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H O S T O S C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E  
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GRANDMOTHER OF THREE LEARNS  
TO SWIM AT HOSTOS

Hostos Community College, which opened in September 1970 in the South Bronx, has already experienced a long list of memorable "firsts." So, of course, have students at Hostos. Olga Borges Barrington, for one.

Mrs. Barrington is a nursing student at the College and is the first student to successfully complete the swimming module and the first to complete a module in the Life Skills area. After years of being afraid of the water, Mrs. Barrington, an attractive, youthful mother of three and grandmother of three, finally decided to take the plunge--literally--and learn how to swim.

Was she afraid? "Yes," she says, "but if you really want something, it's worth making the effort." She could think of no better way to fulfill the Life Skills requirement than by taking swimming--one of the most basic "life skills."

Mrs. Barrington describes with obvious pride how, step by step, she learned to swim. She began by learning to breathe while submerging her head in water. Inside of six weeks, she was diving off into water nine feet deep. She worked at each milestone until she successfully completed the entire module. Clearly, she takes a special pleasure in being the first at Hostos to boast of this accomplishment.

Asked about her instructor, Wally Pina, Area Coordinator of Life Skills, she replies with enthusiasm--"Well, he's terrific really." Only his warm personality, firmness, and "gift of gab," she says, could have succeeded in helping her to overcome her initial self-consciousness and apprehensions.

Born and raised in the South Bronx, Mrs. Barrington is now a practical nurse and has worked at New York University Medical Center and Prospect Hospital. She is anxious to resume her nursing career, this time as a registered nurse.

Mrs. Barrington offers some sage advice: "Age has no limits. If you want to do something, go do it. Work. Struggle. Compete." Asked if she intends to take an advanced swimming module, she replies, with a smile, after the tiniest hesitation, "Sure. . . if it's offered."

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Photograph attached

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