



INSPIRING WORK EXPERIENCE AND COVID-19 CHALLENGE PANDEMIC

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER ALUMNI
SHARING SESSION

MODERATOR

DR JOHANNA
AHMAD

SENIOR LECTURER, SCHOOL
OF COMPUTING, UTM

SPEAKERS

TAN YEONG
KEONG

DATA SCIENCE ENGINEER

MOHAMMAD
ZAMARUL AKMAL
BIN MOHD HUSSIN

DATA ENGINEER

QISTINA
BATRI SYA BINTI
AZMAN SHAH

SOCIAL MEDIA DATA
ANALYST

DATE AND TIME

29 DECEMBER 2020

10 AM - 11 AM

INTRODUCTION

A talk titled "Inspiring Work Experience and COVID 19 Pandemic Challenge" has been held on 29th December 2020 and was organised by the Technology and Information Systems (SECP1513), School of Computing, UTM. Cisco Webex is used as the platform of the talk to be organised. The moderator for this talk was Dr Johanna Ahmad, Senior Lecturer, School of Computing, UTM. The 4 speakers invited to the talk are all UTM alumni. The first speaker was Mr Tan Yeong Keong, who has graduated in Bachelor of Software Engineering and currently working as Data Science Engineer at Micron Semiconductor Asia. The second speaker was Miss Qistina Batrisyia bt Azman Shah that works as Social Media Data Analyst at TM One and graduated in Bachelor of Data Engineering. The third speaker was Mr Mohamad Zamarul Akmal b Mohd Hussin who graduated in Bachelor of Data Engineering

and currently working as Data Engineer at PPG Coatings (M). Last but not least, Mr Teo Wen Long, currently working as a Software Engineer at Qumon Intelligence. Unfortunately, Mr Teo Wen Long was unable to attend the sharing session. Thus, the talk proceeded with 3 speakers only. The duration of the talk was 1 hour, from 10 am to 11 am. The participants were all the students taking the SECP 1513 course this semester. Majority of the students attended the talk, while some could not as they have classes. The purpose of this talk was to share working experiences along with advises or tips on securing a permanent job in the future, especially during the current pandemic situation. They also have given some exposure to the students about what they have done during their university life, for students to learn from their experiences.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This talk has allowed students to gain advice on securing their job during their internship. Students have learned ways to increase potential within themselves. For example, students can discover different methods to acquire a new skill, especially in technical, professional and soft skills. This allows them to explore new things. This talk has opened the students' mind to balance their extracurricular activities besides on achieving good grades. A lot of tips to improve confidence and to have good communication skills were given by the speakers. The given tips could help students present their idea with confidence and gain more experience in communicating in front of a large audience. Through this talk, students have understood the challenges faced by fresh graduates to secure a job during this pandemic situation.

MAIN BODY

The talk was similar to a Q&A session where the moderator has asked several questions while each speaker has given their perspective and opinion. The first question was, what method did the speakers imply to secure their job along with their current projects. Mr. Tan responded he participated in various competitions to enhance his professional and presentation skills. Meanwhile, he did freelance jobs to refine his technical skills. Occupying his time in different activities has improved his skillsets and impressed the company, perceiving him a person with dedication towards his profession. Currently, Mr. Tan is working under the factory loading optimization in his company. He is responsible for gathering data using data science tools and optimizing market demands based on the tools available in the factory.

Next, Mr. Zamarul told his experience was different, as he was appointed into a permanent staff in the same company, he did his internship. It was possible as he was proactive during his internship by giving ideas. He proposed an idea, on monitoring dashboards for data link because the company has been using manual monitoring, which is less efficient in the big data environment. The aforementioned suggested idea became his Final Year Project, resulting in extra attention from his supervisors. As a result, he was hired as a permanent employee even when new employment process stopped due to the pandemic. Ms. Qistina went through a similar experience as Mr. Zamarul, securing a job in the same company as during the internship. Ms. Qistina said she showed more interest in real-life projects and other aspects, to learn more and not limit herself. Her supervisor accepted her into a project and she eventually became permanent staff. Her current project is Social Media Project, data from different social media are being collected into a dashboard for the upper management and client's usage on improving branding and marketing.

Subsequently, the moderator asked Mr. Tan, on tips to learn and love programming. Mr. Tan answered that the first step is to change the mindset, such as thinking this program will help someone. It is also a must to practice codes consistently. Furthermore, he advised that instead of understanding the programming language, students should understand key concepts for easier application to other programming languages. Throughout the talk, speakers have given advice on improving oneself and boosting the chances of getting hired. First and foremost are students should volunteer in programs, competitions and projects. Besides joining these programs, students should be proactive like speaking up, presenting, putting effort and willingness into the work. Students should not limit themselves but ask around while exploring different sectors. This allows students to gain experience while improving confidence, soft and technical skills. It also increases student's capability in teambuilding. The speakers also emphasized that CGPA is not everything as companies focus further on the skill set that the employee acquires. However, achieving the minimum CGPA would boost their chances of getting hired because the balance in both aspects is necessitated.

Furthermore, the two common skills which are overlooked but are essential are communication skill and teamworking. Then, a session whereby students ask a question was held. The first question was by

what method do the speakers stay motivated daily amid the lockdown. Mr. Tan answer was he set his mindset on a goal. His ultimate goal is to contribute to society. Mr. Zamarul replied that he reminds himself of how lucky he is to get this job offer. Meanwhile, Ms. Qistina states that her love towards her job motivates her. Moreover, all the speakers agree that being discipline gets the job done and avoids mistakes which can affect their future career. Lastly, all the speakers advise the students to start now for a more propitious future.

REFLECTION

Through this talk, we have gained so many insights on the tips of doing well during the internship and securing our first job, especially in this pandemic situation. We really welcomed all of the guest speakers who shared their experiences about their studies and working life. From their response, we have realized that our CGPA is not all that a company notice. The most important is our technical and soft skills. These skills provide a higher chance for us to be selected. Besides the technical skills taught in university, other new ones can be acquired through online courses, to increase chances of securing a job. Other than that, during this Covid-19 pandemic, we need to stay motivated by keeping a positive mindset. We have to cherish and love what we do and think we are creating something contribute to the world. Besides, we learned that confidence could be trained. We can indulge ourselves in various competitions and programmes that let us present and speak more in public. The most important is not to be shy. Besides, we should not limit ourselves but volunteer ourselves and broaden our connection with other people. We have to expose ourselves to new things and other prospects to gain more experience and knowledge. The strength of this talk is that we get more exposure in the many ways of improving our skills and apply them in our future. Meanwhile, the downside of this talk was the duration. The time was fully not utilized as some questions were answered previously by the speakers. We hope the talk was longer to gain more insights on their experiences, specifically on techniques they cope with their current online work.

TEAM MEMBERS



AININ SOFIYA
BT AZIZI



AMIR ISKANDAR
BIN
NORKHAIRULAZADDIN



INDRADEVI
A/P
VIKNESHWARAN



NG YEN
TF-ONG