It is my sad duty to report the loss of a member of the Hostos family: On April 21, Sage Joyce Sevilla passed away.

Sage was a lecturer in the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department-Behavioral Sciences Unit for seven years as well as an instructor for our College Now program. Before her time at Hostos, she served as Diversity Director of the Dalton School in Manhattan.

A graduate of Yale, Columbia University Teachers College, and New York University, Sage was a woman of many talents and interests. Educator, social worker, therapist, singer – she fulfilled all these roles and more in a life of manifold achievement.

Our hearts go out to her four children, Giancarlo, Stephany, Joey, and Jason, her five grandchildren, and the rest of her beloved family. As we grieve, we also celebrate Sage’s indomitable spirit and her legacy of compassion and service. I am reminded of the Canadian/Indian poet Rupi Kaur’s poem “Funeral” and share it with you here:

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when i go from this place
dress the porch with garlands
as you would for a wedding my dear
pull the people from their homes
and dance in the streets
when death arrives
like a bride at the aisle
send me off in my brightest clothing
serve ice cream with rose petals to our guests
there’s no reason to cry my dear
i have waited my whole life
for such a beauty to take
my breath away
when i go let it be a celebration
for i have been here
i have lived
i have won at this game called life
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In memoriam,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D
President