HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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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. In-
side 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 accom-
plishment.

Asked about her instructor, Wally Pina, Area Coordinator of Life Skills, she re-
plies 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 hesi-
tation, "Sure... if it's offered."

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Photograph attached