



UTM
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING
Faculty of Engineering

29TH DECEMBER 2020 | LIVE SESSION

UTM DAILY

ALUMNI SHARING SESSION

INSPIRING WORK EXPERIENCE AND COVID 19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGE

ALUMNI SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH COVID 19

INTRODUCTION

As the pandemic continues to plague our society, there are many challenges that people face in their daily lives including their work condition.

On the 29th December 2020, School of Computing UTM organised an alumni sharing session titled Inspiring Work Experience and COVID-19 Pandemic Challenge where 3 alumni from School of Computing shared their work experience and the challenges that they face during the COVID-19 pandemic.

by Group Digital Domain

On the 20th of December, 2020, 3 alumni who graduated from UTM faculty of computing accepted an invitation to share their experience regarding the current pandemic situation to current UTM students. They were **Tan Yong Keong**, **Qistina Batrisya binti Azman Shah**, and **Mohamad Zamarul Akmal bin Mohd Hussin**. Throughout the session, the host, Pn. Johanna Ahmad, asked several questions that were promptly answered by the alumni.

How did you land a secure position at your respective jobs?

This question was answered by all of the alumni. For Tan Yong Keong, he surmised that his active participation in various competitions during his university life helped garnish his resume, which he used to apply to many jobs and finally getting accepted by a company. For

Zamarul, he mentioned that his proactiveness during his Industrial Training had left very good impressions on his superiors and they made an effort to have him absorbed as a permanent worker despite the company not looking for any new employments. Qistina's case was very similar to Zamarul. She was brought on board to her position after her internship.

How do we increase our chances of getting hired?

This question was answered by Zamarul and Qistina. In short, having knowledge of certain skills, such as different programming languages, and having technical and soft skills, can help boost the employer's impression towards us. Qistina also mentions that we need to be proactive so that people will see our impact on the workplace.



Source: Alumni Sharing Session (webex)

Is CGPA important?

The general agreement for this question was that CGPA was not the most important factor in getting a job. For the most part, their employers looked at the skills and achievements that they displayed, rather than their results.

Opinions about attending competitions and do we need to succeed?

For Zamarul, he mentioned that a lot of students feel pressured to win competitions because if they lose, the academy will hate them, which leads to them having less confidence in actually participating. However, he refutes that statement by saying that it is not true and by participating, you are able to build up confidence as well as skills that will be important in job interviews and the workplace. Tan Yong Keong said that the importance of competitions is not about succeeding, it is about gathering experience and exposing yourself to challenges you otherwise would not face during university life.

How to stay motivated on a daily basis?

Zamarul said that he tends to enjoy the experience of learning a lot of new things every day. This is true because he understands that not many people are able to be as lucky as him in this current pandemic situation. For Qistina, despite the challenges and difficulties, she tries to stay positive with self-motivation. Another factor is that she enjoys doing her work, which helps her stay positive in everyday life.

After graduation, do we have a chance of getting a job not related to our studies?

The alumni agreed that there is definitely a possibility of getting a different job. However, it is not a big deal if you can learn to cope with it. He expresses how important it is to be flexible as well as having a good understanding of the fundamentals so that you can apply the concept to other work. As an intern, if you are given work that is unrelated to your line of study, you can discuss with your supervisor to change to a suitable work.

REFLECTION

- Throughout the talk, there were many instances where some acronyms were used without much explanation about what it meant. This causes a bit of confusion for those of us who were unfamiliar with the terms used. On the other hand, the alumni spoke really well regarding their points as well as giving clear and concise responses towards the questions given to them.
- This talk has given us a lot of exposure on the mindset and thought process of people in the work environment. We realized that the world of adulthood is much larger than we have experienced so far. As a university student, it is important that we expand our horizon and pursue various activities in order to accumulate experience. Besides participating in various activities, we should learn new skill sets which will help us in the workplace. In conclusion, during this pandemic, we need to work on ourselves and improve so that when we go searching for a job, we have slightly higher chances of being accepted.

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