Michael Matthews

The Last Lecture

Initially, I was shocked to see the speaker say that he had cancer in his liver and only had roughly 2-3 months of good health left. He seemed so full of life, happy and optimistic throughout the whole lecture. After knowing what he was going through it almost made me be more attentive to the remainder of the lecture. I enjoyed the whole conversation about how he achieved all of his childhood dreams. Some things that stuck out to me were: I appreciate him leaving his family and kids out by claiming that “I’m good, but not good enough to talk about that stuff without getting emotional” or something along those lines. I thought that that statement showed a lot about him and I had a new respect for him. Also, I think that his way of solving problems was very inspiring to me. “Brick walls aren’t there to keep us out, they are there to let us show how badly we want things”. This is probably my favorite quote from the whole lecture because it has so much substance to it, and he is able to back it up with his own experience; teachers can’t come on the zero gravity – fine now I’m a reporter. This example along with all of the other ones solidified the quote for me and helped me really believe it. I also enjoyed hearing about the master’s degree program that he offered, I think that sounded like a cool situation and a great way to offer a 2-year masters program. However, that was the only real point I found much interest in for the ‘helping others achieve their dreams portion of the lecture. It was all very foreign to me and I found this section a little less interesting than the beginning section. As the lecture got towards the end, I saw his ‘decide if you’re a Tigger or Eeyore’ graphic and I loved this chunk of the lecture. I agree with this 100% and think that it is so important to choose to be like Tigger. And yes, it is a choice. Every day you wake up and get to decide how your day is going to go. If you decide to be a Tigger, your day will always be better. Overall, I thought this lecture was great and Randy Pausch did an amazing job of being really interactive as well as extremely knowledgeable. I got a little bored in the middle section but the beginning and end was good enough to keep me watching the whole thing.