

I found plenty to resonate with in the Randy Pausch lecture and found it particularly compelling due to the circumstances it was given under: who better to give life advice than someone who's accepted the end of theirs? While I didn't necessarily find everything he advised to be personally applicable, there were several key points that really inspired me. In the opening of his lecture, he briefly touched on the importance of mastering fundamentals when discussing football. This is an idea that has grown more imperative in myself as I'm someone that, by nature, tends to just blow through things to get to the fun or exciting parts. Reminding myself to start by mastering fundamentals is a practice that likely started when I began teaching piano lessons and recognized the value that understanding of fundamentals had for my students (and by proxy, myself). The second idea that I found compelling in Pausch's lecture was his story about not setting the bar for his students. Growing up as a pianist, I was always striving to reach the next level, the next more difficult piece, the next peak. And every time I reached that peak, I always thought that I was performing the best that I ever had or ever will. However, perspective has, time and time again, proved me wrong. I always find it fascinating that I can listen to recordings of myself made as little as a week ago and find that these recordings (which I once thought were perfect) were chock full of room for improvement. The last idea that I really connected with in Pausch's Last Lecture was the belief that your life and pursuits can always be fun. This is my third year of college and, while I certainly have enjoyed my time thus far, I think I've had a misguided understanding that education (and work at large) can be *interesting* but never so much as fun. Lately, I've started to adopt the mentality that there's no reason to not be learning about and working in fields that I think are truly fun and —for lack of a better phrase— dope as hell.