

Work and pandemic

UTM youth retaliate on COVID

RM6.50

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

ALUMNI EXPRESS

The opening

Abdulla Adam Mohamud

Johor – On the 29th of December 2020, students from the technology and information system course in UTM (SECP1513) attended a sharing session from UTM alumni in the school of computing. The talk was moderated by Dr. Johanna Ahmad. The students participating were Batrisiya Binti Azman, Mohamad Zamarul Akmal, Teo Wen Long and Tan Yong Keong (YK).

The main reasoning behind this talk was to provide current students with a better understanding about employability conditions and how it is seen from the eyes of alumni during the pandemic. Overall, the talk felt close to heart for students, however the interaction was medium at best given the sheer size of students attending.

Skills not numbers

Zeiad Wael

Johor – The COVID-19 pandemic engulfed nations around the world and causing losses to companies totaling to billions of dollars. This translated to a significant decrease in the number of jobs available to experience individuals let alone fresh graduates. When the alumni were asked about their educational background and how they managed to land their jobs with the current situation, their response was that most of them were coming from data analysis related programs at UTM, when it comes to how they managed to gain

employment what stood out is the fact it was due to their demonstration of skills in their workplace. Either by outright coming up with innovative ideas such as what Mohamad Zamarul did when he created a dashboard that gathers all data points for

Where does Programming come in?

Amjad Parker

Johor – Given that most participants in the session were students from software engineering. It was inevitable for the viewers to ask regarding what programming languages are important to learn and which ones would be the most beneficial in their careers.



Too many programming languages out there

When this question was asked to the alumni the general response was that languages such as C++ provide the basic building block which you can build on to understand other languages and become proficient easily in utilizing them as well as their frameworks.

CGPA and employment

A proof to the fact students viewing the discussion felt relaxed given the participants in the talk were alumni students was how some of



Dr. Johanna Ahmad

The discussion was done via the Cisco WebEx platform and the number of attending students was in the hundreds which is quite impressive since it shows how far the technology has come in such a short period of time;

At the beginning, the audience were greeted by Dr. Johanna Ahmad from the school of computing and attendance was taken via google form for students participating.

The introduction by the moderator covered a brief description about her career. Here is an image highlighting the major steps career wise.



An impressive career by all means

After learning more about our moderator, the next step was introducing the participating students and where they work at the moment.

The overall atmosphere felt relaxing and everyone seemed excited and looking forward to gain some insightful information regarding employability chances and factors affecting new graduates during the pandemic.



A screenshot from Alumni intro

easier analysis at his workplace. This showed his supervisors and managers that he has what it takes to become a vital member in his organization and therefore was hired.

According to Dr. Johanna, it's not just pure technical skills that would help but rather a combination of that and soft skills such as emotional intelligence and knowing how to speak. The latter skill plays a major role during interviews when employers are assessing the employee's ability in effective communication.

Here is a screenshot of Zamarul explaining how he managed to develop the dashboard data analysis which later helped him in gaining employment.



Zamarul feeling proud of his work

After going over these points the next individual who shared their thoughts was Batrisyia Binti Azman, who is currently working as a Social Media data Analyst.

She was very happy to share ideas during her study time. She insisted on the importance of students exposing themselves to as many activities and avoiding being shy during their study life.

the questions took a personal flavour such as when one of the viewers asked about the participants GPA. Despite only one member sharing his GPA, which for the record was pretty excellent at around 3.9, they all agreed that a reasonable score of above 3 was sufficient to gain a fair shot at gaining employment.

Final thoughts

During the conclusion Tan Yong as well as Zamarul insisted that participating in competitions, interacting with lecturers and other students is vital in building a successful career in the future.

Generally, the talk nailed the head on many questions that junior students had and was motivational in nature since they helped spread a positive vibe to the students.

Speaking for myself as Abdulla Adam, when it comes to weaknesses in the talk was how some participating students were careless in the sense, they did not ensure their microphones were muted during the talk and the fact one of the speakers did not attend the talk despite being informed ahead.

Overall, I learnt the importance of being proactive and gained good insight into what would be expected from me during my career.

Here are my team member photos. From the left it's Abdulla Adam, Zeiad wael (Center) and Amjad parker (Image Unavailable).

Citations:

- <https://utm.webex.com/recordingservice/sites/utm/recording/d322705af826409bb9662ce77d0204d9/playback>
- www.gettingsmart.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Program-Code-Feature-Image.jpg
- <https://www.utm.my/directory/staff/johanna>
- <https://utm.webex.com/utm/ldr.php?RCID=229f04aabeec42d8b1>

