

Randy Pausch's *The Last Lecture* lecture was a powerful, funny, and memorable hour and a half. The opening where he urges the audience not to pity him, and then does several push ups puts the audience at ease and distracts from the diagnosis he started with.

I'd say the thing that affected me the most wasn't the giant fair stuffed animals or the push ups, it was definitely him saying "no" to being a full time imagineer. I couldn't help agreeing with his father when I heard that he rejected the full time position. But his desire to keep teaching his "virtual world" projects. As I continued the lecture, I also realized he made the right choice. Seeing all the projects, knowing there were countless more, was making me yearn for a program like that here in Missoula.

Randy Pausch's message about pushing through brick walls. The walls exist to push you, to prove to yourself how badly you want something. Putting it in that view makes any hardships seem less intense, and gives nice motivation for tough situations.

Also his "have specific dreams was" something that at first I didn't think much of, but the more I think about it, I've been actively avoiding the specific dream side of dreaming. It's always been a general idea never "I want to be a Disney Imagineer" level of dreaming. His whole lecture is somewhat making me rethink *what* I want to do in my life. I hope to revisit some childhood dreams and maybe make them come true.

And I suppose the thing that truly affected me the most wasn't part of the lecture, but it was the ending bows. Seeing how many people cheered for him, the hugs and such, almost hurt knowing that watching his lecture in 2025 he was most certainly no longer around, hurt. But in a bittersweet way. He had a wonderful life, he achieved many of his dreams, and affected countless people positively.