First chair of MSU Computer Science Department dies at 94

Harry George Hedges, who served as the first chair of MSU’s Computer Science Department, died June 7, 2018, in Washington, D.C. He was 94.

Hedges was born Oct. 7, 1923, to Elsie and Charles Hedges in Lansing.

In 1944, he married Mary Jean Corbishley, and together they had two daughters, Susan and Martha. Mary passed away in 1967.

He served with the U.S. Army during World War II and after his military discharge he continued his education. He received a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Michigan State University in 1949, a master’s degree from the University of Michigan, and a PhD in electrical engineering from Michigan State in 1960.

He began his career at the MSU College of Engineering, where he was appointed the first chairman of the Computer Science Department and served in that capacity from 1970-1984. In 1984, he took a sabbatical from MSU to work at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington, D.C., and remained at NSF until his retirement in 2003.

He was active in several professional societies, including serving as chairman of the Computer Science Board in 1974-75, chairman of IEEE Computer Society, Southeastern Michigan Section, 1982-83, and member of the steering committee for the Association for Computing Machinery Computer Science Conference, 1978-82.

An avid Michigan State football and basketball fan, Hedges loved northern Michigan and spent many summers vacationing on Lake Michigan with his family.

Funeral services will be Saturday, June 23, at 2 p.m. at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C.

Read more on the life of Harry G. Hedges.

Obituary courtesy of Lansing State Journal.
Funeral set for Harry G. Hedges
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