



Dr. Christy Gamble Hines Tackles Racism at a Critical Moment in Time

By Tara Bradley-Steck

Dr. Christy Gamble Hines knows a thing or two about racism. She's made it her life's mission to study those overt and, more significantly, covert biases people may have, with the goal of educating, training, imploring and cajoling them to change their attitudes and behaviors.

"In order to have change, we have to have uncomfortable conversations," she said. "When racism is brought up in a room, people get uncomfortable."

Despite decades, indeed centuries, of institutional and systemic racism, Gamble Hines, L'13, believes the time is ripe for change. "I feel this is a critical moment in time," she said. "And because of the pandemic, people have nothing to do but focus in on these tragic events. They have time to talk to one another about what's going on. This is the time to teach."

Gamble Hines started her own consulting firm, based in Washington, D.C., that presents anti-racism trainings and workshops; develops and revises educational curriculums to address the impact of racism on a particular field of study or practice; and revamps organizations' policies to ensure they're anti-racist and not furthering racial bias and discrimination.

"We all know overt racism," she said. "It's the covert racism that's consistently there and that people of color see but white people don't see. When you haven't experienced injustice, it's difficult for you to recognize it."

After earning degrees in microbiology, biostatistics and epidemiology, Gamble Hines completed her J.D. at Duquesne, where she was selected to the *Law Review* and founded the Health Law Society and created the *Environmental Health Law Journal*. She has held key positions with congressional committees and served on the staffs of various representatives and senators. As director of health policy and legislative affairs for the Black Women's Health Imperative, Gamble Hines was named to the inaugural class of "Next Gen Policy Leaders" sponsored by Google, where she worked as a consultant.

She speaks with fondness of her studies at Duquesne, which she said "nurtured her passions."

"Duquesne allowed me to have this voice," she said. "They allowed me to talk to faculty and not feel insecure and think about everyone in the room as if they're looking at me a certain way. They made me feel valued." ♦



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