

Issue 2 / December 2018

# LINCOLN CHRONICLE

By Students, For Students

ABC of Motivation  
Kyla Sokoll-Ward



Editor : Priyanka Thapa Designer : Abishek Gyawali Advisors : Gibu George, Nicole Marsh

#### EVENT REVIEW

Whoever wins in AI,  
rules the world

#### TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS

Top 10 technology  
trends for 2019

#### LUSA'S THANKS

Everything is possible if  
you believe in yourself

#### BON VOYAGE

Life is full of surprises, lets  
take it day by day

We are  
online now!

[chronicle.lincolnuca.edu](http://chronicle.lincolnuca.edu)

# From the desk of the editor

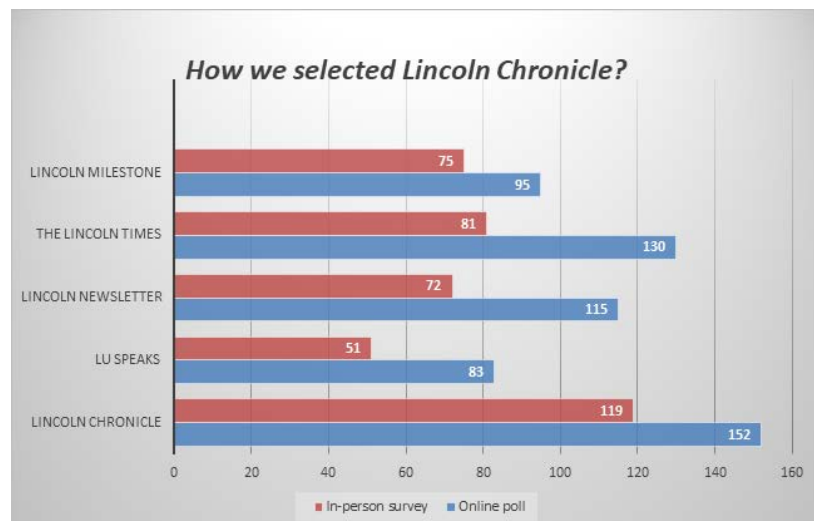


Welcome to Lincoln Chronicle, a university publication, by students, for students.

Publishing our second issue is a very proud moment for us, and we would like to thank you all for your support. We couldn't have done it without you. "This is a very good initiation" was a common echo from students and faculty, encouraging us to work harder to keep it going. As much as it is important for any university to have an arena where people can pen down their thoughts and opinions, the main purpose of starting Lincoln Chronicle is to connect and uplift as part of a community. We are of a generation sometimes referred to as "desperate readers" on a constant lookout for stories that speak directly to our condition. In light of this, our team is constantly trying to curate articles according to what might appeal to every individual at Lincoln University. Since we are still in the development stage, we are always seeking to understand what stimulates the mind of readers the most. To succeed, we welcome and need all feedback including criticism.

Addressing your feedback, we are happy to announce that YOU chose "Lincoln Chronicle". By conducting an online and on-campus survey it won by the highest margin. Another suggestion made by most of you was regarding how it looked. As you know, we are now an online publication and the printed version is only distributed to increase visibility. Nonetheless, we have tried to make it look closer to a newspaper or magazine format.

This has been an exciting journey so far, and we hope more of you will join us in this effort.



Want to  
publish your  
work?

[chronicle@lincolnuca.edu](mailto:chronicle@lincolnuca.edu)

A portrait of Tom Siebel, an older man with grey, wavy hair, looking upwards and to the right. He is wearing a light blue button-down shirt and has his arms crossed. He is wearing a watch on his left wrist and a ring on his right hand. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds.

**WHOEVER  
WINS IN  
AI  
RULES  
THE  
WORLD**

- TOM SIEBEL

# The Social Implications of AI with Tom Siebel

By Fasanmi Ayotunde

**F**or more than four decades, Tom Siebel has been one of Silicon Valley's most successful gurus and distinguished entrepreneurs. The former executive of Oracle went on to be founder and CEO of two distinguished brands, C3 and Siebel Systems. On November 1, 2018, at the SF Commonwealth Club event, "The Social Implications of AI", Siebel discussed the societal and ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence by exploring the opportunities it presents, as well as the downside.

Siebel explained the difference between General AI and Practical AI. The term General AI refers to machines that are indistinguishable in intelligence from humans, whereas Practical AI is designed to make predictions or accomplish specific problems such as when a device may fail in the market, when someone might get infected with a disease, or what your next purchase on Amazon will be. Basically, Practical AI aims to solve problems that were previously unsolvable.

According to Siebel, the largest application of AI will be in precision medicine, which may result in people living longer and healthier lives. AI will help prevent the occurrence of diseases by predicting who may get cancer or diabetes years before it happens. AI does not intend to replace physicians but to assist them in helping more people. In addition, AI may help create a safer and cleaner environment in several ways, such as decreasing waste as product providers anticipate our needs and provide products accordingly.

While the benefits of AI are substantial, Siebel also acknowledged that the potential cost will be significant as well. The downside of AI is that predictions show it will consume 400 million jobs in ten years, potentially leading to high levels of unemployment. Siebel emphasized that this could, and should, be addressed through our education system. And, in regards to management and regulation of data, he said the way to head forward is to have balanced and collaborative discussions between the public and private sector.

This forum really provoked my curiosity, and I left deciding that now is the time to become more educated and prepare for this inevitable change. I immediately enrolled in a related online course at Harvard Business School in an effort to exempt myself from the list of potentially unemployed, as predicted.

I was privileged to join one of technology's most preminent leaders, Tom Siebel, in an insightful conversation on AI.



Photos : Nicole Marsh

**A glimpse of the SF Commonwealth  
Club event**

# Technology & Business Trends Review

Image Source : Hatch

Dr. Walter Kruz  
Chairman, MIS Department  
Lincoln University

**G**artner, Inc., a world leader in information technology research and consulting has forecasted the top 10 technology trends for 2019. Here is a summary of the report, not in order of impact:

## Intelligent



**Autonomous Things**

Autonomous “things” using AI (Artificial Intelligence) to assist humans in performing tasks. These “things” would include robotics, vehicles, drones, appliances, and agents.

Augmented analytics using automated algorithms to generate insights from large datasets. Gartner predicts that by 2040 more than 40% of data science tasks will be automated thus improving productivity and quality of analysis.



**Augmented Analytics**



**AI-Driven Development**

AI-driven software development that integrates AI tools for improving the quality and capability of software.

I am pleased by the invitation to contribute to the Lincoln Newsletter. I hope to provide the readers interesting, useful, and relevant information This column is offered to our students to enhance their view of future business and technology trends that they may encounter in their careers. I invite anyone with similar interests to participate and write an article for the Lincoln Newsletter.

Source: <https://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/gartner-top-10-strategic-technology-trends-for-2019/>



**Digital Twin**

Digital twins in the IoT (Internet of Things) that could improve enterprise decision making through better real-time monitoring of systems.

Empowered edge describing a network topology where information processing, content collection, and delivery are placed closer to the sources of the information to improve efficiency and performance.



**Empowered Edge**



**Immersive Experience**

Immersive technologies such as augmented reality, mixed reality, and virtual reality will converge so that in the future, according to Gartner, 70% of businesses will experiment in this area seeking improved productivity and quality interactions with the real world.

The public and governments around the world are becoming more appreciative of the value and security of private data. Expect that new regulations protecting private data will impact social media business models.



**Privacy and Ethics**



**Blockchain**

Blockchain, which is a sort of distributed ledger providing cryptographically signed, irrevocable transactional records. Government, finance, and supply chain applications of this technology will be on the increase seeking improved efficiencies, savings, and security.

Smart spaces, meaning a physical or digital environment in which humans and technology-enabled systems interact in increasingly more intelligent ecosystems. Smart spaces will improve our connectivity in five dimensions: openness, connectedness, coordination, intelligence, and scope. The effect will be better collaboration and interaction for participants.



**Smart Spaces**



**Quantum Computing**

Quantum computing is the next generation of computing that is based on the quantum state of subatomic particles representing information as elements known as quantum bits or "qubits." Quantum computers will implement an exponentially scalable and highly parallel computing model thereby increasing many times the speed and productivity of operations.



# I don't want to change anything about our school, I want to improve it together

By Anamika Nasrina Hossain Ferdousi



LUSA President 2018-2019

I, Anamika Nasrina, born and raised in the suburbs of Bangladesh, came to Lincoln University to pursue my MBA in Human Resources Management. Since the beginning of my college days, I believed in enhancing my leadership skills. That is why I served as school captain for three years at Eden College, Bangladesh where my role was to bridge communication between fellow students and the faculty. My interests span from curriculum to culture, so I decided to do my undergraduate thesis on Transgender communities. That experience helped me open up and develop a more enlightened perspective.

While I've been able to achieve the Dean's List every semester at Lincoln, I believe in taking extra initiative to enhance my learning outside the classroom. That is why I felt lucky when I got an opportunity to work with our university library as a library assistant. Being LUSA president is another opportunity for me to learn what it takes to be a good leader.

I believe that our student association has the ability to make an impact on the quality of student life. Since joining the Lincoln family, I have made so many great connections with people. I didn't think of running for office until some of my peers asked, "Why don't you run for LUSA president?" At first I didn't take them seriously, but I believe my past leadership experience gave me the confidence to go for it. I felt a lot of support in the process.

This election was not easy at all. It was a lot of work, and all the candidates were equally qualified. I think the connections I've developed with people is the reason I won. I am grateful for the 78 votes of confidence, and will work hard for all Lincoln students.

I learned during this election to aim big and don't be scared or shy to achieve ambitious goals. Everything is possible if you believe in yourself. I believe we should not live our life by someone else's benchmark. When I started on my first day at this university I never thought that I would one day be Lincoln University Student Association president.

I want to say to everyone a big Thank You from the bottom of my heart for electing me as your LUSA president. I don't want to change anything about our school, I want to improve our school together. I want to work together with students, faculty and staff. I ask that you to share your suggestions and concerns with me and our diverse team. We will strive to meet your needs.

EVERYTHING  
IS  
*Possible*  
IF  
YOU BELIEVE  
IN  
*Yourself*



Yahya Ghaith  
Vice-President



Priyanka Thapa  
Secretary



Maria Boukhval  
Treasurer



## Do you ever feel LOST in a new environment? Here's Kyla Sokoll-Ward's ABC solution

By [Maria Boukhval](#)

**Kyla Sokoll-Ward** is a coach and mentor on a mission to help college students fall in love with their campus experience. On November 1st, 2018, she came to our campus and held a talk especially for Lincoln University students. If you missed it, here is a summary of her constructive and inspiring speech. Her advice can be a great help to those who ever feel lost. She provides a practical method to adapt in a new environment. Using her "ABC Model" helps people connect with one another, eases the process of finding new friends, and even helps one become a leader in a new setting.

The key element to understanding your surroundings depends on your own perception. The way we feel inside about the world is actually a reflection of what we see in the external environment. We create our own reality with our thoughts, words, and images, followed by actions. In order for a transformation to take place, "the filter" needs to be converted from negative emotions to positive and/or neutral emotions.

Kyla, who is originally from a small town in Maryland, narrated a story about her experience in a big university in the east coast. It was her own decision to move there, as she decided it was the best choice in terms of finances and geography. However, she was used to being in a small community and wanted the same setting, but it was a big school with a population of more than 20 000 people which made her feel completely lost. After her first semester break, she decided to never come back and instead go to the community college near her home. This story reflected her fear and how she opted to run away from her problems by hiding in the safety of her parent's house, instead of solve them. But after some time she realized that it is vital to challenge herself and build connections with others. So she came up with the PLAN to make friends.

First of all, it is essential to understand and love yourself: what do you like? what are you good at? You should stop pleasing and prioritizing others and instead pay attention to yourself. As a result Kyla joined clubs that sparked her interest –book clubs, music clubs, even an economic club. Her advice is to join people with the same interests, who are alike. The core value is not quantity, but rather quality of the friends you make. And, the key is to discover what you are really passionate about is, so to start by befriending yourself.

After finding the circle that she belonged to, she started to take leadership positions and challenge herself. That said, she also believes that it is important to recharge yourself in your own way. For example, she recharges by spending some time alone.

Why did Kyla start to lead instead of going with the flow? She realized that we all are interconnected, influencing and leading each other constantly. She told another story, of how years after college she met her classmate Calvin, who said he'd always remembered a comment she made to him about being insensitive, and how that had changed the way he thought and spoke. It was this moment that she understood the positive impact that you can leave on people. They remember how you make them feel. This gave her a deep insight on how connection impacts and bounds people together which redefined her concept of leadership. It is vital for a leader to feel the connection to someone or something.

This leads us to the 3 types of connections in her "ABC Model":

# A

## **AUTHENTIC CONNECTION**

Be yourself,  
show who  
you are.

# B

## **BENEVOLENT CONNECTION**

Be kind to yourself  
and others, we are  
already connected.

# C

## **CONTINUOUS CONNECTION**

By living in the  
moment, we have  
already made an  
impact in the world.

**Remember, what  
we do and say  
really makes a  
difference.**

**“WE ARE CREATING THE  
REALITY AND THE CHANGES  
BY OURSELVES HERE AND  
NOW!”**

# What you missed

Kyla spoke about how we can build connections by asking people questions beyond our usual "How's the weather?" or "What's new?" Our students gave some of their own unique suggestions. Some even tried them out on their peers.



Photo: Dear Rajavejphisal

This simple one is guaranteed to be a good conversation starter.



*Nguyen Tran a.k.a Angie*

**Q. What's new in your world?**

**A:** My friends from Philadelphia are visiting me for Thanksgiving and we are planning to go hiking in San Francisco. I am so excited about it because we haven't met for 6 months.

Shola believes this is a very good way to start a light and fun conversation and the entertainment will always remain a non-controversial topic (mostly) and good way to connect with everybody.



*Afolabi a.k.a Shola*

**Q. Who do you prefer, Sam Smith or Offset? Rihanna or Cardi B?"**

**A:** "Oh never heard this song", "lovely voice" and "I thought that music was amazing", etc.



*Yahya*

**Check out list of 5 questions our LUSA Vice president uses to start his conversations:**

1. Nice t-shirt. Is it your favorite color?
2. When was the last time you went to the park?
3. What was the last movie you watched?
4. Do you feel you are a leader ?
5. . Why good leaders make you feel safe?

Or like in a conference or seminar, use this question as a conversation stirrer like our own Uday Ghosh:



*Uday Ghosh*

**Q: Some leaders are institutional leaders and some are born leaders. What are the fundamental differences between the two?**

# Why do we need more events like Kyla-Sokoll Ward's workshop in the University?

After the workshop, we spoke to Daniel Sevall to ask him a question that most of his students wonder, "Why do you believe in starting your classes with a TED talk as a booster?" His answer may enlighten you!

We live in an amazing time in world history where we have access to so much information. As with anything, context is important. TED (Technology, Environment and Design) Talks provide the viewer a quick synopsis into the perspective of someone who has typically researched a given topic in depth. Moreover, these videos are generally no longer than 20 minutes in length, which arguably, provides the uninitiated the ideal time to be introduced to a given concept. While not a replacement for academic study, TED Talks offer a starting point for discussion, and from my humble perspective, has enriched my classroom experience.



Daniel Sevall  
Faculty, Lincoln University

## What makes TED talks more interesting?

Here are five tips from Akash Karia, which helps you.



1. Be simple and clear
2. Say something unexpected
3. Provide specific details (don't be vague)
4. Have a message that is credible and believable
5. Use stories to engage people's emotions

If you like TED talks or just heard about it and want to give it a try, here are few editor's pick that we think that you will love:



### You're a leader and I bet you didn't know it | Kyla Sokoll-Ward | TEDxHarveyStreet

TEDx Talks 829 views • 1 month ago

'Leadership' is a word we hear a lot, but what does embodied, conscious leadership actually look like? The answer might surprise ...



### There's more to life than being happy | Emily Esfahani Smith

TED 1.7M views • 1 year ago

Our culture is obsessed with happiness, but what if there's a more fulfilling path? Happiness comes and goes, says writer Emily ...

CC



### Why we have too few women leaders | Sheryl Sandberg

TED 2.3M views • 7 years ago

<http://www.ted.com> Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg looks at why a smaller percentage of women than men reach the top of their ...

CC



### How great leaders inspire action | Simon Sinek

TED 9.2M views • 8 years ago

<http://www.ted.com> Simon Sinek presents a simple but powerful model for how leaders inspire action, starting with a golden ...

CC



### Looking for a job? Highlight your ability, not your experience | Jason Shen

TED 213K views • 8 months ago

Very few of us hold jobs that line up directly with our past experiences or what we studied in college. Take TED Resident Jason ...

CC



### Why You Need To Be A Bitch | Tabatha Coffey | TEDxStLouisWomen

TEDx Talks 1.2M views • 1 year ago

Tabatha Coffey speaks to the importance of being true to yourself and owning it. Tabatha Coffey has devoted her professional life ...



### Your body language may shape who you are | Amy Cuddy

TED 15M views • 6 years ago

Body language affects how others see us, but it may also change how we see ourselves. Social psychologist Amy Cuddy argues ...

CC



# ***Alumni Spotlight : Rapid Fire***



## **Mohamed Abu-Baker**

Product Data Operations Analyst

Facebook

**Q. Tell us about the whole experience of working in the US. Was it difficult for you to get in the job market?**

Working in the US for the first time is something you can do, but only with a lot of patience and by devoting time to look for jobs that is going to suit you. With the MBA degree from Lincoln University and taking the knowledge of Arabic language as an advantage, I got the job I always wanted.

**Q. How would you describe the job market from a perspective of an MBA student?**

In this highly competitive job market, it is not only enough to get your MBA degree. You must add some technical skills if you are looking for a job in the Bay Area.

**Q. Did the experience of finding a job in a new country scare you, considering that your only work experience was in your home country, Jordan?**

I had 7 years of experience in the banking sector in Jordan, but I was still scared. Many people believe you need to have US-based experience in order to get a job here, but it's not necessary.

**Q. What has been the most difficult aspect of starting a career in the US?**

The people who warned me about companies only wanting candidates with experience in the US was true to an extent. All companies prefer candidates with US working experience, however you need be able to showcase your abilities like how I used my proficiency in Arabic to my advantage.

**Q. Were there any surprises along the way?**

I was surprised at how long the interview process is in US (laughs).

**Q. So, what's next for you?**

Now, I'm planning to test my entrepreneurial skills and open my own business.

**Q. How do you think Lincoln University has helped you reach where you are?**

Looking back, the highly educated faculty and amazing administrative staff helped me learn a lot, from basic knowledge about how a real business works to analyzing complicated real-life business cases to solve problems, Lincoln taught me it all!

**Q. On a fun note, who has been your favorite professor?**

My all-time favorite professor is Alex Anokhin.

**Q. As an alumni what suggestions do you have for our current students?**

Don't worry, good things will come to you. Just keep up the good work and stay positive.

**Q. Any message for our Lincoln family?**

Just to thank you all for being such an awesome family.

**Don't worry, good things will come to you. Just keep up the good work and stay positive.**



# ***By doing something you enjoy, you will have the chance to be the best***



Revered in Lincoln as one of the most respected as well as ferociously humorous professors, Igor Himelfarb narrated a glimpse of his educational and professional journey during his interview with us.

In 1998, 20-year-old Igor pursued his undergraduate degree from a community college, Santa Monica College, in California. After five years of struggling to adapt and speak English, Igor took every possible ESL course offered to overcome this hurdle. He aspired to become a mathematician or a computer programmer, but he knew he found his love when he took his first psychology class. He got his bachelor's in psychology in 2006, followed by a master's in education, psychology and counseling with distinction in less than a year from Cal State University, Long Beach. He further went on to get his second master's in statistics and applied probability in 2011 and his Ph.D. in educational measurement and statistics and research methodology in 2012 from UC Santa Barbara.

Prior to teaching at Lincoln University, Igor worked in many different capacities. He was a professor at Cal State University, Long Beach while pursuing his master's degree but went on to accept the position of Advanced Design Analyst at Gallop. His work there included studying the reach of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America in the republics of the countries formerly in the Soviet Union. He also did some interesting work related to American elections and polling and published several media reports along with Frank Newport. In 2013, after 13 years in Los Angeles, he started a new position at Educational Testing Service (ETS) in San Francisco, bringing him closer to finally joining Lincoln University.

**Priyanka: What do you enjoy about teaching?**

**Igor:** I enjoy teaching because I love people, I love conversation, I like sharing my knowledge with students, I like learning from my students. Here at Lincoln, I have students with very rich backgrounds coming from many different countries. It is very fulfilling to see so many different faces from every part of the world, to communicate, to share ideas, to create an effective learning environment.

**Priyanka: What are some things you wish more people understood about your style of teaching? The students or faculty.**

**Igor:** Well we all have different styles, and Lincoln University is a school where the value of academic freedom is understood and well respected. Faculty have no problem implementing different styles and expressing their ideas. I wouldn't say that there is a need for understanding; we respect each other's teaching styles. I myself value academic freedom and believe the educational environment benefits from many different styles.

**Priyanka: Do you have any conversations at Lincoln that you'll remember? Like one of the most memorable conversations you had with a student or faculty?**

**Igor:** Well we have many conversations on a daily basis and that's the beauty of the profession. Hopefully as a faculty member you make an impact and all conversations should be memorable.

**Priyanka: If you could start everything all over again what would you have done differently?**

**Igor:** I would exercise more and eat less sugar. (Laughs)

**Priyanka:** You have always spoken about how the knowledge of statistics and measurement would be helpful for grad students. Would you like to elaborate?

**Igor:** Yes, of course. We all like to set up our goals and objectives but then we don't know how to measure these goals and objectives. I will give you an example. On January 1<sup>st</sup> many of us make New Year's resolutions. One of them might be "I should exercise more, and I should lose weight", right? So, if your level of exercise was zero on January 1<sup>st</sup> and throughout the year you go to the gym once, you exercised more and fulfilled your resolution. In reality, however, it was defective. For weight, you could lose one pound, right? But is this what you were hoping for? PROBABLY NOT. So, measurement is very important when we formulate our goals and objectives. This aspect of measurement helps us understand to what extent we were successful in achieving our goals and objectives, or vice versa. There are many issues related to measurement, like how we measure things, how we compare things, how we operationally define concepts for the purpose of measurements. All those are important questions which are both a challenge and an advancement in social science. Measurement and statistical science is what makes social science, Science.

**Priyanka:** Do you have any career advice for the students that are going to embark on their careers?

**Igor:** You are all very different. And you have different abilities, different aspirations, you have different backgrounds, you have different knowledge, you progress through the program at different paces. It is difficult to give generic advice to students. I like to consider each of you individually. There are many factors that would influence this type of advice.

**Priyanka:** Was the diversity at LU an opportunity or a challenge for you?

**Igor:** Both. Well it's both, but I can say more of a challenge than an opportunity. It's just a fact.

**Gibu:** Should be in-born, or we can sharpen our skills and achieve that?

**Igor:** It's a combination of both. It's always nature and nurture.

**Gibu:** Most of us get confused because we have experience in something but are looking for a job related to our masters, which is not necessarily relevant to our undergraduate studies. It's very hard for us to synchronize our past with our present and future.

**Igor:** That's true. You as an international student coming to the US will face several challenges. One of them is a new culture, new country, for a lot of you it's a new language, and yet you still need to study, you need to make a bridge between your former study and what you are pursuing now. And yet, this is the choice you made, so this is something you need to deal with. But eventually, when those of you who are able to overcome this challenge do so, not only will you be successful, you will also be very strong. Think of an egg, the more you boil the harder it becomes.



**Priyanka: And who would you miss the most in Lincoln?**

**Igor:** I don't know. Several. There are several people who I made very good connections with. I was able to make friends among the faculty members at Lincoln University. I respect and cherish the time I spent with everyone. LU will always have a special place in my heart.

**Gibu: You spoke about taking lots of ESL courses. So what do you think about the situation here? A lot of students are afraid to take the risk to learn more English, so they stick with people who speak their own language, and they don't get a chance to improve.**

**Igor:** In some ways it's a mistake because you are successful in this country directly related to your ability to speak the language. So the more proficient you are in the English language, the more chances of success you will have.

**Gibu: Are there any shortcuts you tried and felt were successful?**

**Igor:** SHORTCUTS NEVER WORK.

**Gibu: Some easier way, maybe?**

**Igor:** (Shakes his head.)

**Gibu: Since you are aware of evolving business trends, what areas would you advise students to pursue?**

**Igor:** I would advise students to capitalize on their talents instead of trying to fix their weaknesses. Don't settle for a job just for the pay check, aspire to do something that you really enjoy. By DOING something you enjoy, you will have the chance to be the best. However, if you spend your life fixing your weaknesses, you will only be mediocre. To be the best you need talent.

**Gibu: Any suggestions to make life at LU more fun and creative?**

**Igor:** Lincoln University is an urban campus, which has its advantages and disadvantages.

First of all, the area that Lincoln University is located in is very beautiful. Oakland, San Francisco and the Bay Area in general is the best area to live in the world, so I think the location of the university could generously compensate for the lack of a proper campus. And, Student Services directed by Ana Maria Gower puts a lot of time and effort into organizing activities to make sure that the life of our students is enriched by participation in extracurricular activities, such as museum and recreational trips, bay cruises, ski trips and so on. There are opportunities for student participation throughout the day on campus, as well as off campus. There are plenty of opportunities for students to enjoy themselves while they are getting their degree.

**Gibu: I have one last question. We know that you got another job next semester onwards and we know that you will love that job. After 5 years or 10 years, when we look for Igor on Google what can we expect? What kind of taglines or titles can we expect?**

**Igor:** Obituary (all laugh). Life is full of surprises. Let's take it day by day.

**Priyanka: Is there a question you think we should have asked but didn't?**

**Igor:** You grilled me like there is no tomorrow.

**Gibu: Were there any questions you were prepared to answer but we didn't ask you?**

**Igor:** No. You guys are doing a good job and I am glad to hear that you are involved and that you are thinking and asking questions to make student's lives better, and to make the university a better place so that students can have a wonderful experience during their learning towards their degree. You are in the prime of your life. You are all young, healthy and beautiful and you are all smart. Just don't settle for mediocracy, aim high.

**Gibu and Priyanka:** Thank you so much. Will you come next May for our graduation? We are inviting you in advance so that you can mark your calendar.

**Igor:** I may (smiles).

# Bon Voyage

## A Message From : \_\_\_\_\_

Alex Anokhin, Faculty



"I'm fairly certain that Dr. Himelfarb would not approve of any sort of farewell ceremonies in his honor, so I try to keep this message brief. Igor is an outstanding professional with a rare gift of being able to share his knowledge with students in a unique, engaging, and somewhat eccentric way. I have learned a lot from him over the years.

Certainly, Igor leaving is a painful loss for our school and for me personally, yet I know that the friendship we have created will last for a lifetime. So good luck, Dr. Himelfarb! Don't forget to come visit!"

## A Message From : \_\_\_\_\_

Ahmed Hussam, Student

Ahmed: "Professor, what is the difference between Nominal Data and Ordinal Data?"

Igor: "If you classify gender as ordinal data you are a chauvinist and if you classify ethnicity as ordinal data you are racist."

This is a glimpse of the real-life teaching technique that Professor Igor practices to teach one of the most gruesome statistical terms. He explains complicated statistical terms in humorous and profound ways. I feel honored that I had the opportunity to learn from him by taking four of his classes at Lincoln University.

My journey with Igor started for me in a foundation course in statistics, with the common statistical term "Normal Distribution". I vividly remember how Igor asked the class if they understood the term after explaining it, and in return he got a room full of hollow nods implying that we didn't comprehend a thing. Igor, like a fighter, did not get disappointed or lose hope. He tried several times explaining it in different contexts, then finally resorted to showing us a video about it, hoping that a visual aid would help. It didn't. He gave it one last try, by bringing in a toy that represented Normal Distribution, and that was how he was finally able to instill the term in all our minds.

Within seven months at Lincoln University, by taking his Statistics and Consumer Research classes, Igor helped me advance from the basics, like calculating the mean, to where I am right now, predicting performance using machine learning techniques. I have nothing but the utmost gratitude and admiration for Professor Igor, and I wish him all the happiness while he steps on the next ladder of success.