



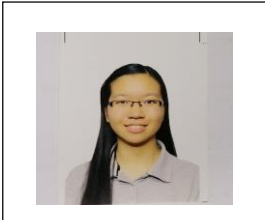
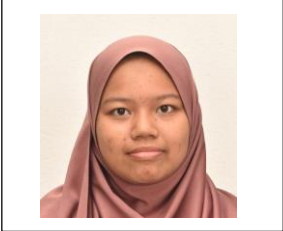
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Alumni Sharing Experience

Ways to struggle and survive during the pandemic outbreak

\$1.50

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

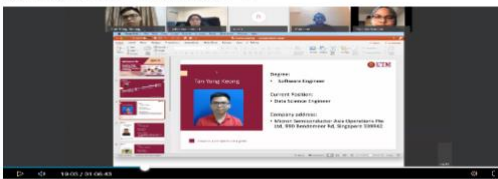
HEADLINE

An inspiring talk between a senior lecturer of UTM and three fresh graduate students

KALAIIVANI SUBRAMANIAM –

On 29th December 2020, an online-based talk between the senior lecturer of UTM (Dr. Johanna Ahmad) and three fresh graduates from UTM (Mr. Tan Yong Keong, Mr. Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin, and Miss. Batrisyia Binti Azman Shah) was held from 10.00 am to 11.00 am. The organizer of the talk used an online platform (Webex) to hold the talk. The talk was attended by the students of the School of Computing of UTM, Johor Bahru. The moderator of the talk is Dr. Johanna Ahmad. The talk entitled “SCHOOL OF COMPUTING ALUMNI SHARING SESSION: INSPIRING WORK EXPERIENCE AND COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGE”. The purpose of the talk was to give information on how to get a stable job during this pandemic and some advice on how to secure a job to the students of UTM.

Alumni Sharing Session-20201229 0151-1



A scenario on how the online talk took place

The talkers of the talk were answering the questions asked by the moderator and the students who attended the talk. One of the talkers of the talk named Mr. Tan Yong Keong, advised that by participating in a lot of competitions, we can gain some professional skills, presentations skills, and some achievements. Besides that, he suggests doing some freelance jobs. By doing that, we can get some technical skills. Next, Mr. Zamarul said that we need to be proactive as an employee and expose ourselves by giving ideas and opinions. Miss. Batrisyia advised the students to show a lot of effort during their internship time. And that is how they secure their jobs. To get hired by the respective companies in the middle of the pandemic, Miss.

Batrisyia advised that we need to have technical skills. She also said do not limit yourself and try to learn new things. Next, Mr. Zamarul suggests learning new technical skills, not just the fundamental skills that we learned in university and also he highlights the soft skills.

As for strengths of this talk, even though it is an online-based talk, students still got a lot of information from the talkers, and also at the end of the talk got a Q&A session. In which the students can ask questions to the talkers. This session really helps students to clarify their problems and doubts. Then, the time of the talk is just nice because in the morning students get to focus and involved in the talk more than in the afternoon and evening. As for the weakness of the talk, the duration of the talk is short. It will be better if the talk lasts for about 2 hours. So, more students can ask questions and the talkers also get enough time to answer all.

I realize getting a stable job is not easy and we need to put our full effort to make it real. Just getting good results is not enough for getting a job. We need to be aware that a lot of people like us are competing for the dream job we want to beat or to win against them all, we need to stand out by having more soft skills, have experience in working for other companies.

An Overview and Advices in the Future of Computing Students

TAY JIA YI - The Alumni Sharing Session, entitled Inspiring Work Experience and Covid-19 Pandemic Challenges with four invited speakers, which are the seniors of School of Computing, named Mr Tan Yong Keong, Ms Qistina Batrisyia binti Azman Shah and Mr Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin. The active attitude should also apply rather than to be passive and wait for orders from others. All the skills I need to used to solve problems.

To increase chances of getting hired, Mr Tan advised us to understand the concepts of the programming language to apply the fundamental knowledge to other new programming languages. Besides, Miss Qistina mentioned that we must possess a positive attitude to avoid waiting for instructions from others. A good attitude such as avoid setting bounds in self to be open-minded to try out new things. For Mr Zamarul, he suggested that owning soft skills are the key element to get hired besides improvising ourselves with different technical skills.



Mr Tan shared his tips on getting hired.

The strength is the talk was well-organized and was in a relaxed environment. All the audience were able to enjoy themselves and the important messages were well-delivered. Another strength is it was informative and helped the audience who are worried of their future. The sharing from the speakers had provided them with a guideline for an overview as well as future look after graduation.

The weakness of this talk is the duration was short. It was only one hour, but we hoped to listen more to their experience and advice. Besides, the QnA session should hold for longer time as there were students who could not ask their inquiries.

In conclusion, I have learnt that we have to possess positive attitudes such as stop setting bounds in self, be active, be passionate and willing to learn and try out new things. I will always improve myself in both hard and soft skills. Moreover, the information that I get is technology sectors evolve rapidly and we must adapt the pace and always be an active learner to handle the job.

The Future of The Student Learn Programming

TAN MING HUI - The subject of Technology and Information System (SECP 1513) held a talk for the students online via platform Webex. The talk was on 29 December 2020 and started sharp at 10 am. Our lecturer, Dr. Johanna was the moderator of the talk, and she had invited three seniors that already graduated from UTM and managed to have a job during this pandemic to share the experiences of their working. Three of the seniors were Mr. Tan Yong Keong, Ms. Qistina Batrisyia Binti Azman Shah, and Mr. Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin. The talk started with the introduction of themselves and what were they work for currently. They also had welcome the new batch of students joining the UTM.

The talk was continued by Dr. Johanna and she had asked them a lot of questions regarding the job and the difficulties during this pandemic. The seniors also had the willingness to share with us. Mr. Tan had share lots of information with us especially related to programming. To memorize all the programming language and used it in the job, it is better we understand the concept and made the skills more sharpener through practices. During the intern, the company more focused on the skills, either the technical skill or the soft skills or both. Even we had an excellent CGPA but did not have these skills, the chance of being hired is very low. We also need to be active. To wait for the instruction to do the job, it is better we approached others and asked what should we do. When a faced problem, we should not be shy to ask. These attitudes were observed by entrepreneurs during our intern time.

This talk gave a chance for the junior to know the job better. We can know that the job requirement is still the same even though in the pandemic. There will be harder to be hired as there are lots of company who try to save the spends by minimizing the number of workers. This talk had helped the junior to be more clearer as there is a Q&A section. The seniors answered our questions based on their experiences.



The Q&A section

The talk is held on the weekday. For us, it is too pack in the schedule already. There also have the class to be continued after the talk. Even it is only one hour, but some of us hard to concentrate on the talk because the mind is full of exercise given in the class before the talk. I learned lots of lessons from the talk. To be hired, I need to have applied a good attitude in the job. The active attitude should also apply

rather than to be passive and wait for orders from others. All the skills I need to use to solve problems.

Discussing Experiences During Internship and Job Interview

FATEHAH HAIROL NIZAM-

An Alumni Sharing session was held on 29th December 2020. 3 speakers were invited, Tan Yong Keong, Qistina Batrisyia binti Azman Shah, Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin and hosted by Dr Johanna Ahmad. They are basically discussing about interviewing and internship experiences between them as fresh graduate during Covid-19.

A question was asked by Dr Johanna during the talk. She asked did he find it difficult if he happened to face a new language? He answered, first thing that you need to know is by understanding the concept and not by memorizing it. There are also some tips given by Sir Tan to improve your programming are by doing exercises and learn new code. To love programming you should think how beneficial your program would be to someone in the future. Miss Qistina even told not to wait and do not limit yourself. There are a lot of things to be learned by mingle in with people inside your company. Learning new technical skills and improve soft skills are the tips had given by Sir Zamarul. You can find any free courses online. To enhance your confident according to Sir Tan, Sir Zamarul and Miss Qistina they agreed by joining many programs and competition will help you by training yourself to present in front of people.



Speakers telling their experiences during internship

The strength in this talk it was well organized and the speakers are not too boring to listen to. The weakness in this talk the duration is so short so we only get small information from the speaker. It is so fun to listen to their experiences since I would be in that phase too in the future. The Q&A sessions also too short so not so many students had chance to ask them.

For being an ideal worker is so hard, but if its on your own desire you will get it too. For example from Sir Zamarul he get hired by his current company because of his own desire to learn new technical skills. Also being positive is another key to achieve and surpass what I want and what I am fear of.

How to secure a job during this pandemic?

SALMA ALAA- This was an alumni sharing session on the 29th of December 2020 and was hosted by Dr Johanna Ahmed. In this talk she invited 3 UTM software engineers who freshly graduated and managed to land secured jobs in 3 different companies in less than year. The three seniors (Mr Tan Yong Keong, Ms Qistina Batrisyia binti Azman Shah and Mr Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin) were very humble and welcoming during the talk, they gave a brief introduction on themselves and then the host asked them question regarding the work field and what approaches they took to secure a job whilst this global pandemic we are going through. Mr tan shared his experience by advising us to take part in as many contests in the university as we possibly can, as this step helps us know what is it really like to work in real life. It helps you gain a lot of technical skills that is a necessity in order to land a secure job. Contests also allows you to build your character and communication skills, and helps you expose yourself to many managers from different companies. On the other hand Mr Mohamed and Ms qistina advised us to have great communication skills and not be afraid to give out our ideas during our training time. "It was the thing that made me stand out the most from the rest of my mates" Mr Muhammad says in the interview. He also says stepping out of his comfort zone and speaking his mind helped the company he was training at improve and be more efficient in the sector that he works in. They all advised us at the end to improve our technical and soft skills, and to think outside of the box. They encouraged us a lot to experience new things in life and not to be afraid from life.



The invitation poster of the talk.

In conclusion, the talk was really entertaining and very interesting to watch especially as a new student who just started this year. The strength of this talk was that both the host and the guest were humble and related to our struggles and what we are going through now due to the pandemic. They gave us a lot of advices that would really help us in the future. The only weakness I found was that the time for the Q&A sector was too short especially that we had a lot of questions to ask about.