OVERVIEW

Originating in 1998, the Lawrence B. Dumas Domain Dinner series has featured hundreds of faculty presenters and engaged thousands of guests on a range of interdisciplinary topics. While presentation topics have ranged greatly since the series’ inception, the mission has remained the same: to stimulate faculty interactions across departments and disciplines and to highlight Northwestern’s distinctive interdisciplinarity. Co-hosted by the Office of the Provost and the Office of Administration and Planning (OAP), the events have served as a launching point for various endeavors at the University and catalyzed numerous other existing research initiatives.

For more information visit: https://www.adminplan.northwestern.edu/planning/domain/index.html

TOPIC AND PRESENTER GUIDELINES

Topics for Lawrence B. Dumas Domain Dinners/Dialogues have ranged greatly since the series’ inception. Most recently, presentations have convened faculty around topics related to aging, community-engaged research in the Chicagoland area, synthetic biology, quantum information science, the human-computer frontier, migration, neuroscience, music, water insecurity, and global poverty. A list of past topics and presenters is available here.

To stimulate cross-disciplinary faculty collaboration and highlight Northwestern’s unique culture of interdisciplinarity, presentation topics must be highly cross-disciplinary in nature, appealing to a broad group of research-active faculty across schools and disciplines. Topics may be centered on completed research projects and/or new and developing research areas of interest to the University community.

Beyond being simply interdisciplinary, the most successful topics are those that allow the presenters to pose a series of questions to attendees, opening the door to robust conversation and creating the opportunity for cross-disciplinary connection and collaboration across the University. For example, faculty presenters at the Spring 2017 Lawrence B. Dumas Domain Dinner asked the question, “What are the consequences of water insecurity, and how do we mitigate those consequences through interdisciplinary research?”

Special attention should be paid to creating a diverse presenting team in terms of gender; schools, disciplines, and departments; and faculty rank. Domain events have been a great way to introduce new and/or up-and-coming faculty to central leadership and the broader Northwestern community. Participation is by invitation only and is designed primarily for tenure-line and other research-active faculty at Northwestern.

EVENT FORMAT

Domain Dinners/Dialogues generally consist of 60 minutes dedicated to faculty presentations and 30 minutes for open discussion through a moderated question-and-answer session. The event also generally includes informal networking during a cocktail reception and may also include a formal dinner at which additional conversation occurs at tables intentionally organized to encourage cross-campus dialogue and connections. The traditional format for the event includes dinner and is called a “Domain Dinner.” A virtual format was introduced in Fall 2020 and is called “Domain Dialogues.”
PROPOSAL
Please return your completed proposal to Kristi Hubbard, Director of Planning in the Office of Administration and Planning, at kristi.hubbard@northwestern.edu.

Proposed Event Title:

Brief Overview of Proposed Presentation Topic:
The overview should include answers to the following questions:
- Which research domain(s) will the event highlight?
- What are Northwestern’s existing or emerging areas of strength?
- What is Northwestern contributing to the field?
- How are Northwestern researchers making an impact?
- What can attendees expect to take away from this presentation?
- What is the call to action?

Proposal Submitter:
- Name:
- Email:
- Title:
- Department:

Moderator (can be one of the presenters listed below):
- Name:
- Email:
- Title:
- Department:

Presenter 1:
- Name:
- Email:
- Title:
- Department:
- Brief description of research/presentation topic:

Presenter 2:
- Name:
- Email:
- Title:
- Department:
- Brief description of research/presentation topic:
Presenter 3:
- Name:
- Email:
- Title:
- Department:
- Brief description of research/presentation topic:

Presenter 4 (optional):
- Name:
- Email:
- Title:
- Department:
- Brief description of research/presentation topic:

Additional Details:
- Audio/visual needs other than computer, projector, screen, and microphone:
- Preferred quarter for the event:
- Additional comments, questions, or other information: