



UTM
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING
Faculty of Engineering

NEWS REPORT:

ALUMNI SHARING SESSION

(INSPIRING WORK EXPERIENCE & COVID19 PANDEMIC CHALLENGE)

SUBJECT:

TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS (SECP1513-02)

GROUP/TOPIC:

GROUP 9

LECTURER'S NAME:

DR. ARYATI BAKRI

GROUP MEMBERS:

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2.	ONG HAN WAH	A20EC0129
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SUBMISSION DATE:

15 JANUARY 2021

ALUMNI SHARING SESSION

DECEMBER 29, 2020 - The Technology and Information Systems (SECP1513) department from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) hosted a virtual alumni sharing session on Webex since the Covid-19 pandemic caused campus closures all around the nation. A few alumni were invited as speakers for the session which included Mr Tan Yong Keong, Mr Mohamad Zamarul and also Miss Qistina Batrisyia. All of the speakers have recently graduated from their respective degrees amidst the Covid-19 widespread and have successfully secured a job upon finishing their internship.

The purpose of conducting this virtual sharing session is to give the first semester students an insight into the pathway of being employed by a company besides enlightening them on the skills they have to focus in terms of technical skills along with soft skills. The program was moderated by Dr Johanna Ahmad, a senior lecturer from the School of Computing UTM and the session was held for approximately an hour of duration. The speakers took turns sharing their experiences and answered questions from the moderator herself along from the attendees.

The first speaker who was Mr Tan Yong Keong graduated with a Degree majoring in Software Engineering and is currently holding the position as a Data Science Engineer at Micron Semiconductor Asia Operations, Singapore. He is said to be actively involved in a myriad of competitions during his studies and has been offered job opportunities while doing so. Mr Tan Yong Keong or better known as 'YK' is an all rounder, not only is he active but he is also a brilliant student who graduated with a CGPA of 3.90.

Moving on to the next speaker which is Miss Qistina Batrisyia who is currently holding the position as a Social Media Data Analyst at TM One, Kuala Lumpur. Miss Qistina portrayed a bright and proactive personality as an intern at TM One and was brought in as a working staff by the company due to her excellent contributions in finishing real life projects. One of the tips shared by our fellow speaker was to constantly be proactive in the working environment. As we all know, learning is a lifelong process. Therefore, we should not feel scared or shy to ask someone to explain and teach us.

The last speaker which was Mr Mohamad Zamarul was a Data Engineering graduate and is now holding a position as a Data Engineer at PPG Coatings Sdn Bhd in Selangor. Mr Mohamad Zamarul was selected to continue working in the company among 7 other interns from UTM who were rejected. He is a skilled fresh graduate and has spent his semester breaks gaining knowledge and experience from part time jobs and participating in online courses.

The speakers had shared some tips and advice to increase the chances of getting hired as a fresh graduate. It is without doubt that one needs to master technical skills as one of the conditions of getting hired. Mr Zamarul also introduced some online courses and programs that students can join during the pandemic to develop new technical skills in IT such as Code Camp, edX and Data Star. Some can earn you a certificate which can be attached to the resume but you have to pay for it. Other than that, all the speakers see eye to eye on the significance of soft skills which includes good communication and teamwork skills. The most important thing that graduates need is to be proactive. The speakers encourage students to voice out their ideas and take initiative to work on other projects in the workplace later.

Besides, there are also a few questions asked by the students to clear their doubt regarding their future career. The first question asked to the speaker was ‘What is your CGPA?’. Since it's a question which is difficult to be answered in public, the host gives the speaker the choice to reveal their CGPA or not. Hence, all of them answered almost similarly which was, CGPA is important but soft skills and technical skills are equally important as the CGPA, so do not depend fully on CGPA. The next question was ‘Since soft skills can be improved by joining more competitions, will the university get disappointed and hate us when we lose in the competition?’. So the speaker revealed the truth that the university will not get disappointed when we lose in a competition. Besides, they also mention that the effort of joining the competition shows that we are already the winners and the experience gained from the competition is more important than anything. Moreover, there are more questions asked such as ‘How to stay motivated?’ and ‘Share your internship experience’. All the speakers give very positive and motivating answers to the students.

REFLECTION

Rishma Fathima Binti Basher

In my opinion, the strength of the talk is, the talk is very useful for me and my future. Besides, the experience shared by the speaker is much useful for me to start my journey as a university student and the talk clear so many doubts I had in my head. Then, the weakness of the talk is, the students will be thinking that the speaker's journey in their university life is what everyone should follow, but that's not the truth, everyone can have a different way to explore their university life and maybe my university life journey is totally different than theirs and very inspiring too. First and foremost, the talk is very informative and useful for me. Hence, the motivation I gained from this talk is we all have the capability to be successful in our career, we just need to improve our soft skills, technical skills and keep on gaining knowledge to keep updated.

Qaisara binti Rohzan

From my point of view, this session was absolutely beneficial and informative for me. One of the strengths of the talk is it was virtually conducted which allows students with poor internet connectivity to watch it once their connection is more stable. The only weakness I find in this talk is the short amount of time given for the sharing session. This is said because the speakers have limited amounts of time to share their experiences. I aspire to have great employee qualities such as the fellow speakers which are to be more proactive, knowledgeable and equipped with plenty of skills. I plan to join as many online courses as possible to make use of the Online Distance Learning (ODL) environment and enhance the looks of my resume.

Madiah binti Che Zabri

This session is really beneficial for me as I have been exposed to this session since in my first semester. Even though it is just in a short time, each of the time is used preferably and the questions were very useful and absolutely will help me in the future. However, there is one of the alumni that is absent and we might get more informative tips from him. This talk must finish by an hour and it makes us feel that this talk is not enough for us as we really enjoyed it. From this session, I learned that there are different requirements to get employed in government and private sectors. Mr. Y.K. had motivated me to manage my time well. I also got the tips that I never thought from Mr. Zamarul, which is learning new skills through online websites and attaching

the certificate in my resume to get a high chance to be employed. Another tip that I got from Miss Qistina is to show my effort during my internship. Last but not least, I am grateful for having this session in my first semester as I can practice and prepare those tips and skills early.

Ong Han Wah

After the talk, I gain a lot of information from the alumni about their working experiences. The sharing gives me an idea how to secure a job in the workplace. However, the weakness is that the sharing did not relate much about the challenges amidst the pandemic due to the time constraint. From this sharing session, I realize not only that I need to learn new technical skills, but I also need to excel in soft skills to show the supervisor that I am qualified for the job. I need to step out of my comfort zone, be courageous and proactive to communicate more with other people.

Vincent Boo Ee Khai

Based on my perception, this talk could really benefit a lot of students including me because the contents mentioned could help us to widen our view on our future and also bring us bright futures as we can plan our future from now on. Furthermore, this talk also gives information on how to do well in our career. At the same time, I also learned about how to secure our job. With this, I am sure that we are one step nearer to success. There is only one that can be complained about it is that the talk is quite short. As this talk also taught on how important soft skill and communication is. As this really motivated me to communicate more and learn from daily life as well as the people around. Overall, I found that the speaker is quite an interesting person due to being kind, funny and willing to share experience to help us to learn through the soft way instead of learning through the hard way in the future.

Rishma	Qaisara	Madihah	Ong Han Wah	Vincent
				