



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

FLIGHT 587: 24 YEARS ON...

On November 12, 2001, American Airlines Flight 587 took off for the Dominican Republic. What should have been a routine flight ended in catastrophe: shortly after takeoff, the plane crashed in Belle Harbor, Queens. All 251 passengers and nine crew members died, as did five Belle Harbor residents.

Hostos and the South Bronx have a special connection to the Dominican Republic. Eugenio María de Hostos, the visionary educator and philosopher after whom the College is named, is buried in Santo Domingo. Many of our students are of Dominican descent; many of our faculty, staff and administration are members of the Dominican community here in NYC. I think of my own Dominican heritage – I was born in Santo Domingo – and of the many journeys I have made there and back over the years, and of how cruel fate can be. This is why that terrible event struck us all with such horrific force.

In the face of such loss, in the wake of such sorrow, what comfort can we find?

Time can soften the pain of our loss but that emptiness never disappears. It can, however, be transformed into memories of our loved ones which contain more joy than sadness. It can lead to a greater appreciation of who our loved ones were in this life and a shifting-away from what brought those lives to an end.

I mourn with all who greet this day with heavy hearts and I wish them peace of mind. May the memories of those who are no longer here comfort and console us all now and in the days and years to come.

In solidarity,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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