= Randy Pausch =

Randolph Frederick " Randy " Pausch (October 23 , 1960 ? July 25 , 2008) was an American professor of computer science , human ? computer interaction , and design at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania .

Pausch learned that he had pancreatic cancer in September 2006 , and in August 2007 he was given a terminal diagnosis : " 3 to 6 months of good health left " . He gave an upbeat lecture titled " The Last Lecture : Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams " on September 18 , 2007 , at Carnegie Mellon , which became a popular YouTube video and led to other media appearances . He then co @-@ authored a book called The Last Lecture on the same theme , which became a New York Times best @-@ seller .

Pausch died of complications from pancreatic cancer on July 25 , 2008 .

= = Early life = =

Pausch was born in Baltimore , Maryland , and grew up in Columbia , Maryland . After graduating from Oakland Mills High School in Columbia , Pausch received his bachelor 's degree in computer science from Brown University in May 1982 and his Ph.D. in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University in August 1988 . While completing his doctoral studies , Pausch was briefly employed at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center and Adobe Systems .

= = Computer science career = =

Pausch was an assistant and associate professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Virginia 's School of Engineering and Applied Science from 1988 until 1997 . While there , he completed sabbaticals at Walt Disney Imagineering and Electronic Arts (EA) . In 1997 , Pausch became Associate Professor of Computer Science , Human @-@ Computer Interaction , and Design at Carnegie Mellon University . In 1998 , he was a co @-@ founder , along with Don Marinelli , of CMU 's Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) , and he started the Building Virtual Worlds course at CMU , which he taught for 10 years . He consulted with Google on user interface design and also consulted with PARC , Imagineering , and Media Metrix . Pausch is also the founder of the Alice software project . He received the National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award and was a Lilly Foundation Teaching Fellow . Pausch was the author or co @-@ author of five books and over 70 articles .

Pausch received two awards from ACM in 2007 for his achievements in computing education : the Karl V. Karlstrom Outstanding Educator Award and the ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education Award for Outstanding Contributions to Computer Science Education . He was also inducted as a Fellow of the ACM in 2007 .

= = Cancer and death = =

Pausch was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and underwent a Whipple procedure (pancreaticoduodenectomy) on September 19 , 2006 , in an unsuccessful attempt to halt the disease . He was told in August 2007 to expect a remaining three to six months of good health . He soon moved his family to Chesapeake , Virginia , a suburb near Norfolk , to be close to his wife 's family . On March 13 , 2008 , Pausch advocated for greater federal funding for pancreatic cancer before the United States Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor , Health and Human Services , Education , and Related Agencies . In the week prior to this , he had been hospitalized in order to have needle aspiration of pleural effusion in his right lung .

On May 2 , 2008 , a positron emission tomography (PET) scan showed that he had very tiny (5 millimetres (0 @.@ 20 in) or less) metastases in his lungs and in some of the lymph nodes in his chest . He also had metastases in his peritoneal and retroperitoneal cavities . On June 26 , 2008 , Pausch indicated that he was considering stopping further chemotherapy because of the potential

adverse side effects . He was , however , considering some immuno @-@ therapy @-@ based approaches . On July 24 , on behalf of Pausch , a friend anonymously posted a message on Pausch 's webpage stating that a biopsy had indicated that the cancer had progressed farther than had been indicated by recent PET scans and that Pausch had " taken a step down " and was " much sicker than he had been " . The friend also stated that Pausch had then enrolled in a hospice program designed to provide palliative care to those at the end of life .

 Pausch died from pancreatic cancer at his family 's home in Chesapeake , Virginia on July 25 , 2008 , at the age of 47 . He is survived by his wife , Jai , and their three children , Dylan , Logan , and Chloe .

= = " Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams " = =

 Pausch delivered his " Last Lecture " , titled " Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams " , at CMU on September 18 , 2007 . He gave an abridged version of his speech on The Oprah Winfrey Show in October 2007 . The talk was modeled after an ongoing series of lectures where top academics are asked to think deeply about what matters to them , and then give a hypothetical " final talk " , with a topic such as " what wisdom would you try to impart to the world if you knew it was your last chance ? " Before speaking , Pausch received a long standing ovation from a large crowd of over 400 colleagues and students . When he motioned them to sit down , saying , " Make me earn it " , someone in the audience shouted back , " You did ! "

 During the lecture , Pausch offered inspirational life lessons , and performed push @-@ ups on stage . He also commented on the irony that the " Last Lecture " series had recently been renamed as " Journeys " , saying , " I thought , damn , I finally nailed the venue and they renamed it . " After Pausch finished his lecture , Steve Seabolt , on behalf of Electronic Arts ? which is now collaborating with CMU in the development of Alice 3 @.@ 0 ? pledged to honor Pausch by creating a memorial scholarship for women in computer science , in recognition of Pausch 's support and mentoring of women in CS and engineering .

 CMU president Jared Cohon spoke emotionally of Pausch 's humanity and called his contributions to the university and to education " remarkable and stunning " . He then announced that CMU will celebrate Pausch 's impact on the world by building and naming after Pausch a raised pedestrian bridge to connect CMU 's new Computer Science building and the Center for the Arts , symbolizing the way Pausch linked those two disciplines . Brown University professor Andries van Dam followed Pausch 's last lecture with a tearful and impassioned speech praising him for his courage and leadership , calling him a role model .

 The Randy Pausch Memorial Footbridge was dedicated on October 30 , 2009 , with Jai , Dylan , Logan , and Chloe Pausch cutting the ribbon .

= = = The Last Lecture = = =

 The Disney @-@ owned publisher Hyperion paid $ 6 @.@ 7 million for the rights to publish a book about Pausch called The Last Lecture , co @-@ authored by Pausch and Wall Street Journal reporter Jeffrey Zaslow . The book became a New York Times best @-@ seller on April 28 , 2008 . The Last Lecture expands on Pausch 's speech . The book 's first printing had 400 @,@ 000 copies , and it has been translated into 46 languages . It has spent more than 85 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list , and there are now more than 4 @.@ 5 million copies in print in the U.S. alone . Despite speculation that the book would be made into a movie , Pausch had denied these rumors , stating that " there 's a reason to do the book , but if it 's telling the story of the lecture in the medium of film , we already have that . "

= = = Media coverage = = =

 Pausch was named " Person of the Week " on ABC 's World News with Charles Gibson on September 21 , 2007 . His " Last Lecture " attracted wide attention from the international media ,

became an Internet hit , and was viewed over a million times in the first month after its delivery . On October 22 , 2007 , Pausch appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show where he discussed his situation and summarized his " Last Lecture " . On October 6 , 2007 , Pausch joined the Pittsburgh Steelers for the day during their regular practice , after the organization learned that one of his childhood dreams mentioned in his " Last Lecture " was to play in the NFL . On April 9 , 2008 , the ABC network aired an hour @-@ long Diane Sawyer feature on Pausch titled " The Last Lecture : A Love Story For Your Life " . On July 29 , 2008 , ABC aired a follow @-@ up to the Last Lecture special , remembering Pausch and his famous lecture .

= = = Other lectures and appearances = = =

Pausch gave a lecture about time management on November 27 , 2007 at the University of Virginia , to an audience of over 850 people . In March 2008 , Pausch appeared in a public service announcement video and testified before Congress in support of cancer research . On May 18 , 2008 , Pausch made a surprise return appearance at Carnegie Mellon , giving a speech at the commencement ceremony , as well as attending the School of Computer Science 's diploma ceremony , and on May 19 Pausch appeared on the show Good Morning America . His lecture , " Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams " , was nominated at the 2007 YouTube Video Awards .
 A devoted Star Trek fan , Pausch was invited by film director J. J. Abrams to film a role in Star Trek . Abrams heard of Pausch 's condition and sent a personal e @-@ mail inviting Pausch to the set . Pausch accepted and traveled to Los Angeles , California to shoot his scene . In addition to appearing in the film , he also has a line of dialogue at the beginning of the film (" Captain , we have visual . ") and donated the $ 217 @.@ 06 paycheck to charity .

= = Honors = =

 The Pittsburgh City Council declared November 19 , 2007 to be " Dr. Randy Pausch Day " .
 In May 2008 , Pausch was listed by Time as one of the World 's Top @-@ 100 Most Influential People .
 Randy was named Pittsburgher of the Year 2008 .
 On May 30 , 2008 , Randy received a letter from then President George W. Bush thanking him for his commitment to the Nation 's youth .
 On February 4 , 2009 , The Walt Disney Company dedicated a tribute plaque at Walt Disney World near the " Mad Tea Party " attraction with a quote by Randy that reads " Be good at something ; It makes you valuable ... Have something to bring to the table , because that will make you more welcome . "
 The Walt Disney Company also created the Disney Memorial Pausch Fellowship at Carnegie Mellon University , which will support two graduate students .
 Per Jared Cohon 's announcement on the day of the Last Lecture , a raised pedestrian bridge at CMU that connects the Gates Computer Science building and the Purnell Center for the Arts is named after Pausch , symbolizing the way he linked the two disciplines .

= = Other publications = =

 Adding input and output to the transactional model (Research paper , CMU) , 1988
 Dann , Wanda P. ; Cooper , Stephen ; Pausch , Randy (2005 @-@ 07 @-@ 25) . Learning to Program with Alice . Prentice Hall . ISBN 0 @-@ 13 @-@ 187289 @-@ 3 .