Alumni Visits: Pokémon GO Creator and the Father of the Bullet-train Traffic Control System

"When I was in college, I had time but no money. So I worked part-time and exchanged my time for 1,200 yen an hour. Now that I'm in the workforce, I have money but I don't have time. No matter how much money I make, I can't buy back time. What do you exchange your precious time for? The time you can never buy back. What do you transform your time to?" ~Tatsuo Nomura

Dr. Hirokazu Ihara (class of 1959) visited his alma mater, the Faculty of Engineering for their 70th celebrations in September. He gave a talk about his experiences as a system engineer at Hitachi Ltd. He has an astounding resume of creating the world famous computer-controlled system for Shinkansen railways, as well as R&D for aerospace engineering and Artificial Intelligence. He is a life fellow of IEEE and an IFIP WG10-4 Member Emeritus, and was given the 2015 IEEE Innovation in Societal Infrastructure Award. He shared his prudent insights and encouraged students to study science fundamentals at university to get the necessary groundwork for understanding complex systems later on in the field.

Tatsuo Nomura (class of 2009) holds a plaque with a quote from his talk entitled, "Doing what I love, no holds barred". His former Professor, Masaaki Niimura holds a copy of Mr. Nomura's autobiography, "Born in the middle of nowhere, creating Pokémon *GO*." To the left is Mr. Nomura's former advisor Professor Katsumi Wasaki, who helped curate a collection of 20 books that Mr. Nomura said was most important during his studies at Shinshu. Mr. Nomura states that friends he made at Shinshu paved the way for an internship at Google Inc. which subsequently lead to him becoming the Game Director for Pokémon *GO* in the US and now the Head of Niantic Tokyo Studio. Mr. Nomura gave a talk about his philosophies and the choices he made that lead to who he is today.