



# Benedictine University® POLICE NEWS



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## DO YOU KNOW ME?



Debbie Vanderploeg has (13) years of Policing experience. She has served as both a police officer, community service officer in a municipal and college setting. Debbie is a Taser instructor, evidence technician, special investigator, bike officer and the National Night Out coordinator.

## BUMP N' GRIND



Please remember if you are involved in any type a motor crash, including a **crash with an unoccupied vehicle...** Please stop, call the University Police and file a crash report no matter how minor the damage.

Please be aware that leaving the scene of an accident is a Class "A" Misdemeanor, 625 ILCS 5/11-402 and is punishable by: Suspension of your driver's license and fines.

## ANNUAL END OF YEAR COOKOUT FRIDAY, APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> 11AM-1PM

SPONSORED BY  
**BENU POLICE AND STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

**BENU POLICE CELEBRATING 10 YEARS  
OF SERVICE TO THE BENEDICTINE COMMUNITY**



Benedictine University Police Officers (then Officer Popp and Sergeant Creekmore) now Sergeant Popp and Deputy Chief Creekmore began doing the annual End of the Year Cookout in 2009 as a way to give back to the community and provide social interaction with police officers. They donned aprons, tongs and spatulas and began cooking lunch for the students and employees of BenU once a year.

This year is a very special year. It marks ten years since the implementation of University Police. An agency, that through its personnel has earned many firsts.

Just to name a few... BenU Police was one of the first private University Police agencies to participate in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge and earn a first place award. It was the first private University Police agency to become an accredited law enforcement agency. One of our members penned an amendment to State law, testified before the Higher Education Committee of Illinois to expand private campus police authority to more effectively serve the community. Most recently there were recognized for an "Outstanding Event" for National Night Out in the colleges division.



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### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



Sexual assault scars the lives of millions in the United States. To increase awareness about this issue, prevent future crimes, and aid victims, this month we mark National Sexual Assault Awareness Month. You can speak with University Ministry or University Police for any concerns regarding sexual assault.

### FIRE SAFETY

**Count Your Smoke Detectors:** Be sure there is one smoke detector installed on every level of your home, including one in every bedroom and outside of each sleeping area.

**Change Your Batteries:** It only takes a few minutes to do, by changing your batteries when you change your clocks, is the best defense your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire.

**Check Your Smoke Detector:** After installing your new batteries, press the test button to make sure the detector is working. Remember that a “*chirping*” sound is a signal to replace the battery.

**Clean Your Smoke Detector:** Ensure your smoke detectors sensitivity by cleaning them each month of dust and cobwebs.

**Install Fire Extinguishers:** Install a fire extinguisher in or near your kitchen and be sure that every family member knows how to use it.

### FAREWELL TO A FRIEND...



Deputy Chief Creekmore will be leaving (4/7/16) to take the reins at Midwestern University in Downers Grove as Director of Safety and Security. Please join us in congratulating him on his new appointment.

One of the agency’s founding members has served faithfully at Chief Salatino’s side for the past ten years.

When Creekmore was initially hired, there was no Deputy Chief position and he was hired as the day shift sergeant, supervising officers, dispatchers and student employees. He was charged with developing agency policy, procedures, forms, programs and a student employee corps.

Later he was charged with developing community newsletters, a more comprehensive set of policies, known as general orders to bring us closer to our municipal counterparts. He also created and implemented an officer recognition system, led our firearms training program, worked hard to ensure University Police had appropriate tools for the protection of the campus community in the event of an active shooter and also worked hard to provide less lethal options (Tasers) for officers.

He successfully penned and amended the Illinois Private Campus Police Act to enhance private University police agencies abilities to serve their communities.

Deputy Chief Creekmore created employee committees to give the officers and staff a say in the decision making process to continue moving the agency forward. He served as accreditation manager, during the process where the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program inspected every facet of BenU Police. In 2013 the agency was granted State Accreditation as a law enforcement agency.