Max L. Bromley

by **Mary Beth Erskine**

An expert in campus law enforcement, Max Bromley says universities have evolved into small cities with policing needs that mirror urban areas.

Max Bromley is a 35-year veteran of USF's Criminology Department with 24 years of law enforcement and criminal justice experience. A nationally recognized expert on campus law enforcement, he can sum up quickly how changes in campus policing reflect the evolving climate on college campuses in recent decades.

"In the 1940s and '50s, college campuses were pretty secure and tranquil places," says Bromley. "In the '60s and '70s, Vietnam War protests affected campus environments, as did the tremendous influx of students due to the G.I. Bill. During the '80s and '90s, campuses grew dramatically, becoming larger and more complex and spawning increased crime rates."

Consequently, campus law enforcement has evolved from offices focused on security detail and student conduct issues to full-fledged police departments.

Since his entrée into law enforcement in 1972, Bromley, who was assistant chief of USF's University Police Department until 1996, has remained on the leading edge of campus policing, campus crime and crime prevention issues. Currently director of USF's Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration (MACJA) program, Bromley teaches students ranging from first-year undergraduates to seasoned criminal justice professionals, while lending his expertise at local, state and national levels. He chaired the USF president's campus security task force following 9/11, assisted in the development of a survey used by the U.S. Department of Justice to conduct the first national study of campus law enforcement departments, and participated in the Florida governor's task force for university campus safety, as well as the Florida attorney general's committee on campus law enforcement crime prevention training.

USF: How did you become involved in campus law enforcement?
Bromley: As an undergraduate at FSU, I interned with the university's campus police department and, as a graduate student, I had an assistantship there under Bill Tanner, the "dean" of campus chiefs in the 1970s. Right from the beginning, it felt like the niche for me.

USF: What was the atmosphere like on college campuses when you started at USF in 1974?
Bromley: That was the year Nixon resigned, and it was also the end of the Vietnam War, so there was still resistance to police on campus. It was not a really popular time to be in law enforcement. Chief Paul Uravich hired me and provided me unique opportunities. I came in as public education and information officer, so I worked with people like Phyllis Marshall in Student Affairs implementing crime prevention programs.

USF: Describe the transition from police practitioner to instructor.
Bromley: I started teaching in 1975 while working in USF's Division of Public Safety. I was what I call a "prac-ademician." I enjoyed being in the classroom from day one. Lenny Territo, professor emeritus in criminology, taught me the importance of mentoring younger people. There's a gratification unlike anything else that you get from working with students and seeing them succeed.

USF: How have changes on campus impacted campus policing?
Bromley: As more significant crime began to occur on college campuses during the 1970s, colleges upgraded the quality and professionalism of their personnel, transitioning from a "security" type mode to police departments. At the same time, campuses like USF were growing and becoming more complicated. USF is a sophisticated campus – a city within a city

Quick Takes

Best crime fighter of all time: Dick Tracy

Hero: My parents

Number of classes taught: 144

Favorite TV police show: NCIS

What you do to recharge: Attend sporting events with my wife, Debbie.

Bromley: It heightened awareness of the need for constant vigilance and increased training in response to active shooter situations, something that had been changing since Columbine. It also clarified the need to re-educate all campus constituents to pay attention to potential threats and red flag situations and to share information.

USF: Are college campuses safe?
Bromley: While serious crimes do occur on college campuses, they are generally much safer than their surrounding communities.

USF: What're the most important lessons you teach your students?
Bromley: I've been teaching American Law Enforcement for 25 years, and the first thing I tell students is to forget about what they see on television cop shows. Reality is quite different. ■

with an elementary school, hospitals, stadiums, special events, and thousands of visitors – with all the related issues of a small city.

USF: How has technology changed the campus policing landscape?
Bromley: The greatest changes have been the proliferation of computer systems and data bases offering access to virtually unlimited information, the use of high-tech video surveillance cameras, as well as key card access to buildings. Not only are the

days of having 40,000 master keys gone, but these systems give us information such as who entered the building and when.

USF: What effect did Virginia Tech have on higher education?
Bromley: It was a reminder that college campuses are not immune to horrible acts of violence – that there is no invisible shield around campuses.

USF: What effect did it have on campus police departments?