DR. CURTIS AUSTIN is an associate professor of history at the University of Oregon. He received his Ph.D. from Mississippi State and came to the UO this fall from the Ohio State University, where he directed the Young Scholars Program and taught Civil Rights Movement history. Before his time at OSU, Dr. Austin taught African American History at the University of Southern Mississippi and was founding director of USM’s Center for Black Studies. His publications have received wide acclaim from students, activists, and scholars in the fields of American History and African American Studies.

BRIANNA HAYES is a senior majoring in political science and philosophy at the University of Oregon. She is an active student leader on campus and is a key figure in the Black Student Task Force's efforts to bring about change on the UO campus. She is also co-director of the Black Student Union. Brianna was a student when the BSTF raised the issue of building renaming to President Schill and served on the committee to select a new name for what is now Unthank Hall. She was a 2017 policy intern for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and intends to study law and work within education policy.

DANTE J. JAMES, ESQ. is the director of the City of Portland’s Office of Equity and Human Rights. He has over 25 years of experience in political, non-profit, and legal work in the areas of social justice, civil rights, and government contracting. He has been an attorney in private practice, a public defender, and an administrative hearing officers. He is a member of the President’s Diversity Advisory Community Council here at the UO.

Join President Schill and an esteemed panel for a provocative discussion exploring the role student activism played in advancing the conversation about race, tolerance, and inclusion at the UO.