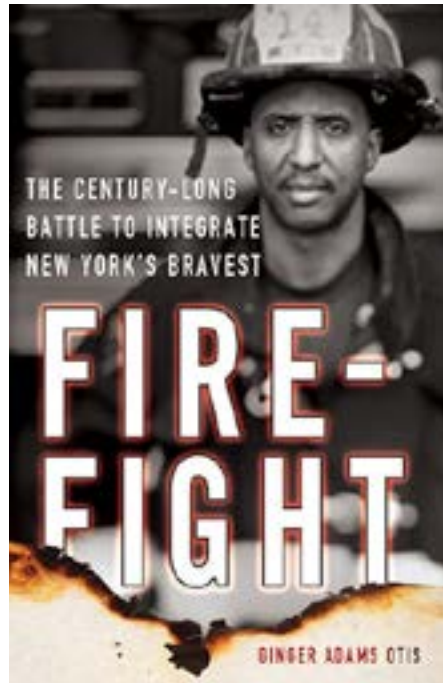


The Wolfe Institute

*The Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
in cooperation with the Journalism Program,
presents*

Firefight

The Century-Long Battle to Integrate NY's Bravest



In 1919, when Wesley Williams became a New York City firefighter, he joined a force that was 100 percent white. As far as most New Yorkers knew, black men in the FDNY tended horses. Nearly a century later, the FDNY had just 300 black firefighters — under 3 percent of its 11,000-member force — in a city with 2 million African Americans. Unlike other uniformed departments, including the NYPD, the FDNY had not diversified its ranks. This led to a courtroom showdown between Mayor Michael Bloomberg and a determined group of black activist firefighters who fought for racial equality — a story told in *Firefight*.

Ginger Adams Otis, the author of *Firefight: The Century-Long Battle to Integrate New York's Bravest*, has been a staff writer at the *New York Daily News* since 2012. Prior to joining the *Daily News*, she wrote for the *New York Post* and *The Chief Leader*, which covers organized labor and city government.

She will be joined by three people who played a major role in this story:

FDNY Captain Paul Washington, president emeritus of Vulcan Society

Firefighter Regina Wilson, president of the Vulcan Society

Lieutenant Michael Marshall, FDNY Diversity Advocate

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

3:40 to 4:55 p.m.

Penthouse

**Brooklyn College Student Center
Campus Road and East 27th Street**

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