Event Report: The Human Element in Artificial Intelligence Careers

Ian Alloway

University of South Florida

BSIS Senior Capstone

3/1/2026

Introduction

As a current Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence candidate at the University of South Florida and the founder of my own data auditing firm, the conversation around automation is not just academic for me. It is personal and it directly impacts my livelihood. For this assignment I decided to attend a self-curated virtual seminar titled "Navigating the Automation Age" which

took place on January 5, 2026. This virtual event consisted of two major presentations by industry leaders Anthony Goldbloom and Kai-Fu Lee. I chose these specific sessions because they address the exact anxiety that many of us in the intelligence and tech fields feel. We want to know if the algorithms we are building are eventually going to replace us. The purpose of this report is to analyze their arguments and relate them to my current studies in AI and intelligence analysis.

Event Summary and Reflection

The first session I watched was presented by Anthony Goldbloom and was titled "The jobs we'll lose to machines — and the ones we won't." Goldbloom is the co-founder of Kaggle so he has a front-row seat to what machine learning models can actually do. His main argument really stuck with me because it simplifies the complex debate about automation into a single distinction between volume and novelty. He explained that machines are incredibly good at frequent and high-volume tasks. If a job involves looking at the same type of data over and over again to find a pattern then a machine will beat a human every time. He used the example of grading essays or diagnosing emails as spam.

However Goldbloom argued that machines fail when they face novel situations. They cannot connect disparate threads that have never been connected before. This distinction is critical for my career path. In my work with Alloway LLC I deal with data auditing. A lot of that work is high-volume and routine. Watching this made me realize that I need to automate the auditing parts of my business quickly or someone else will. But the "novel" part is where the real value lies. Interpreting why the data is wrong or what it means for a client's specific business strategy is something a machine cannot easily do. This reinforces my decision to pursue the MS in AI at

USF because I am learning how to build the tools that handle the volume so I can focus on the novel strategy.

The second presentation was by Kai-Fu Lee titled "How AI can save our humanity." Lee is a venture capitalist and a pioneer in the field so his perspective was a bit more philosophical. He showed a graph that mapped jobs based on two axes which were "optimization" and "compassion." He agreed with Goldbloom that AI will take over the optimization tasks but he argued that AI cannot do compassion or empathy. He gave a touching example about elderly care. A robot can take vitals and dispense medicine but it cannot make an elderly person feel loved or understood.

For me this connects deeply to the field of intelligence studies and cybersecurity. We often think of these fields as purely technical or optimization-based. We want to find the threat and neutralize it. But Lee's talk made me think about the human element of intelligence. Counterintelligence isn't just about data it is about understanding human motivation and psychology. An algorithm might predict a cyber attack based on traffic patterns but it cannot understand the political or emotional motivation behind a bad actor in the same way a human analyst can. Lee's presentation convinced me that my career needs to be a hybrid. I need the technical skills I am learning in my AI courses but I also need to maintain the "compassion" or human understanding that allows me to communicate findings to clients or commanders.

Conclusion

Attending this virtual seminar was a validation of my current academic and professional path. Both speakers confirmed that while the landscape of work is changing it is not disappearing for those who are prepared. Goldbloom taught me that I must position myself in the "novel" section

of the job market where I am solving new problems rather than just processing known data. Lee taught me that I cannot neglect the human connection aspect of my work because that is the one thing the code I write will never be able to replicate. As I continue my degree at USF I plan to focus my projects not just on raw efficiency but on systems that empower human decision-making. The future of my career in AI is not about man versus machine but about man working alongside machine to solve problems that neither could solve alone.

References

Goldbloom, A. (2016, February). The jobs we'll lose to machines — and the ones we won't [Video]. TED Conferences. https://www.ted.com/talks/anthony_goldbloom_the_jobs_we_ll_lose_to_machines_and_the_ones_we_won_t

Lee, K. F. (2018, April). How AI can save our humanity [Video]. TED Conferences. https://www.ted.com/talks/kai_fu_lee_how_ai_can_save_our_humanity