Memorial Resolution
for
Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geography and Urban Studies
Harold M. Rose

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Geography and Urban Studies Harold M. Rose died on February 2, 2016. Born in Nashville, Tennessee on January 8, 1930, Harold joined the Geography Department at UW-Milwaukee (UWM) in 1962, and remained a member of the UWM faculty for 33 years, retiring in 1995.

Prof. Rose was active not just in Geography, but was also a key figure in the Department of Urban Affairs (now Urban Studies), and in the Department of Afro-American Studies (now Africology). While the number of students Dr. Rose worked with is difficult to enumerate, he touched the lives of countless urban scholars and practitioners. Harold continue to model the role of public scholar and mentor long after his retirement. Dr. Rose was a groundbreaking and courageous scholar whose research challenged racism at a time when very few in geography even acknowledged racism and its consequences. Prof. Rose’s interest in racism and the social and spatial production of the Black ghetto developed upon his arrival to Milwaukee. Harold came to a deeply segregated city during a time of heightened civil rights activism around housing and school segregation. He began his career exploring issues of natural resource management but shifted his focus to examine those problems that he found more immediate to his lived experience in mid-1960s Milwaukee. Prof. Rose served as President of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) from 1976-1977 and received an AAG Lifetime Achievement Honor in 1996. Harold was the first Black president of the AAG—and remains the only Black president some 38 years later—and used his platform to challenge urban racial segregation and discrimination.

Geography has lost an extraordinarily important figure who made significant contributions to geographic understanding of segregation and racism as a socio-spatial process. We, his colleagues mourn the loss of his quiet intensity, generous spirit, exceptional integrity, and ability to stay positive in the face of adversity. We wish his spirit eternal peace.

The UWM Geography Department