

The Last Lecture

After watching the video titled “The Last Lecture”, I found myself emotional and thinking about the lessons he addresses. Randy Pausch spoke some very wise words, and it is rather unfortunate that he is no longer present. However, I can look at this video and take his advice and words of choice into heavy consideration. There are many topics that he brings up, that I find relative to my process of thinking, as well as others. To get right into it, I would first like to mention my first-hand experiences with failure. Pausch announces that “Experience is what you get when you didn’t get what you wanted,”.(Carnegie Mellon University, 20 Dec. 2007. *The Last Lecture*.[Carnegie Mellon Professor Randy Pausch (Oct. 23, 1960 - July 25, 2008) gave his last lecture at the university Sept. 18, 2007, before a packed McConomy Auditorium. In his moving presentation, "Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams," Pausch talked about his lessons learned and advised students on how to achieve their career and personal goals.](Youtube),. Life itself is a whirlwind of emotions, the encounters we have, good and bad. As a maturing adult, there are many things I wish I could have done differently, but then where would the learning come in? If people always got what they wanted, and never struggled, no one would ever learn. Learning is a major part of growing up, and essential to all people. It is what makes us unique and builds us to be stronger. This also correlates with the idea of the “brick wall,”. The brick wall is what we face when we aren’t able to do something. It is what shows others and ourselves that we care and that we will always continue taking steps in the right direction, even if it is difficult. Randy Pausch then proceeds to wrap up his speech with many little, but powerful lessons to take into consideration. First and foremost, to have fun. Go about life light-heartedly, but still be efficient. Never lose our childlike wonder, which I try to embrace every day. These two statements go hand in hand, but again, are essential. A simple lesson, but

again, important is to never give up. I know people lose patience, as I do too, and find it easier to take the less difficult route. However, there is no character development and strengthening in going that direction. One thing that stood out particularly a lot to me, was that you should never give up on people. Wait, and they will eventually show you their better selves. I know for many people, it is easy to cut toxic people out of their lives, but I do know that friends, relatives, etc. come around and make for some great relationships in the end. Patience is truly a virtue! And the last piece I would like to bring up is that you must learn how to get people to help you. It is essential to be honest, apologize when you mess up, focus on other people and not just yourself, and know that it is easier to coast through life with others, and not solely. Though many of these lessons are generally pretty common sense, I deeply appreciate being able to see it from his perspective. With someone coming out to speak towards the end of their life, it makes you think about what is important in the long run. I found this speech to be very valuable and will be sharing it with my close friends and family members.