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## New chief has decades of experience

By **Mary E. Iorio**, OU Writer

Sam Lucido was 21 when he started patrolling streets as a police officer on the east side of Detroit.

Over the next 25 years, he moved up the ranks, from officer to detective to sergeant and lieutenant and finally to inspector. Along the way, he got to know the people he protected, believing police can be more effective if they're part of the community.

Lucido brought that same ethic to Oakland in September when he began as the university's new police chief.

"Chief Lucido is responsible for all aspects of police management," said Lynne Schaefer, vice president for finance and administration. "With his experience in a full-service municipal police agency, he brings a wealth of knowledge about police operations to OU's campus."

Lucido retired from the Detroit police force after 25 years. He then took a more scholarly role as an assistant professor of criminal justice at Madonna University, teaching the people who would replace him on the streets.

But he missed police work too much. He wanted to do instead of tell. Two years later, Lucido left Madonna to become police chief of Northfield Township, near Ann Arbor. He led that community's force for four years.

"I saw Oakland's opening listed in a police publication, and I realized that Oakland could provide me the best of both worlds – the academic environment that I enjoyed at Madonna combined with the hands-on aspects of leading police officers. I know this sounds corny, but it just seemed like the perfect opportunity for me."

The one-time inner city police inspector turned college professor turned suburban police chief said one thing remains constant no matter where an officer works. "The unpredictability of it is there, day and night. It doesn't matter if you work in a big city, small town, or on a university campus, you never know whether your life will change in the next five minutes."

That unknown, he said, makes officers work harder to control factors that make community's safer. "We must keep in mind that the single, primary reason we're here is to protect and serve the campus community. We need to do everything possible to enhance the safety of our campus. That's safety on the roads, safety in the dorms. We've got the blue light emergency phones. We've got lighted pathways here at night. We've got a very safe community and one of the lowest crime rates in Oakland County. That said, it's important that we remain committed to constantly expanding all safety measures.

"I want to get more involved in crime prevention," Lucido said. "Every police department is good at being reactive. What we want to continually improve is our ability to be proactive. We're already doing that with efforts like the Rape Aggression Defense Program."

Lucido hopes faculty, staff and students will take a role in crime prevention. "We can't be everywhere at once, so we need faculty and staff members to tell us if they notice things that seem odd or unusual. I encourage them to communicate their concerns. This is their police department." Lucido said he already recognizes what is most likely the most frustrating issue for people on campus: high traffic and limited parking.

"We're hopeful that the completion and opening of the new parking structure will alleviate a lot of those problems," he said. "We also need to recognize that a lot of the gridlock we're experiencing right now is compounded by temporary, outside factors. The construction on Walton has caused a lot of people with no affiliation to Oakland to cut through our campus. We've tried to dissuade that with slower speed limits and with regularly monitoring and changing of the way we do our patrols."

In his role here, Lucido leads a force of 18 sworn officers along with three dispatchers and two office staff members. He hopes to fill three more officer positions and add a fourth dispatcher within the next few months.

His major goals include:

- Enhancing technology in the department. "We want to get the department on-line with CLEMIS, which is an Oakland Country criminal justice data base management system. This would allow us to share information with other

departments.”

- Providing a supportive, encouraging work environment. “I want to make sure that I make every effort to make our department a place where officers take pride in their work, where they feel their views are respected and where they feel there is opportunity for advancement. I want to build a team.”
- Increasing the diversity among the ranks. “I want to enhance our recruiting efforts toward that goal. We have a diverse department already, but I want to make sure we keep it that way.”

Lucido holds a Bachelor of Science degree in police administration and a Master of Science degree in criminal justice from Wayne State University. He has been married to his wife Paulette for 30 years. They have a son Paul, daughter-in-law Michelle and two grandchildren.

#### **SUMMARY**

Sam Lucido, OU's new police chief, was 21 when he started patrolling streets as a police officer on the east side of Detroit. Over the next 25 years, he moved up the ranks, from officer to detective to sergeant and lieutenant and finally to inspector. Along the way, he got to know the people he protected, believing police can be more effective if they're part of the community. Lucido brought that same ethic to Oakland in September when he began as the university's new police chief.

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