

## MIKHAIL VORONTSOV



*This electro-optics professor has taken on a “super” assignment — Vorontsov won a grant that helped UD purchase a new supercomputer to facilitate more collaborative research efforts between universities. The computer arrived at UD in early spring and is housed in the Fitz Hall Data Center, not far from where Vorontsov studies atmospheric turbulence and optical communications, among other topics.*

*In addition to his teaching and research in the electro-optics graduate program, he’s director of the University’s Intelligent Optics Laboratory and endowed chair for LADAR.*

### **Tell us about the process that helped UD acquire this supercomputer.**

It originated from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative program, which consists of six universities — UD, the Air Force Institute of Technology, Michigan Technological University, North Carolina State University, New Mexico State University and the University of Miami. The grant will enhance the research among the MURI team at these universities. It’s a big program — \$7.2 million over five years for collaborative research.

### **What role will the supercomputer play in enhancing research?**

It would be good for statistical analysis. With the computer and the new high-speed UDsciNet network connection available in some areas of campus, researchers in STEM fields and other areas can handle large data file transfers and big data analysis.

### **What are the first steps toward helping UD researchers and others in the MURI team take advantage of the computer’s capabilities?**

We’re in the very early stage, a learning stage, of figuring out the optimal way to use this high-performance computer. The next step will be communicating within UD to develop a structure for its use. Today’s gathering (Thursday, April 28) with researchers from the other universities is actually one of the meetings to help teach us how to use it. We’ll have a full day of meetings tomorrow, and we all travel to each other’s universities to work on this.

### **Do you have a favorite place to visit for your work with the MURI team?**

Our preference is to go to Miami — the weather conditions are much more favorable than here in Ohio! Just not in the summer.

### **Campus Report picked the right day to visit to see the process in action! Did it take long to install the machine?**

We’re lucky that we have the space in the UD Data Center for this high-performance computer, so we didn’t have to do much to create an infrastructure. It already existed. UD has a great data center designed with the capacity for growth, and there’s a lot more space for a lot of other high-performance computers. It’s a credit to the foresight of UDiT that they created space for something like this. You can’t just put a computer like this in an office. You have to have the right cooling and power.

### **Where were you before you came to UD?**

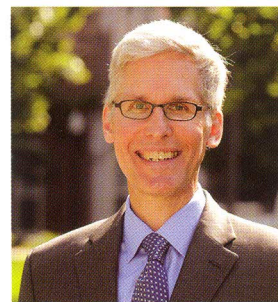
I was a physicist at the U.S. Army Research Lab from 1993 to 2009, and a research professor at the University of Maryland. I am from Russia and earned doctorate degrees in physics and mathematics at Moscow State University.

### **What do you like about living in Dayton?**

Well, after living around Washington, D.C., everyone’s answer is “no traffic jams.” It’s more quiet here, too.

—Shannon Shelton Miller

## BENSON SELECTED AS UNIVERSITY PROVOST



After serving a two-year term as interim provost, Paul Benson will drop the interim label from his title at the beginning of July.

Benson’s appointment to a four-year term was made in full consultation with the board of trustees as well as incoming president Eric F. Spina, said University President Daniel J. Curran.

Spina opted to search internally for the position, saying he sought a provost who was already familiar with the University’s history, people, culture and governance mechanisms.

“I have been impressed by Paul Benson’s character, humility and intelligence since the day I met him,” Spina said. “His understanding of the University of Dayton and his modeling of our values and charism will serve me and the institution extremely well as I prepare to begin my presidency in July. I look forward to working with Paul to continue advancing the University.”

As the University’s chief academic officer, Benson’s responsibilities include preserving, developing and promoting the academic mission and vision of the University, plus coordinating academic and research units and their support systems.

In addition to overseeing the five major academic units and the libraries, the provost has responsibility for enrollment management and marketing, information technology and international programs, and works closely with the president and vice president for finance on the University’s strategic budget and facilities planning.

“I am deeply honored to continue to serve the University through the office of the provost,” Benson said. “UD has benefited from the leadership of a long series of talented and forward-thinking provosts. I hope I can sustain that legacy and continue to elevate the quality of our teaching, research, and local and global engagements while also extending the influence of our Catholic and Marianist mission.”

In other news, the University conducted open forums with three finalists in late April and early May for the new position of vice president for Diversity and Inclusion.

Each candidate participated in three open forums — two for faculty and staff and one for students. They were asked to make a 15-minute introductory verbal presentation and then respond to questions from the audience. Attendees were invited to complete candidate evaluation forms.

The candidates are Diane Ariza, associate vice president for academic affairs and chief diversity officer, Quinnipiac University, and adjunct faculty, sociology department, Quinnipiac University; Lawrence Burnley, chief diversity officer, associate vice president, diversity, equity and inclusion, and assistant professor of history, Whitworth University; and Staci Rucker, assistant dean of student affairs and associate professor of academic success, University of Dayton School of Law.

## CAMPUS REPORT SURVEY EXTENDED THROUGH MAY

Don’t forget to complete the Office of University Marketing and Communications’ survey on internal communications, located at [surveymonkey.com/r/Porches2016](http://surveymonkey.com/r/Porches2016). What do you want to know, and how do you want to get it? Tell us in this survey, open through May 31, and share your thoughts about *Campus Report*, *Porches* and other internal communications vehicles we use to keep you informed.