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## FDNY Graduates 280 'Probies'



The FDNY welcomed 280 new Probationary Firefighters to its ranks on Nov. 18, during an exuberant ceremony at the Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn.

“Only the best become a part of this Department,” Mayor Bill de Blasio said. “You represent everything that is great about New York City. You make us all proud.”

Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro added, “I promise you - you will look back one day at this moment and wonder where the time went. But when you do, you will look

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# 'Probie' Class 2 of 2014 Graduates

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Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro, left, and Chief of the Department James Leonard, along with members of the United Women Firefighters, congratulated the latest female Probationary Firefighters in the Department for completing the Fire Academy.

back fondly on a career greater than you could have ever imagined.”

The group completed a challenging 18-week training program at the Academy, where they learned about everything from fire suppression to confined space rescues. Thirty-seven percent of the Probationary Firefighters are people of color, including 15 percent black, 20 percent Hispanic and four women. Now the total number of female firefighters serving in the FDNY is 44, more than any other time in history.

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# 'Probie' Class 2 of 2014 Graduates

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There were also 51 military veterans in the class.

Probationary Firefighter Brandon Reilly was named the class Valedictorian, Probationary Firefighter Joseph Seelig was Salutatorian and Probationary Firefighter Steven Ramhold received the Physical Fitness Award.

Among the graduates was Probationary Firefighter Josephine Smith, whose father, Firefighter Kevin Smith, HazMat 1, who was killed on Sept. 11, 2001. She noted that she keeps her father's memory close by always having a photo of him in her cap, wearing a bracelet with his name on it and carrying a piece of World Trade Center steel in her pocket.

"Today I'm proud, happy, excited and sad that my father couldn't be here," Probationary Firefighter Smith said. "I have wanted to do this for as long as I can remember - I always told my father I'd work with him one day."

Many of the graduates spoke of the strong relationships they forged with their classmates. The group even raised more than \$3,000 to help Probationary Firefighter Thomas Vaughan's brother, Kevin.

Corporal Kevin Vaughan followed his firefighter brother into the U.S. Marine Corps and was serving in Afghanistan when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device and he lost his leg. The Probationary Firefighters learned of his story and raised funds for Building Homes for Heroes, which is constructing a house for the hero on Long Island. ■

# 'Probie' Continues Her Father's Legacy



**Probationary Firefighter  
Josephine Smith**

When Join FDNY first met Probationary Firefighter Josephine Smith, she was an FDNY Firefighter Candidate, who was training almost every day to fulfill her lifelong dream. In addition to pursuing a job that she loved since she was a child, she wanted to become a New York City Firefighter to continue her dad's legacy. Smith is the daughter of Kevin Smith, a longtime FDNY Haz-Mat Co. 1 firefighter who died in the line of duty on September 11, 2001.

Now, she's officially following in her father's footsteps.

"I know my dad would be proud," she said about her career achievement. "Getting this job was a lot of hard work, because every day I had to stay focused mentally and physically, but it was completely worth it."

And Smith noted that there are many life lessons that she learned during the challenging

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# 'Probie' Continues Her Father's Legacy

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Fire Academy, most notably, the importance of teamwork. As a “Probie” in the Academy, she said, “you quickly learn that the only way to get through the Academy is to work together like a team. Training there each day is very intense and you have to have a lot of heart to get through it.”

When she graduated from the Fire Academy alongside 279 of her fellow “Probies” on November 18, she also marked a spot in the Department’s history by becoming the first daughter of an FDNY Firefighter who died on 9/11 to join the Firefighter ranks. In addition, Smith is one of four new female Firefighters in the Department, bringing the total number to 44, which is more than any other time in history.

“Working as one of the Firefighters in this city is really a dream come true for me,” she said. “It’s just a really great feeling.”

Smith is now helping to keep the city safe as one of New York’s Bravest at Engine 39 in Manhattan. ■

# UWF to Host Training for Candidates

The United Women Firefighters (UWF) is scheduled to host physical fitness training for women firefighter candidates in December at the New York Sports Club on Wall Street in New York City. The club is located at 30 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005. To be eligible to participate, every candidate must bring a gym lock, at least a



50 pound vest, fitness clothes and sneakers, water and a medical waiver. In addition, every candidate should attend the training properly hydrated and fueled and ready for an intense workout. Please note that these workout sessions are designed to prepare candidates for the physical training at the Fire Academy. To register for the sessions, please e-mail [womenrecruitfdny-subscribe@yahoogroup.com](mailto:womenrecruitfdny-subscribe@yahoogroup.com).

## December 2014 UWF Training Schedule

**Dec. 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 12 p.m.**

# Firefighter 101:

## What is FST?

Functional Skills Training (FST) occurs daily during the Fire Academy and it involves performing a series of fire related tasks in full firefighter gear. FST will measure a “Probie’s” ability to safely and effectively perform the duties of a firefighter while wearing full personal protective equipment including a self-contained breathing apparatus.

FST includes, but is not limited to, climbing stairs with tools and equipment weighing in excess of 100 pounds, advancing hose lines, forcible entry, victim rescue, and raising ladders. **Please remember that FST requires an extremely high level of physical conditioning, well beyond what is necessary to pass CPAT.** “Probies” will be evaluated in FST and must pass FST in order to graduate.

### Check Out Our Firefighter Candidate Prep Corner

Visit our Firefighter Candidate Resources page on the FDNY website. The page features detailed videos, training tips, study guides and other information that will help all firefighter candidates prepare for the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) and the Fire Academy. **Get READY!**

<http://on.nyc.gov/1qKedxu>

# Father and Son Tradition Update: Part II



In our February 2014 issue, we ran our first update story about the very special father and son firefighter photo shown above, which was featured in our 2006 Firefighter Recruitment Campaign. For Part I, Join FDNY caught up with George, back row right, and Eric Walker, front row right, to learn how the New York City Firefighter life was going for them. Now, for Part II, it's time to learn what's new with the Marshall family.

## **Michael Marshall and Michael Marshall Jr.**

Since being featured in our campaign, Lieutenant Michael Marshall said that he has been utilizing his firefighter experience and knowledge in different ways to help inspire others to join the Department.

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# Firefighting Father and Son Update: Part II

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He also noted that he loves being an FDNY Firefighter dearly, especially because the job has continuously given him the opportunity to extend a helping hand to those in need.

In June 2014, Lieutenant Marshall also began serving as the Department's first-ever Diversity Advocate, where he works closely with Probationary Firefighters and Firefighter Candidates to help improve their work quality of life.

“In my new position, I’m responsible for working with the ‘Probies’ and candidates and making sure they don’t have any unusual issues as they



**From left are Michael Marshall III, Firefighter Michael Marshall Jr., and Lieutenant Michael Marshall.**

work to become successful Firefighters in our Department,” said the Lieutenant, who is completing his 33rd year of service at Engine 257 in Brooklyn. “If they are having an issue or problem in a certain area, I can help them with that and bring their problem to the appropriate person in the Department,

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# Firefighting Father and Son Update: Part II

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so it can be addressed.”

And since the 2006 photo, Michael Jr. has become a father of a son, Michael Marshall III, and a daughter, Isabella. In addition, he is also serving his ninth year at Engine 234 in Brooklyn.

“Working for this Department is really a great opportunity, because you get to help make this city a safer place and you’re always learning,” he said. “I always tell people that I have the best job.”

As for the future, Lieutenant Marshall said he is looking forward to seeing his son become a lieutenant in the Department.

“I think it would be cool to serve as an FDNY Lieutenant at the same time as my son,” he said. “When that happens, it would definitely be another family milestone for us.” ■

## FOLLOW JOIN FDNY



# RECRUITMENT CORNER

## FDNY HS Students Become Great Debaters



**T**he Students in the FDNY High School for Fire and Life Safety's Job Readiness Class faced off in their first thrilling debate on Nov. 13.

As part of the challenging homework assignment, seniors competed in teams of three to answer whether the glass is half empty or half full? In total, five teams served as the proposition and five teams competed as the opposition.

While using quotes, anecdotes, props and humor to help prove their case to three guest judges, the students also learned about persuasive public speaking, rebuttal arguments, time management and teamwork during the

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## RECRUITMENT CORNER

# FDNY HS Students Become Great Debaters

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tournament-style debate.

The interactive assignment is one of many in the class, which also features résumé writing, job interviewing skills and other workshops in its curriculum to help the high schoolers become career ready.

The high school, housed in Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn, is a small thematic school that educates students from 9th to 12th grade while introducing them to careers as firefighters, paramedics and EMTs. It is largely funded by the FDNY Foundation, the official non-profit organization of the FDNY. ■