

KATIA DESTINE /ket-ya/ /des-teen/

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EDUCATION

- University of Central Florida**
2025 Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies, *Honors in Major*
Mass Media Minor
Thesis: Community Music, Counter-stories, and Social Inequality in Central Florida's Music Spaces.
- 2025 Undergraduate Certificate, Geographic Information Systems
- 2025 Undergraduate Certificate in Diversity Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Culture, Race, Gender, & Class, Social Inequality, Stratification & Mobility, Digital Media, Qualitative, Mixed-Methods, Geospatial Science, Science & Technology Studies

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland, College Park

- 2025-present Research Collaborator, Black Communication and Technology Lab
Automating Black Joy Project, Digital Inquiry, Speculation, Collaboration, and Optimism (DISCO) Network, Led by Dr. Catherine Knight Steele
- 2025-present Graduate Student Research Affiliate, Maryland Population Research Center

University of Central Florida

- 2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow
- 2023–2025 Honors Undergraduate Thesis, Chair: Leah Gaines, Ph.D.
- 2022–2023 Undergraduate Student Researcher in Collaboration with Dr. Sharon Woodill

Other

- 2023 Visiting Scholar, Universidad del Sagrado Corazón, Advisor: Leah Gaines, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Central Florida

- 2024–2025 Multimedia Assistant, Academic Advancement Programs: McNair Scholars Program
- 2024 Summer Research Academy Peer Mentor, Office of Undergraduate Research
- 2022–2024 Student Assistant, Interdisciplinary Studies Academic Advising Office

CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

- 2025 Scientific Writer and Editor Intern, Research Girl, Inc.
- 2020–2022 Multimedia Specialist, The Cultural Reset

2020–2021 Film and Video Editor, Color of Music Collective
 2020–2021 Activism Staff Writer, Unpublished Magazine
 2020–2021 Virtual Content Ambassador, Florida Prosperity Partnership: SponduclicsTV

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts In-Progress

1. **Destine, K.** “How to Buy an Oscar: Hollywood’s racialized currency, symbolic annihilation, and false meritocracy.”*

Non-Refereed Professional Publications

2. **Destine, K.** (2025). Community Music, Counter-stories, and Social Inequality in Central Florida’s Music Spaces. [Undergraduate honors thesis]. *UCF Showcase of Text, Archives, Research & Scholarship*. Honors Undergraduate Theses, 279.
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hut2024/279>
1. **Destine, K.** (2023). Community Music in Puerto Rico: Bomba as a Tool for Community Development. *UCF Showcase of Text, Archives, Research & Scholarship*. High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2023, 4. <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2023fall/4/>

PRESENTATIONS

12. **Destine, K.,** Langa, S., Baez Sola, E., Akineymi, A., Dacas, J., & Tasayco, A. S. (2025, June 6). *Student Perspectives on Interdisciplinary Research and Education* [Panel Discussion]. The 47th Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference, Oulu, Finland.
11. **Destine, K.** (2025, March 26). *Community Music, Counter-stories, and Social Inequality in Central Florida's Music Spaces* [Poster Presentation]. University of Central Florida Student Scholar Symposium, Orlando, FL.
10. **Destine, K.** (2024, November 19). *Community Music, Counter-stories, and Social Inequality in Central Florida's Music Spaces* [Oral Presentation]. 9th Annual International Centre for Community Music (ICCM) Student Research Symposium, England, United Kingdom.
9. **Destine, K.** (2024, October 31). *Community Music, Counter-stories, and Social Inequality in Central Florida's Music Spaces* [Poster Presentation]. Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science National Diversity in STEM Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
8. **Destine, K.** (2024, July 19). *#Oscarssowhite, Race, Gender, and Economic Disparities in Film Recognition* [PosterPresentation]. UCF Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Showcase, Orlando, FL.
7. **Destine, K.** (2024, June 27). *#Oscarssowhite, Race, Gender, and Economic Disparities in Film Recognition* [Oral Presentation]. 31st Annual SAEOPP McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference, Atlanta, GA.
6. **Destine, K.** (2024, April 24). *How to Buy an Oscar: Hollywood's Racialized Currency, Symbolic Annihilation, and False Meritocracy* [Poster Presentation]. College of Undergraduate Studies Showcase, Orlando, FL.
5. **Destine, K.** (2024, April 19). *How to Buy an Oscar: Hollywood's Racialized Currency,*

Symbolic Annihilation, and False Meritocracy [Oral Presentation]. Virtual Undergraduate Research Conference.

4. **Destine, K.** (2024, March 26). *How to Buy an Oscar: Hollywood's Racialized Currency, Symbolic Annihilation, and False Meritocracy* [Poster Presentation]. University of Central Florida Student Scholar Symposium, Orlando, FL.
3. **Destine, K.** (2024, February 17). *How to Buy an Oscar: Hollywood's Racialized Currency, Symbolic Annihilation, and False Meritocracy* [Poster Presentation]. Florida Undergraduate Research Conference, Jacksonville, FL.
2. **Destine, K.** (2023, November 29). *Community Music in Puerto Rico: Bomba as a Tool for Community Development* [Poster Presentation]. Fall 2023 Amy Zeh High Impact Practices Student Showcase, Orlando, FL.
1. **Destine, K.** (2023, October 26). *How to Buy an Oscar: Hollywood's Racialized Currency, Symbolic Annihilation, and False Meritocracy* [Oral Presentation]. 45th Annual Conference of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies, Lubbock, TX.

FELLOWSHIPS & FUNDED RESEARCH

Fellowships & Grants

2026	Automating Black Joy Project Micro-grant, University of Maryland (\$1500)
2025	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$159000)
2024	Ronald E. McNair Summer Research Fellowship (\$1200)
2024	Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, University of Central Florida (\$2000)
2023	Honors Undergraduate Thesis Scholarship, University of Central Florida (\$1000)
2023	Ronald E. McNair Summer Research Fellowship (\$5000)

Conference Travel Awards

2025	Group Award: 47th Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference in Oulu, Finland. " <i>Student Perspectives on Interdisciplinary Research and Education—Panel Discussion.</i> " Departmental funding from the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Central Florida. (\$4000)
2025	Group Award: 47th Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference in Oulu, Finland. Funded by the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies. (\$2000)
2024	Grant: 9th Annual International Centre for Community Music Student Research Symposium in York, England. Combined departmental and university funding the University of Central Florida. (\$1850)
2024	Award: Statistical Training and Research Techniques (STaRT@Rice) Program. Combined funding from Rice University School of Social Sciences and Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program. (\$1250)
2024	Award: Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science National Diversity in STEM Conference. Funded by the National Institute of General Medical Science (1R13GM136129)
2024	Grant: 31st Annual SAEOPP McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference. Funded by Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program.

2023 Award: 45th Annual Association for Interdisciplinary Studies Conference in Lubbock, Texas. Combined departmental and university funding the University of Central Florida. (\$1900)

HONORS & AWARDS

2025 Center for Interdisciplinary Writing and Research, Virtual Undergraduate Research Conference, **Paper Presentation Award (2nd Place)**
 2025 University of Central Florida, **Order of Pegasus Nominee**
 2024 **Princeton Prospective Ph.D. Preview Scholar**
 2024 **Introduction to Graduate Education at Northwestern (I.G.E.N.) Scholar**
 2024 **Brown Doctoral Preview Day Scholar**
 2024 **Emory Laney Graduate School Doctoral Preview Scholar**
 2024 31st Annual SAEOPP McNair/SSS Scholars Research Conference, **Oral Presentation in Social Sciences Award (2nd Place)**
 2024 University of Central Florida, College of Undergraduate Studies Student Showcase, **Presentation Excellence Award**
 2023 University of Central Florida, Amy-Zeh High Impact Practices Student Showcase, **Outstanding Research-Intensive Award**
 2023 University of Central Florida, College of Undergraduate Studies, **Dean's Scholarship for Academic Achievement**

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Editorships and Editorial Boards

2024–2025 Associate Editor, The Pegasus Review: Undergraduate Research Journal
 2022–2025 Assistant Editor, Inside Out: Interdisciplinary Studies Student Journal

Committees, Professional & Campus Service

2025– Undergraduate Committee, Sociology Department, University of Maryland
 2023–2025 Student Undergraduate Research Council, University of Central Florida
 2021–2025 President, UCF Chapter Alpha Iota Sigma Interdisciplinary Studies Honor Society

Community Service & Outreach

2025– Executive Board Member, Blue Trunk Community Network
 2022–2024 Alternative Break Program Coordinator, Office of Community Engagement
 Volunteerism, University of Central Florida
 2019–2021 Volunteer–Lobbyist, Planned Parenthood of Florida

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Research Methods

Software

Stata, R/RStudio, ArcGIS

Certifications

2025–2028 Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), University of Maryland
 2024–2027 Human Subjects Research- Group 2.Social / Behavioral Research Investigators and Key Personnel–CITI Program ID: 61639846
 2024–2027 Conflict of Interest–CITI Program ID: 61639847

Training Programs

- 2025 Computing and Statistical Technology Laboratories in Education (CASTLE) Lab,
 University of Central Florida
- 2024 Statistical Training and Research Techniques Program (START@Rice),
 Rice University School of Social Sciences

Graphic Design & Videography

Photoshop, Premiere Pro, After Effects, Lightroom, InDesign, Final Cut Pro, DaVinci Resolve, Canva

Special Skills

Percussion (*snare, bass, mallets, timpani*)
Haitian Creole

MEMBERSHIPS

Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science
Association for Interdisciplinary Studies
American Sociological Association