CRACKING THE CODING INTERVIEW

SPEAKER: Gayle Laakmann McDowell
DATE: 21-01-2014, 20.00 hours
VENUE: LT-4
CAMPUS: BITS- Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus.

ABSTRACT:
The theme of this lecture was to make students aware of what the recruiters abroad actually expect during a coding interview. She also stressed upon the format and importance of a resume. And most of all she advised students upon getting hands on experiences, do projects and clear their basic concepts.

This interactive session covered:
1. The basic aspects of an interview.
2. Expectations of an interviewer.
3. Resume making and format.
4. Interview questions and topics.
5. CGPA requirements and importance of projects.
6. Coding the right way.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY:
Gayle Laakmann McDowell is a post-graduate in Computer Science from University of Pennsylvania and did her MBA from the Wharton School of Business, where she specialized in entrepreneurship. An author of two bestselling books Cracking the Coding Interview and The Google Resume, she is also a founder of CareerCup and Seattle Unfreeze. She has worked as a software engineer and recruiter in many tech companies like Apple, Microsoft and Google.

SUMMARY:
The main motive of talk was to answer the common question that keeps bugging students, how to crack a coding interview? Having worked as a recruiter herself she could answer this question from the point of view of recruiter. She started the lecture telling how a resume should look like. According to her a resume should be short, organized and a grammatically correct one. She pointed out that because of difference in Indian GPA system and that in the foreign universities, it becomes difficult for the recruiters abroad to analyze and hence, she recommended that one must put try filling their resume with lots of experiences and also translate GPA. She also told that comparison between candidates is inevitable. It is not just about how fast you do a task but more about how fast you do it relative to the other candidates. She also touched upon the other aspects of a coding interview like how to answer a coding or algorithm question, what a good coder does, how to handle a situation where you do not know the answer and so on. She also told in brief about Breadth first coding, Depth first coding etc. Being one of the biggest talks of semester it proved to be very useful. It answered numerous questions that students had in their mind. A question answer session was held after the talk, where students from all the three campuses cleared all their queries. More than 120 students turned up for the talk.

Report by: Samruddhi Bokade