The Department of Mathematics would like to take this time to honor Emeritus Professor Genny Garst after receiving news of her death on July 9, 2013 in Fort Collins. Professor Garst taught the very first computer programming classes at CSU in the Department of Mathematics. Above is an archived photo of Professor Garst, and colleague Elmer Remmenga, working in a computer lab at CSU in the 1950's. Her legacy in computer science continues to live on at Colorado State. Read her interesting obituary below.

Obituary for Genevieve Sherwin Garst

We lost one of those amazing people who brighten the lives of the rest of us when Genevieve Sherwin Garst died on July 9, 2013. She was smart, cheerful, friendly, loyal and so much more. We will miss her. Born Sept. 6, 1922, on a cattle ranch near Padroni, Colo., Genny was the youngest of seven children born to Leonard and Hilma Sherwin.

Genny's education began in a one-room country school before attending Sterling High School where she graduated in 1940. After high school she received a degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Wisconsin and immediately went to work in Hartford, Connecticut for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft. She later worked for North American Aviation in Los Angeles where she learned to program a new-fangled device: the computer.
Genny, who also loved to teach, took a job in Wyoming at Douglas High School when the wife of her brother was diagnosed with cancer. While there she met Warren Garst, a wildlife-loving author and photographer. With Warren traveling to film assignments and Genny accepting a computer-programming job with Martin Marietta in Denver, they sustained a long-distance courtship and eventually married in Douglas May 3, 1958, on her parent's 50th wedding anniversary.

Genny, wanting to spend summers with Warren on filming assignments, took a job at Colorado State University for half her pay at Martin. She was the first person to teach computer programming at CSU. When Warren was offered a job filming for T.V.'s Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom, he and Genny accepted the job as partners and began an odyssey that lasted 25 years and took them to more than 100 countries. Retiring in 1984, Warren and Genny returned to Fort Collins. Genny renewed old friendships and made many new ones. She was active in community charitable and cultural projects. She maintained contact with her family and enjoyed research on genealogy. Her parents and all of her siblings preceded her in death. Her husband, Warren Garst of Fort Collins, and numerous nieces and nephews, survive her. The family appreciates the excellent and compassionate care offered by the Poudre Valley Hospital, and great assistance given them by Pathways Hospice and Visiting Angels.

A memorial service will be held on Genny's 91st birthday, Sept. 6, 2013 at a place and time that will be announced later. A booklet will be made of "Genny stories," so please send yours to Warren at 415 South Howes, Fort Collins, CO 80521. Memorial donations may be made to CSUWA scholarships, PEO projects, the Warren and Genevieve Garst Photographic Collection at Morgan Library, CSU, or the charity of your choice.

For a full obituary, please go to