

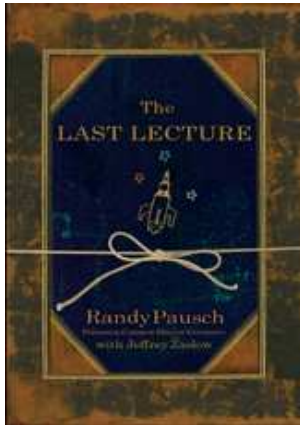
Dear Incoming First-Year Student,

Congratulations on your decision to attend McKendree University! We are delighted that you will soon become part of our community. One of your academic requirements this fall will be to complete our University 101 course where you will discuss Randy Pausch's *The Last Lecture*. All incoming first-year students are required to read *The Last Lecture*. We hope that you find the book enjoyable and thought-provoking. To help prepare you for the course and book discussion, we have included pertinent links below, one with study questions that are intended to focus your reading.

The McKendree community looks forward to meeting you in August.

Respectfully,

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*The Last Lecture* is a memoir, a celebration of life, and a testament to the power of childhood dreams. But it is also, perhaps most of all, a book of lessons.

The book is filled with all the ideas and observations that Randy Pausch wanted to share with his three young children. "These are the things I won't get the chance to tell them over the next twenty years," he said. "I'm trying to put myself in a bottle that will one day wash up on the beach for them."

The basic questions students might want to think about while reading the book are these:  
*Why has this lecture/book struck a chord with so many people?*  
*Where is the speaker/author "coming from"?*  
*What are my childhood dreams? How might I achieve them?*  
*What were the dreams my parents had and how did they fulfill them?*  
*Who are mentors I can turn to? What lessons have they taught me?*  
*And what wisdom would I choose to impart to the world if it was my last chance? What are the lessons of my own life?*

*The Last Lecture* Website:

<http://www.thelastlecture.com/aboutbk.htm>

Study Questions:

[http://www.thelastlecture.com/pdf/LastLecture\\_EDGuide.pdf](http://www.thelastlecture.com/pdf/LastLecture_EDGuide.pdf)