

### The Last Lecture

Professor Pausch was a person who lived his life with empathy and altruism, he discussed how to live life to its fullest and the best ways to do that. Pausch discussed with the audience ways of sharing ideas with others and learning the fundamentals first so that you can be good enough at something to make you valuable to others. What really resonated with me was his idea of “waiting long enough for people to eventually impress you.” This thought process was intriguing to me and I enjoyed the thought of waiting for someone to impress me with their great ideas in a workplace setting or collaboratively through artistic practice. At times, maybe I haven’t waited long enough to make this happen and looking back at it, my best friendships and relationships have always grown over long periods of time and through adversarial moments we overcame together.

As an educator I love doing collaborative, interdisciplinary lessons in art because it crosses into so many different domains, but many other teachers have a fixed mind set and are too afraid to try new things outside of premade curriculum. With the enactment of *The No Child Left Behind Act* and the testing craze in most districts that equates to the accumulation of more wealth in a district, too many people are afraid to raise the bar in their expectations like Pausch suggested. Many students have learned to give up when the curriculum becomes hard or uncomfortable. They never seem to find the “gold at the bottom of the barrels of crap” like Pausch pointed out. As an educator with influence on developing minds, how does one get children interested in exciting new careers or things that might be challenging at first when you are taught to give up when things are hard?