

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Former Director of JSRI Dies Unexpectedly**



Jorge Chapa, a professor of Latino/Latina Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and former Interim Director of the Julian Samora Research Institute (1998-1999) at Michigan State University, died unexpectedly on Monday, Oct. 19.



**University  
Outreach and  
Engagement**

Professor Chapa joined the Institute of Government & Public Affairs at the University of Illinois in 2011, after having served as the director of the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society on the Urbana-Champaign campus. Dr. Chapa earned his doctoral degree at the University of California-Berkeley in 1988 and held numerous positions throughout his career. A social demographer, Dr. Chapa made numerous contributions to the fields of Chicano/a and Latino/a Studies.

He was co-author of *Apple Pie and Enchiladas* (2004), which focused on Latino immigration to the Midwest. He also authored, edited, co-authored or co-edited 12 books and published numerous journal articles and book chapters. Speaking to a many non-academic audiences, Dr. Chapa worked on several voting rights court cases and spoke on the use of data in these cases.

Dr. Chapa was known for his congenial personality, positive attitude, and willingness to help others where he could. In 2009, he attended and participated at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Julian Samora Research Institute. Our condolences go out to his wife, Belinda De La Rosa, and his family.

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