

# DARREN KLEM

## A Man Behind the Lights: Officer Darren Klem

Graduate: Class of 1992    Occupation: Law Enforcement    By Jacob Grundhofer, Spring 2010

As Darren Klem patrols the streets of Ferdinand, he protects everyone from speeders or any other lawbreakers. He keeps his eyes focused and aware of his surroundings all the time. Klem, a 1992 Forest Park graduate, has worked on the police force for three years.

After high school, Darren attended ITT Technical Institute. Two years later he graduated with an associate's degree in electrical engineering. Darren commented, "I went to ITT because of financial reasons, and it was only two years."

When Darren graduated from college, he went to work at AMD (Advanced Micro Devices), Kimball Electronics, and Styline. At AMD Darren manufactured microprocessors, and at Kimball and Styline he worked as a maintenance technician. When asked how a typical day would go, Darren said, "In this profession there are no typical days; you deal with the same situations, but with totally different outcomes."

Darren's advice for any teenager is, "Study hard and listen to the advice of your parents and the excellent teachers at Forest Park and you will have a very rewarding and fulfilling life. You may not end up a millionaire or President, but you get out of life what you put into it. If you are thinking of dropping out of school, do not. At least graduate from high school and then see what life brings your way. It may be a couple of years after graduating, but life has the tendency to change for the better if you give it a chance."

Looking back, Officer Darren Klem says, "He wished he would have listened to all the good advice the extraordinary teachers gave him and to study hard, but have fun because you're only young once." When not working as a patrolman he enjoys hunting, fishing, exercising, and going out with friends. He also enjoys going home to St. Anthony to spend time with his wife Annette, a registered nurse, and his four-year-old daughter.

When you look into the rearview mirror and see those red and blue lights, remember to pull over and slow down next time. Darren Klem likes just doing his job - protecting and serving the people of Ferdinand, Indiana.