



Hudson County History Fair



BAYONNE



EAST NEWARK



GUTTENBERG



HARRISON



HOBOKEN



KEARNY

NEW JERSEY CITY UNIVERSITY

October 18, 2014

BETWEEN 10AM AND 4PM

AT

**GILLIGAN STUDENT
UNION BLDG**

**2039 KENNEDY BLVD.
JERSEY CITY, NJ**



JERSEY CITY



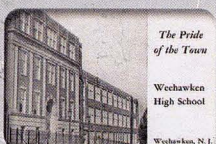
NORTH BERGEN



SECAUCUS



UNION CITY



*The Pride
of the Town*

Weehawken
High School

Weehawken, N.J.

WEEHAWKEN



WEST NEW YORK



**THE
Provident BANK
FOUNDATION**

**HOBOKEN
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM**



**Hudson County
Genealogical Society**
www.HudsonCountyNJGenealogy.org





**Hudson County Office of
Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development**

Congratulates

Hudson County History Advocates

Cordially

**Thomas A. DeGise
Hudson County Executive**

&

Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Jose C. Muñoz, Chairperson

District 7, Guttenberg, Weehawken, West New York

Thomas F. Liggio, Vice Chairperson

District 8, North Bergen

E. Junior Maldonado, Chairperson Pro-Tempore

District 4, Jersey City

Albert J. Cifelli

District 9, East Newark, Harrison, Kearny, Secaucus

Doreen McAndrew DiDomenico

District 1, Bayonne, Jersey City

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District 3, Jersey City

William O'Dea

District 2, Jersey City

Tilo Rivas

District 6, Jersey City, Union City

Anthony Romano

District 5, Hoboken, Jersey City

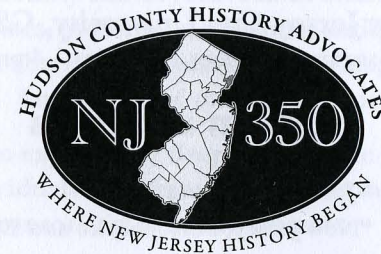
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William La Rosa

Administrator

Hudson County Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism Development

www.visithudson.org



Welcome to the 2014 Hudson County History Fair! We hope that you enjoy the day. There are over 40 Hudson County organizations and cultural groups, presentations by New Jersey authors and historians, documentary films and even treasure hunts for the kids.

The mission of the History Advocates is to increase public awareness about the rich and diverse heritage of the county and its municipalities. It also hopes to promote Hudson County as a historic and educational destination to learn about its local, state and national significance. Through events like the History Fair its goal is to bring together local historic and civic organizations to share and exhibit their accomplishments at the time of New Jersey's 350th anniversary.

We hope today's event will inspire you to think about your community in a different way. By looking back and reflecting on our county's illustrious past, we can gain a deeper understanding of how we arrived at today, and possibly even gather some insight into where the future may lead.

Sincerely,

Hudson County History Advocates

Robert Foster

John Hallanan

Cynthia Harris

Carmela Karnoutsos

Robert Murgittroyd

Dorethea Roberts

Patrick Shalhoub

Welcome to the Hudson County History Fair
New Jersey City University, GSUB
Saturday, October 18, 10 am – 4 pm

Program of Events

- ROOM 317: 10:00 a.m. – Joseph Bilby,
“New Jersey, Personalities and Events”
- ROOM 129: 11:00 a.m. - Holly Metz,
*Killing the Poormaster: A Saga of Poverty,
Corruption, and Murder in the Great Depression*
- ROOM 317: 11:30 a.m. – Neal Brunson,
“The African Community of 1664”
- ROOM 129: 12:30 p.m. – Steven Hart,
*American Dictators: Frank Hague, Nucky Johnson,
and the Perfection of the Urban Political Machine*
- ROOM 312: 1:00 p.m. - "Ask Granny" Workshop,
Hudson County Genealogical and Historical Society
- ROOM 317: 1:30 p.m. - Cynthia Harris,
"Hudson County in Vintage Postcards"
- ROOM 129: 2:00 p.m. – John Gomez,
author *Legendary Locals of Jersey City*

Film Presentations (Exhibit Hall A):

- 10:15 a.m. - "Hidden Footsteps,"
narrated by former mayor Glenn D. Cunningham
- 12:15 p.m. - "Jersey City: 24 Hours in Public Places,"
NJCU Media Arts Dept.
- 1:30 p.m. - "Immigrant Stories in Film and Video,"
NJCU Media Arts Dept.
- 3:00 p.m. - "Jersey City: Soft Focus,"
Embankment Preservation Coalition

Acknowledgements

The Hudson County History Advocates offers special thanks to today's authors, presenters, speakers, antique experts, and exhibitors for sharing their unique thoughts, perspective, and knowledge of our local history.

We also wish to express our deep and sincere gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for their financial support and sponsorship of today's events:

Sue Henderson, PhD., President of New Jersey City University, host and title sponsor
Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive
and the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders:
Dr. Doreen M. DiDomenico
William O'Dea
Jeffrey Dublin
E. Junior Maldonado
Anthony Romano
Tilo Rivas
Jose C. Muñoz
Thomas Liggio
Albert J. Cifelli
William La Rosa, Director, Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs
Jane Kurek, Executive Director, Provident Bank Foundation
The Hoboken Historical Museum
Hudson County Genealogical & Historical Society
Bayonne Historical Society
Jersey City Parks Coalition
Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy
Historic Preservation Network
NJ Civil War Heritage Association
Friends of the Loew's Theater

The Hudson County History Advocates sincerely appreciate the contributions of the following individuals and organizations for their efforts on behalf of today's events:

Lorie Brown, NJCU, Director for Event Services

Jane Steuerwald, NJCU Media Arts Department

Melissa Abernathy, Hoboken Historical Museum, Communications & Volunteer Coordinator

Eileen Lynch, Hoboken Historical Museum, Project & Development Coordinator

Don Jay Smith, LKS Associates

Paul Gargiulo, NJCU, Assistant Director, Office of Television & Multimedia Production

Victor DelValle, NJCU, Assistant Director, Office of Campus Life

Veronica Garcia, NJCU Student Ambassador Program

Ruddys Andrade, Fmr. NJCU Associate Vice President Academic Affairs/Grants and Sponsored Programs

NJCU Student Ambassadors: Dileydi Mendoza, Bianca Bailey, Brittany Henderson, Celestine Mabeya, Horzy Genao, Aisha Rathore, Sondas Abid, Irvin Alvarado, Ashley Escobar, Dante Alston

Public Safety Department, NJCU

Housekeeping Department, NJCU

Gourmet Dining, NJCU Food Services

Directory of HC History Fair Participants

Afro American Historic and Genealogical Society

<http://www.aahgsnj.org>

Bayonne Historical Society

<http://www.bayonnehistory.com>

County of Hudson Board of Chosen Freeholders

<http://www.hudsoncountynj.org>

Embankment Preservation Coalition

<http://www.embankment.org>

Free Public Library of Bayonne

<http://www.bayonnelibrary.org>

Friends of Liberty State Park

<http://www.folsp.org>

Friends of Loew's Theatre

<http://www.loewsjersey.org>

George Washington Society

<http://gwcsnj.org>

Historic Jersey City and Harsimus Cemetery

<http://www.jerseycitycemetery.org>

Historic Preservation Network

<http://www.hpnetwork.org>

Hoboken Historical Museum

www.hobokenmuseum.org

Hudson County Genealogical & Historical Society

<http://www.hudsoncountynjgenealogy.org>

Jersey City Free Public Library

<http://www.jclibrary.org>

Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy

<http://www.jclandmarks.org>

Jersey City Parks Coalition

<http://jcparks.org>

Joyce-Herbert VFW Post 226 Veterans Museum

<http://bayonnevfwpost226.tripod.com/webonmediacontents/tripodindex.html>

Legacy Genealogical Service

info@LegacyGenealogicalServices.com

Leon Yost

ermaleon@gmail.com

Lincoln Association of Jersey City

<http://thelincolnassociationofjerseycity.com>

NJ Civil War Heritage Association

<http://www.njcivilwar150.org>

Directory of HC History Fair Participants

NJCU Department of History

<http://www.njcu.edu/history>

NJCU: Jersey City Past and Present Project

<https://www.njcu.edu/programs/jchistory/entries.htm>

NJCU Media Arts Department

<http://www.blackmariafilmfestival.org>

NJCU Office of Admissions

<https://www.njcu.edu>

Old Bergen Reformed Church

(201) 433-1815

Project Greenville

<http://projectgreenville.webs.com>

Provident Savings Bank Foundation

<http://www.providentnjfoundation.org>

Richard La Rovere Historic Art Prints

r.larovere52@gmail.com

Riverview Neighborhood Association

<http://riverviewneighborhood.org>

Robert Albrect, Musician

robertalbrecht15@yahoo.com

Saint Peter's University Archives

<http://www.saintpeters.edu/library/guarini-center-for-community-memory/college-archives>

South Greenville Neighborhood Association

SouthGreenvilleNA@gmail.com

Stevens Institute of Technology

<http://www.stevens.edu/library/stevensfamily>

Weehawken Historical Commission

<http://www.weehawkenhistory.org>

West Side Community Alliance

<http://www.wscajc.org>

HISTORY OF HUDSON COUNTY

Staff of the
Jersey City Free Public Library
The New Jersey Room 2014

New Jersey's first settlement was Bergen whose heart (and fortification) was where Bergen Square is today in Jersey City. It encompassed all of what is now Hudson and Bergen counties. Problems began to emerge when citizens had to go to court. Traveling by horse or horse and wagon to Hackensack was a burden on the residents of the southern half of Bergen County. Hence, they requested an independent county – Hudson County – established February 22, 1840. This new entity consisted of the communities of Jersey City, Bergen (later merged with Jersey City), and Harrison. Over the course of the nineteenth century, borders were modified, communities merged, and the political map of the county continued to evolve. Not until 1925 were the 12 municipalities configured as they are now. Bayonne, Hoboken, and Jersey City are considered to be South Hudson. East Newark, Harrison, and Kearny comprise West Hudson. The communities of Guttenberg, North Bergen, Secaucus, Union City, Weehawken, and West New York are designated as North Hudson.

Whether entering the United States via Castle Garden in Manhattan from 1820 to 1892 or arriving later via Ellis Island with the Statue of Liberty's welcoming beacon nearby, immigrants swarmed the county.

They stayed for a year or two, or a generation or more, before spreading out across this great land. Former Hudson County residents may be found in all fifty states and hold their heritage dear to this day.

BAYONNE

ESTABLISHED – April 1, 1861 as a Township

INCORPORATED as a City – March 10, 1869

FIRST MAYOR – Henry Meigs

CURRENT MAYOR – James Davis, elected 2014

POPULATION 2010: 63,024

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

Bayonne's iconic bridge, designed by Othmar Ammann and opened in 1931, crosses the Kill Van Kull and connects New Jersey with Staten Island. Also noteworthy is the MOTBY – Military Ocean Terminal, Bayonne - first developed in 1935 at Constable Hook. During World War II, the US Navy used it for shipbuilding and it became the largest dry dock in the world playing a pivotal part in our defense. In 1967 the US Army took over MOTBY to ship goods to military bases. The Defense Department closed the facility and turned the 432-acre property over to Bayonne in 1999.

FUN FACT

Chuck Wepner, a boxer known as "The Bayonne Bleeder," was the real life inspiration for Sylvester Stallone's character "Rocky" in the movies of that name.

EAST NEWARK

ESTABLISHED – July 2, 1895 as a Borough, upon the vote (276 to 57) of the residents of the First Ward to secede from the Town of Kearny

FIRST MAYOR – Edward Kenny

CURRENT MAYOR IN 2014 – Joseph R. Smith since 1988

POPULATION 2010: 2,406

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

The Scottish firm, John Clark, Jr. & Co., began manufacturing in East Newark in the 1870's and eventually merged with William & George Clark (no relation) Co., forming the Clark Thread Co., which became the largest cotton thread mill in the US. Its plants spread over Kearny and Newark, as well, and employed thousands of local residents.

FUN FACT

East Newark is the smallest municipality in the state of New Jersey being only .012 of a square mile. Population-wise, it places 473rd

GUTTENBERG

ESTABLISHED as a Village – June 9, 1853

INCORPORATED as a Town – March 9, 1859

FIRST MAYOR – Edward Walther

CURRENT MAYOR – Gerald R. Drasheff since 2009

POPULATION 2010: 11,176

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

German New Yorkers, interested in a more idyllic lifestyle, formed the Weehawken Land & Ferry Association in January 1853 for the purpose of acquiring all of one man's farm, that of William Cooper. It is this farm that makes up the whole of today's Guttenberg. For \$10, some 30 initial shareholders were then able to purchase lots for \$140. In less than half a year a map of Cooper's land was filed in the county office officially referring to it as the new village of Guttenberg.

FUN FACT

The DeWinter family operated a mushroom farm until 1948. It consisted of five caverns constructed under the cliffs of the Palisades. Some were as deep as 150 feet with semi-annual harvests that yielded 30,000 pounds of mushrooms.

HARRISON

ESTABLISHED – February 22, 1840 as a Town

FIRST MAYOR – Peter H. Kipp, 1841 Chairman (in lieu of Mayor)

CURRENT MAYOR – James A. Fife elected 2014

POPULATION 2010: 13,620

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

Many communities throughout New Jersey bear witness to our Leni Lenape heritage through their names. Hoboken, Secaucus and Weehawken retained the root words of the Lenape language. Harrison chose to rename itself after the short-lived presidential tenure (32 days) of William Henry Harrison who died in 1841. Had it kept its original name, it would have been quite the mouthful – Mighgetcock. Harrison was the home of Thomas Edison's incandescent light bulb factory in 1881.

FUN FACT

Francis E. Rodgers held the office of Mayor of Harrison for a New Jersey state record of 48 years. First elected in November 1946, he left office on January 1, 1995. In 1987 he secured a place in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for longest serving mayor in the US beating out Albany, New York's Mayor Erastus Corning II by ONE day.

HOBOKEN

ESTABLISHED – April 9, 1849 as a Town

INCORPORATED – March 29, 1855 as a City

FIRST MAYOR – Cornelius V. Clickener, 1855

CURRENT MAYOR – Dawn Zimmer since 2009

POPULATION 2010: 50,005

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

In 1784 John Stevens purchased William Bayard's farm, the land upon which the "Mile-Square City" was built. Col. Stevens was responsible for New Jersey's first patent law in 1791, introduced the chrysanthemum to America, started the first steam ferry between Hoboken and New York, and created the first railroad line to operate in New Jersey – the Camden & Amboy (1831). His prodigy went on to continue enriching life in Hoboken including the establishment of Stevens Institute of Technology.

FUN FACT

It is well known that Hoboken's Elysian Fields was the site of the first organized baseball game in the US in 1846; however, Hoboken continued to hold baseball records for firsts: the first baseball series in 1857; the first catcher behind the batter in 1871, and more recently, the first girl to play Little League baseball, Maria Pepe in 1972.

JERSEY CITY

ESTABLISHED – 1660

INCORPORATED – September 5, 1661

FIRST MAYOR – Dudley Gregory, 1838

CURRENT MAYOR – Steven M. Fulop since 2013

POPULATION 2010: 247,597

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

The Town of Bergen, which encompassed all of what is now Bergen and Hudson counties, had the first chartered settlement on the footprint of what is now Bergen Square in Jersey City. It is the home of the oldest school in the state. More impressively, a school (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Public School No. 11) still thrives on the same location over 350 years later. The first school house used in the 1660s and the second built in 1709 have no extant pictures. The subsequent ones – 1790, 1857, 1903, 1966 – are documented via drawings and photos.

FUN FACT

The website Business Insider <http://www.businessinsider.com/the-most-diverse-cities-in-the-us-2013-7> reported the results in July 2013 of a study of the most diverse cities in the United States. Jersey City placed NUMBER 2, surpassed only by Valhalla, California. The top 20 are evenly divided between the East and West coasts. New York City ranked ninth.

KEARNY

ESTABLISHED – March 14, 1867 as a Township

INCORPORATED ; January 19, 1899 as a Town

FIRST MAYOR – General M. N. Halsted, 1867

CURRENT MAYOR – Alberto G. Santos since 2000

POPULATION 2010: 40,684

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

After the Civil War, a Home for Disabled Civil War Veterans was housed in Newark. As time passed, more veterans became disabled and needed care, so a new home was opened in Kearny which eventually grew to 17 buildings. With Spanish-American War veterans and then those from the Great War (World War I), thousands were served during the time of its existence; 1888-1932.

FUN FACT

Due to the vast number of Scottish immigrants working for the Clark Tread Co., which had expanded through several local communities, it became a tradition for the township to celebrate the birth of the Scottish-born poet Robert Burns. It has long been an annual event.

NORTH BERGEN

ESTABLISHED – February 10, 1843 as a Township

FIRST MAYOR – William H. Danielson, 1852.

In 1843 the elected governing committee selected one of their group to be chairman, the forerunner of a Mayor.

CURRENT MAYOR – Nicholas J. Sacco since 1991

POPULATION 2010: 60,773

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

In the days before television, movies, and the Internet, people sought more public entertainment. North Bergen had two very large amusement parks. Schuetzen Park, close to the southern end, offered rifle ranges, ten modern bowling alleys, three dancing pavilions, and could accommodate 50,000 people with varied forms of entertainment. Little Coney Island at the northernmost end of North Bergen offered similar fare on a smaller scale for a much shorter time period.

FUN FACT

The Triple Crown for a movie director would be winning an Oscar for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay (Original/Adapted) for the same film. North Bergen-raised James Lawrence Brooks did just that when he snagged all three for *Terms of Endearment* in 1983.

SECAUCUS

ESTABLISHED – March 12, 1900 as a Borough

INCORPORATED – June 7, 1917 as a Town

FIRST MAYOR – Jacob C. Huber

CURRENT MAYOR – Michael Gonnelli since 2009

POPULATION 2010: 16,264

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

In February, 1862 the Board of Chosen Freeholders purchased a large farm tract from the four municipalities for \$12,000. Upon this land, known as Snake Hill (renamed Laurel Hill in 1926), the County built several institutions: an Almshouse, a Penitentiary, a Contagious Diseases Hospital, a Tuberculosis Sanatorium, the Hudson County Lunatic Asylum and the County's potter's field.

FUN FACT

Henry B. Krajewski, a tavern owner and pig farmer, ran for councilman, freeholder, governor, US senator and US president. He did act as a spoiler in the 1954 senate election, garnering 35,421 votes and swinging the election to the major party underdog. Mr. Krajewski carried a piglet with him wherever he campaigned and, ironically, died on Election Day, 1966.

UNION CITY

WEST HOBOKEN

ESTABLISHED – February 28, 1861 as a Township

UNION HILL

ESTABLISHED – February 28, 1861 as a Township

Resulted from the

Merger of West Hoboken & Union Hill

ESTABLISHED – June 1, 1925 at 1 PM as a City

FIRST MAYOR – John F. Boylan

CURRENT MAYOR – Brian P. Stack since 2000

POPULATION 2010: 66,455

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

Shortly after Fidel Castro seized control of Cuba, immigrants attempting to flee his regime came to the US. Upon their arrival in Miami, they registered with the Cuban Refugee Center that relocated them to three areas – the NY/NJ metropolitan area, Illinois and California with the majority coming to the northeast. Union City had the largest number, followed by West New York and other Hudson County communities. The area became known as "Havana on the Hudson" and these hard-working immigrants breathed new economic life into the city. It is also nicknamed the "Embroidery Capital of the World."

FUN FACT

Otto Messmer, who worked for Pat Sullivan's animation studio, was born August 16, 1892, in West Hoboken, the southern half of what is now Union City. His creation was the first image transmitted by NBC when RCA first began experimenting with television transmissions in 1929; it was also the first cartoon character to be made into a balloon for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. His creation...Felix the Cat.

WEEHAWKEN

ESTABLISHED – March 15, 1859 as a Township

FIRST MAYOR – Charles Perry

Current Mayor – Richard F. Turner since 1990

POPULATION 2010: 12,554

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

America's most famous duel in which Alexander Hamilton was killed by Aaron Burr on July 11, 1804, took place in Weehawken.

The men were political rivals and when Hamilton's father-in-law beat Burr for the office of Governor of New York, he saw this as a way to rid himself of his rival. Although his son had died in a duel at the same location, Hamilton reluctantly agreed and wrote his will beforehand. The land, owned by Captain Deas, served as dueling grounds from 1799 to 1835 in spite of Deas' opposition. The St. Andrews Society of New York erected a monument to Hamilton's memory, which was intentionally destroyed in 1821, as a protest against such bloody conflicts. Repeated protests helped to end "honor" duels.

FUN FACT

Legendary dancer Fred Astaire had only two years of formal education. He went to 3th and 6th grade in the Weehawken public school in the first decade of the twentieth century. The Omaha, Nebraska, native came to New York as a very young boy to enter the vaudeville circuit with his 18-months older sister Adele. When her growth spurt made them look too odd as a dancing child couple, they waited it out living as regular youngsters in the Highwood section of Weehawken.

WEST NEW YORK

ESTABLISHED – July 8, 1898 as a Town

FIRST MAYOR – John E. Otis

CURRENT MAYOR – Felix Roque since 2011

POPULATION 2010: 49,708

HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

Northern Hudson County was long known as the "Embroidery Capital of the World" and much beautiful lace was produced here. West New York, and Union City were both leaders in the industry. It was not just that talented embroiderers gathered in this area. It was chosen partly due to the geography. The bedrock on the Palisades played a big part. Because the machines weighed about five-to-eight tons and vibrated a lot, each machine was cemented to a huge foundation so that the vibrations were confined and the machines did not dance away.

FUN FACT

Andrew Melrose (1836-1901) was a prolific landscape artist in the style of the Hudson River School. He came to the US from Scotland and eventually settled in West New York. His landscapes were idyllic scenes of the area with cattle and goats roaming freely. To this day his works command thousands of dollars and can be found in such places as the White House Historical Society.



**The Hudson County History Advocates
would like to thank**

**The Provident Bank Foundation,
led by Executive Director Jane Kurek,
for its support.**

&

**Congratulations to Provident Bank for
serving the Hudson County community for
over 175 years**

*Hoboken,
Ellis Island*
— AND THE —
**IMMIGRANT
EXPERIENCE**

1892-1924



Museum Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday 2 – 7 pm

Friday 1 – 5 pm

Saturday & Sunday 12 – 5 pm

www.hobokenmuseum.org

201 656-2240

Aug. 3 - Dec. 23, 2014

The Hoboken Historical Museum received a Special General Operating Support grant in FY2014 from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of Department of State. Additional support for this exhibit and programming comes from Applied Companies, John Wiley & Sons, Bijou Properties, and The Rockefeller Group.

This exhibit made possible by the generous support of the following:



BIJOU PROPERTIES



*The
Rockefeller
Group*

**HUDSON COUNTY BOARD OF
CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

1840

First Meeting Held

May 13, 1840

At Drayton's Hotel, Five Corners

GARRET SIP

ABEL I. SMITH

JOSEPH BUDD

WILLIAM C. KINGSLAND

JOHN GRIFFITH

ABRAHAM VAN SANTVOORD

2014

DOREEN MCANDREWS-DI DOMENICO

WILLIAM O'DEA

GERARD BALMIR

E. JUNIOR MALDONADO, Chair

ANTHONY L. ROMANO

TILO RIVAS

JOSE C. MUNOZ

THOMAS F. LIGGIO

ALBERT J. CIFELLI

HUDSON COUNTY EXECUTIVE

(Position established in Hudson County in 1976)

THOMAS A. DEGISE, elected 2002

Success spoken here: NJCU.edu



NJCU

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Sciences • Security Studies • Social Sciences**



Abraham Lopez, Class of 2010

**Executive Director of Hispanic Affairs &
The Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development**

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