What is your role and area of focus here at Vanderbilt University?
I am an active citizen of Vanderbilt University and pursuing a Master of Divinity degree (MDiv) at Vanderbilt Divinity School (VDS). I am currently the Admissions Fellow, Cal Turner Program for Moral Leadership Fellow and the President of the Latinx Seminarians. I also worked at the Office of LGBTQI Life as a graduate student worker and continue to facilitate TGG, an affinity group that provides space and community for students who identify across the Trans spectrum, as well as those questioning. I also serve as a Community Oriented Result and Expectation (CORE) Committee member with the Vanderbilt University Police Department. My area of study and focus at VDS centers the hybridity, multiplicity and spiritual practice of dance as embodied theology.

How did you arrive at Vanderbilt?
I arrived at Vanderbilt as a second career student two years after moving from New York City where I worked as a multi-unit restaurant director in the restaurant/hospitality industry and as a community organizer for fifteen years. I originally moved to Nashville to open Fenwick’s 300. I went onto manage with the Strategic Hospitality group at Pinewood Social. My intention to pursue an MDiv at VDS stemmed from my need to bridge my longtime work in the hospitality industry with social justice organizing by directing my studies towards a theology of radical hospitality.

What do you love about being Latinx?
I love my Latinx diasporic embodiment and how our forms of expressions transgress boundaries collectively. I love being surrounded by Latinx people and taking part in sharing our own diversity in culture and creating spaces where our lived experience transcends monetary value. I found this transformative sense of belonging last summer while taking a class at the Hispanic Summer Program, a program where Latinx students are taught by Latinx Professors and are challenged academically en conjunto y en familia. I also love and extend my deep appreciation to every Latinx person who is working against systemic forms of oppression within institutions that gatekeep and pit us against other Black and Brown peoples.

What does your Latinx identity add to your role here at Vanderbilt?
My Latinx identity is intersectional, and while it exists at the forefront of my being, it actually collapses onto the multiple communities and identities I claim and am a part of. Latinx students are currently 10% of the Vanderbilt community (and growing). *I will use my prophetic voice here* My hope is that when a Latinx cultural center is finally built it will serve as a place where the Latinx Vanderbilt community can take root and further cultivate and navigate en conjunto through all the challenges, obstacles and culture shocks found at Vanderbilt.

What is a fun or interesting fact about you?
I am and will always be a Theater/Film person. I earned my double varsity letter in theater and ComedySportz (an improv comedy troupe) in high school and later transferred to the Los Angeles High School for the Arts to major in theater and film.