

Largely self-educated, Harold Cruse was first named CAAS Program Director in 1969, then Acting Director in 1971 and finally Director from 1972-1973, and was one of the first African Americans to get tenure at a major university without a college degree. Initially a playwright, his writing covered a broad range of topics including politics, music, culture, and most notably the issues of social justice and equality as they related to black people. According to a New Yorker magazine review at the time, "The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual," published in 1967, "will infuriate almost everyone." Whether that was true or not, the book established Harold Cruse as a major American thinker and personality. Not long after its original publication, he was asked to lecture in CAAS, where he remained until his retirement in the mid 1980's as professor emeritus.

With the reissuing of many of his essays in the 2002 publication of "The Essential Harold Cruse" (edited by William Jelani Cobb with a foreword by Stanley Crouch), Professor Cruse returned to CAAS for a lively and well attended talk and book signing in February 2003.

His other books include "Rebellion or Revolution?", "Plural but Equal: A Critical Study of Blacks and Minorities and America's Plural Society", "Marxism and the Negro Struggle" and "The Black Intellectual in Crisis: A Retrospective."

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Associate, were both nominees for the 2005 Candace J. Johnson Award which is awarded to outstanding staff.

Endnote:



CAAS faculty members Lori Brooks and Amal Fadlalla were all smiles during a recent visit to the CAAS Library.

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