to achieve your dreams was impactful. I found it especially interesting that Pausch and myself had the same childhood dream. One of my family members worked for the parks for a long time when I was younger so I was there a lot and I can remember being in awe knowing that is what I wanted to do as a career. His speech was motivating to me, especially as someone who has sort of given up a lot of childhood dreams as I have gotten older. A large takeaway from that section of the speech was to keep going even as things get more and more difficult and to let your dreams serve as a source of motivation.

I also thought it was inspiring when he talked about taking every opportunity you are given and truly making the most out of each one. It's especially interesting to hear from someone who has gone through what he did and to hear his outlook on life when he is on the verge of death. He does a great job at putting into perspective the things that are the most valuable; having good relationships with others and finding the silver lining.

What affected me the most personally from his speech was the way he found balance in his life. It is something I sometimes struggle with. He discusses life's purpose as a balance between being hard-working and driven as well as approaching everything and everyone with positivity. In doing this he found balance and therefore could live a successful and purposeful life.

However, what I took away from this speech most was his amazing positivity. When faced with the ultimate challenge, his health, Pausch remained so extraordinarily positive and I thought that was truly amazing. It makes me want to incorporate more positive thinking into my daily life not only to further improve myself but also the happiness of those around me.