

# A Tribute to the late Professor Ishimoto

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Forty years ago when I joined the ICU faculty, Professor Ishimoto was a student in one of my first classes. He was then a rather quiet individual who kept to himself. Therefore I would never have imagined at that time that several decades later he would become Chairman of the Education Division. In other words he had gone from my student to my Division Chairman, indicative of an admirable and most successful academic career.

Professor Ishimoto, as a graduate student in the early 1960s, was a member of what may have been the most successful era of graduate students ever to study at ICU. In addition to Professor Ishimoto, two others, Professor Nakano and Akutsu, became successful ICU professors. Beyond them other graduates from this group became successful professors at Tokyo and Kyoto Universities as well as many private universities such as Keio and Waseda. One became an academic in Canada. Nearly all of them studied in American graduate schools as did Professor Ishimoto.

This distinguished group of graduates were students of Nishimoto Mitoji, one of the founders of the ICU Education Department of the Social Science Division, that eventually became the Education Division. Professor Nishimoto had studied in America in the prewar era under

the great John Dewey, first at Chicago University and then at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York. It was in New York that he developed the Progressive Education Movement. Professor Nishimoto became the *deshi* or disciple of William Kilpatrick, the *deshi* of Dewey. When Nishimoto joined the ICU faculty during the early days, he promoted the most modern theory of education then existent in the world.

Professor Ishimoto was trained, then, in modern theories of education under Nishimoto. He continued in that mode ever since. When it became evident that computers would play a prominent role in modern education, it was natural for Ishimoto san to participate in that movement. He took a leading role in introducing computer education at ICU. Among his many contributions to ICU, that may be the most important one even beyond his many years as Chairman of the Education Division.

When I think of Professor Ishimoto as my student, I instantly recall the unforgettable Mt Fuji climb of 1960. My wife and I, still in our 20s, that is, not much older than our graduate students, had been in Japan less than a year. The graduate students, fifteen or so, decided to hold a farewell party for Nakano san about to leave for graduate study in America. They

planned to hold the party on top of Mt. Fuji. My wife and I were invited to go along. As we left campus for Hakone I noticed the many boxes the students had among their possessions. When we finally got to the peak of Fuji San, the boxes were opened that included gifts for Nakano Sensei as well as champagne, champagne glasses, and other items for a party. I never imagined drinking champagne on top of Mt. Fuji. Ishimoto Sensei was one of the planners for the great farewell party. I always remember him in his unique straw hat on the climb up Mt. Fuji.

I greatly appreciated Ishimoto Sensei's service to ICU as our Division Chairman for so many years. He was always steady, never frustrated even though he experienced many frustrating moments as all Division Chairmen do. But his quiet guiding hand was precisely what the Division needed. He treated all members equally and with individual concern. It was his quiet but determined character that motivated me to vote for him every two years during his long tenure as Chairman of the Education Division. He was a most successful Chairman. I am honored to have served as his teacher as well as a supporting and appreciative member of his division.