

# Florida Housing Coalition SUMMER 2019 INTERNS



## THE TEAM:

CAROLINE KNOWLES

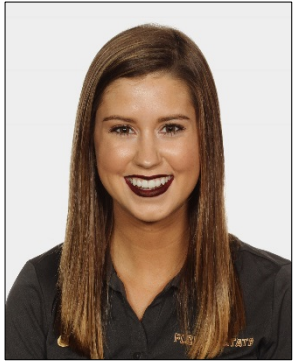
IGNACIO DIAZ

KATE MCMAHON

NOAH FOSSICK

ELAINE IGNACIO

SCOTT WILLIAMS



**Caroline Lucienne Knowles** [clk16b@my.fsu.edu](mailto:clk16b@my.fsu.edu)

**Undergraduate Double Major: International Affairs, Political Science with Concentration in Urban and Regional Planning**

**Undergraduate Certificate in Emergency Management & Homeland Security**

**Tell us about yourself:** Caroline hails from Marietta Georgia. She has two younger brothers,

Drew and Chris. Her 16 year-old brother Drew was adopted from Russia and her parents went through some difficult and amazing lengths to bring him home to the states. Unbeknownst to her mom and dad, a last minute gate change at a Russian airport could have prevented their reaching Drew in time. A kind person informed them of the gate change and guided them to the proper gate before vanishing. When they reached the adoption agency they were able to complete the paperwork just before the agency's computers crashed. No other families were able to bring home children that day. Caroline is very close to Drew and to her baby brother Chris who is almost thirteen. Though she tells me that Chris is a bit sassy! The family also has two Bernese Mountain dogs—both sisters—as well as “Mouse,” a small female mixed breed.

**Goals and future plans?** After receiving her degree from Florida State, Caroline plans on taking a gap year. She will either apply for a Fulbright Scholarship and/or similar programs or teach English abroad. After which, Caroline plans to attend graduate school in urban and regional planning with a focus on transportation planning. Long-term, she would like to work as an international planning consultant or work in a private sector planning firm.

**Strengths and interests?** Caroline used three adjectives to describe herself—organized, articulate and curious. All excellent traits! In addition, Caroline has a strong work ethic—as well as being a full-time student, she has worked for the past two years in retail and currently works as an *Omega Counselor* at Holy Comforter Episcopal School providing assistance and care for children, organizing activities and crafts to stimulate learning. Caroline is proficient in Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

### **Leadership Experience:**

**United Nations Association**, Director of Public Relations - *April 2017 – Present, Tallahassee, FL*

- Manages all social media accounts and develops outreach campaigns with other campus organizations

**Honors Program, Florida State University**, Honors Colloquium Leader - *November 2018 – Present, Tallahassee, FL*

- Teaches freshman Honors students about the resources available on campus pertinent to their success

**Garnet and Gold Guide Program**, Director of Recruitment - *December 2017 – December 2018, Tallahassee, FL*

- Administered and organized the internal process and outside communication for new member selection

**Phi Mu Sorority, Florida State University**, Chaplain, Assistant Ritual Chair - *January 2017 – Present, Tallahassee, FL*

- Planned and executed events to educate sisters about the organizations history and traditions

### **Volunteer Experience:**

**Engage TLH, Florida State University** - *November 2018 – Present*

**Dance Marathon, Florida State University** - *March 2017 and March 2019*

### **Honors/Activities:**

Dean's List, *Fall 2016, Fall 2017*

Presidents List, *Spring 2018, Fall 2018*

Florida State Out of State Tuition Scholarship and Freshman Scholarship

**What made you choose the Florida Housing Coalition?** Caroline is interested in a career in urban planning in order to create happy, healthy communities and because planning “involves making change without political involvement”.



**Ignacio Diaz**  
Saez [ignaciodiazsaez@gmail.com](mailto:ignaciodiazsaez@gmail.com)

**Undergraduate Double Major: International Affairs**  
**Minors: Public Administration, French**

**Tell us about yourself:** Ignacio was born in Venezuela and moved to Broward County FL when he was six. Most of Ignacio's immediate family lives in South Florida but he keeps in touch with family in

Venezuela—particularly his grandmother. Ignacio has a great love for Venezuela and it's culture. Venezuela is a relatively young country having gained independence in the 19th century. In the mid-twentieth century she experienced a great influx of immigrants thus her culture is diverse—Arabic, Polish, Lebanese, German, Spanish. Ignacio reflects that in his heritage—his mom is German and Spanish and his dad is Polish—although it is his mom who is the superb cook when it comes to Polish cuisine! In 2016, Ignacio moved to Tallahassee not only to attend FSU but also to gain career enhancing experience. Nevertheless he goes back to his roots every Sunday as he gathers friends at home and cooks a favorite Venezuelan dish, *Arepas* – made from baked corn flour and stuffed with all kinds of delicious foods such as shredded beef, black beans, fresh cheese etc.

**Goals and future plans?** Ignacio intends to pursue a graduate degree in International Affairs.

**Strengths and interests?** Ignacio's strengths include writing, research, communications, and video editing with a background grounded in advocacy. As for academics, Ignacio's software skills include: Microsoft Office (Power Point, Word, Excel) Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere). In addition, Ignacio is fluent in Spanish, English and has an advanced proficiency in French.

### **Internships:**

**Florida House of Representatives Minority Office, Communications Intern - December 2018 – Present, Tallahassee, FL**

- Contribute 10-15 hours per week assisting the office working with representatives for bills, releases, and events
- Responsible for drafting English and Spanish press releases through social media platforms
- Tasked with following and creating visual social media outreach for the office and representatives

**Florida New Voters Project PIRG, Coalition Intern - September 2018 – November 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Built on campus coalitions for non-partisan voter turnout
- Actively anticipated in 'get out the vote' activities via large public announcements, registration, and phone-banking

**Nuestro Futuro Symposium, Intern - June 2018 – July 2018, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

- Conducted research on topics relating to a large community symposium focused on Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican community
- Managed social media campaign during community symposium

### **Leadership Experience:**

**FSU Campus Democrats, Caucus Chair - October 2017 – May 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Worked with community leaders to organize events and meetings pertaining to political/current events
- Collaborated with other caucus chairs to organize meetings for organization's members
- Worked with organizations in events such as phone banking, canvassing, fundraisers, and rallies

**InternatioNole, President - April 2017 – May 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Worked with other student run organizations in event management
- Managed board and general body members to formulate and execute plans in group environment to enable smooth operations
- Coordinated with parent organization to adjust foreign exchange students to Tallahassee life and facilitate experience

**What made you choose the Florida Housing Coalition?** Ignacio would like to broaden his knowledge of the affordable housing crisis and contribute his knowledge and skills towards solutions.



**Kate McMahon** [kem15b@my.fsu.edu](mailto:kem15b@my.fsu.edu)

**Undergraduate Double Major: International Affairs, Political Science, Creative Writing**

***Tell us about yourself:*** Kate grew up in Stuart Florida along with her two older sisters. One of Kate's sisters is an artist in New Orleans—the other is in medical school. Kate's parents plan on moving to New Orleans in a few years and they visit the city frequently. Family road trips always include their dog, Colleen. Kate interned with the Coalition throughout the Spring and will continue her internship this summer. But first, she'll be travelling to Spain to take the pilgrimage to *Camino de Santiago*—a pilgrimage made famous in the film *The Way*, a 2010 Spanish film starring Martin Sheen. Kate's prepared to travel light, leave behind social media and technology, and focus on the wonderful journey.

***Goals and future plans?*** Kate is currently taking a gap year, and will be working at FSU's London campus before enrolling in master's program to further her studies of international affairs and political science. Her longer-term goal is to work in the NGO/non-profit sector on issues of human and civil rights.

***Strengths and interests?*** Kate has strong leadership, organizational, communication, and research skills. She is a dedicated student—as an undergraduate, Kate wrote a masters level thesis in order to prepare herself for graduate school. Kate has experience with Excel, Word, and PowerPoint.

### ***Leadership Experience:***

**Office of Tulip Siddiq MP, Intern - September 2018 – December 2018, London, United Kingdom**

- Corresponded with constituents and various government agencies on issues related to housing, immigration, crime, and government policy
- Assisted in office management and tours coordination

**Florida State University, Resident Assistant - June 2017 – August 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Oversaw over 45 residents in crisis management, bimonthly programming, and connection with campus resources
- Created, organized, and implemented events for three on-campus residence halls

- Coordinated with staffs of 4-8 on programming, office duties, and crisis response

**World Affairs Program, Florida State University, Model United Nations team member - September 2015 – Present, Tallahassee, FL**

- Competed on traveling team of 12-22 students at multiple national and international Model United Nations conferences

**Study Abroad Program, Florida State University, Research and Studies - September – December 2016, Valencia, Spain**

### ***Research:***

**Honors in the Major Thesis, Florida State University - January 2017 – Present**

- Designed and implemented an independent research project on Irish foreign policy regarding the Spanish Civil War

**Social Sciences Research Assistant, Florida State University - September 2015 – June 2016**

- Collected and analyzed data for a multi-year project regarding the role of money in American politics

### ***Honors/Activities:***

**Phi Beta Kappa, Member, Florida State University Chapter - March 2018**

**Phi Eta Sigma, Peer Academic Leader - May 2017 – June 2017**

**Phi Eta Sigma, Peer Academic Leader - May 2016 – June 2016**

***What made you choose the Florida Housing Coalition?*** During the 2018 Fall semester, Kate "had the opportunity to intern in the office of Tulip Siddiq, MP. In Ms. Siddiq's office I worked on several issues related to housing, which included liaising with government bodies to secure housing for constituents and advising constituents on the best routes to successfully apply for accommodation for themselves and their families. This experience further highlighted to me the importance of housing rights and sparked a desire to see tangible changes made to the current system."



**Noah Fossick** [nf15@my.fsu.edu](mailto:nf15@my.fsu.edu)

**Urban and Regional Planning Graduate Student  
(August 2018 to present)**

***Undergraduate Major: History, Cum Laude  
Minor: French***

***Tell us about yourself:*** Noah is originally from Rochester NY but grew up in Charlotte City—Port Charlotte Florida. The area is primarily a haven for retirees—quiet and not too exciting. As a result, Noah

developed a love for the outdoors as he explored the rivers and woods in and around Port Charlotte. Noah has three older brothers--Noah is known as the quiet, responsible one! The family includes two sweet Dobermans as well. Noah has travelled extensively with his mom--to the Caribbean, throughout Central and South America, Milan, Venice, Rome, Barcelona, Lisbon, Athens. Noah plans on studying in Amsterdam in the spring of 2020.

***Goals and future plans?*** Noah intends to pursue a career in Urban and Regional Planning. His particular interests include transportation planning as well as global community development.

***Strengths and interests?*** When Noah was a child his parents would enjoy family kayaking and whitewater rafting at Letchworth State Park in upstate New York. Noah's interest in the outdoors continues today as he enjoys kayaking on Southwest Florida's Peace River. The Fourth of July Freedom Swim—a 1.5 mile swim from the North to South side of the Peace River--is an event that Noah looks forward to when he goes home on summer break. During fall and spring semesters at FSU, Noah enjoys kayaking at the Florida State University Reservation (the "Rez") located on beautiful Lake Bradford. To relax and leave the stress of studies behind Noah goes for long walks on the Alford Greenway. As for academics, Noah's skills include: *French - Literary Fluency, Intermediate Conversational, Microsoft Office Suite - Proficient with Word, Excel, PowerPoint, SketchUp, Adobe InDesign.*

### ***Leadership Experience:***

**Florida State University Campus Recreation, Sports Official - August 2017 – May 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Greeted and organized sports matches for up to 10 participants in 3 sports.
- Officiated sports matches collaboratively with up to 3 other officials.
- Selected as one of 40 officials from a candidate pool of over 60 persons.

**Florida State University Campus Housing, Volunteer Housing Ambassador - January 2016 – April 2016, Tallahassee, FL**

- Served as an ambassador for the Jennie Murphree Residence Hall at Florida State University.
- Politely greeted visiting prospective students and their families by answering their questions and addressing their concerns towards campus housing.
- Conducted tours of the Residence Hall with groups varying from 2 to over 10 persons.

**Charlotte County Public Libraries, Volunteer Librarian's Assistant - October 2014 – April 2015, Charlotte County, FL**

- Fostered a learning environment for children and youth by creating and hosting a series of free events teaching basic principles in science.
- Aided patrons in researching and finding material based on their individual interests.

### ***Honors/Activities:***

Committee Chair, Florida State University Department of Urban & Regional Planning Student Association

Student Member, American Planning Association Florida Chapter

Student Member, Congress for the New Urbanism Florida Chapter

***What made you choose the Florida Housing Coalition?*** Noah plans to pursue a career in the field of Urban and Regional Planning and an internship with the Coalition is a great step towards achieving his goals.



**Elaine-Mae Ignacio** [esi15@my.fsu.edu](mailto:esi15@my.fsu.edu)

**Undergraduate Double Major: International Affairs, Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, History**

**Tell us about yourself:** Elaine was born in Japan and grew up in Pensacola, Florida. Her Father is in the Navy and Elaine’s parents met when her Dad was stationed in the Philippines. She has two older sisters, as well as an 11-year old rescue cat, and two

rabbits at home. Elaine moved to the states when she was very young but has visited the Philippines. She loves the land and the people of the Philippines, however, Elaine was struck by a lack of urban planning and zoning. As a result, Elaine’s visits to her birthplace have sparked an interest in Urban and Regional Planning.

**Goals and future plans?** Elaine intends to pursue a degree in Urban and Regional Planning.

**Strengths and interests?** Writing and research, and a background grounded in advocacy through education. She has experience with Excel, Word, and PowerPoint. Elaine has advocated for many social issues, including Asian-American representation in the media, the importance of historical context in understanding systemic discrimination, and increased voter engagement with the national nonpartisan organization APIA (Asian Pacific Islander American) Vote.

**Leadership Experience:**

**Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, Student Intern - January 2018 – May 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Processed primary resources surrounding people’s experiences during WWII
- Created finding aids for researchers from these sources
- Served as a research assistant to a doctoral student

**Asian American Student Union, Education Coordinator - May 2017 – May 2018, Florida State University**

- Head of Leadership Exploration and Development (LEAD) committee. Mentored 7 underclassmen through a pseudo-executive board to teach them its functions and goals to facilitate leadership skills

- Collaborate with board members to execute monthly general body meetings, social and cultural events, and banquets; an average of 8 events per semester
- Research and present lectures at least 2 times a semester pertaining to Asian American Pacific Islander issues, history, and culture

**Filipino Student Association, Activities Coordinator - May 2016 – May 2017, Florida State University**

- Designed and organized activities and themes for monthly general body meetings
- Organize and delegate tasks to volunteers for larger per semester cultural events

**Honors/Activities:**

Culligan Scholarship for Study Abroad, *March 2018*

FSU Freshman University Scholarship, *August 2015 – Present*

Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars Award, *August 2015 – Present*

Seminole Torchbearer, *November 2017*

Filipino Student Association Member of the Year, *April 2016*

International Baccalaureate Diploma, *July 2015*

**What made you choose the Florida Housing Coalition?** Elaine has a passion for social issues and “how people interact with and are affected by the spaces they inhabit.” She is impressed with the Coalition’s advocacy work, “particularly with your focus in empowerment through education and resources.”



**Scott Williams** [smw16g@my.fsu.edu](mailto:smw16g@my.fsu.edu)

***Undergraduate Majors: Economics, International Affairs (May 2020)***  
***Focuses, Minors, Certificates: Chinese Language, Russian Language, U.S. Intelligence Studies***

***International School of Beijing (May 2016): High School Diploma, International Baccalaureate Certificate***

***Tell us about yourself:*** Scott grew up in Beijing China with his parents, his older brother and the family schnauzer, *Mira*. His parents were teachers at the *International School of Beijing* throughout Scott's elementary, middle and high school years. The majority of students at the school were American but Canadian, British, Australian, and South Korean students attended as well. No Chinese students were allowed to attend. International students either lived in the 'bubble' of their insular community or ventured outside the bounds. Scott chose the latter course and as a result he is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and very familiar with Chinese culture. As an FSU student, this is Scott's first time living in the United States. Most of the former International School students attend college in the US so Scott is able to keep up with his former classmates very well.

***Goals and future plans?*** Scott intends to pursue a career in economics or finance, either as a consultant or within the federal government.

***Strengths and interests?*** Scott describes himself as detail oriented and focused – two excellent traits for a career in finance. He is also quiet, thoughtful and modest about his accomplishments! Throughout his college years, Scott's public speaking and writing skills have become well developed as a result of his experiences at nationally ranked competitive Model UN conferences. Recently, Scott enjoyed the East Coast Model UN Conference at William and Mary College where he debated global policy and wrote position papers, resolutions and directives. Scott's skills also include: fluency in *Mandarin Chinese* and *Russian*. He is proficient in *Microsoft Office Suite - Word, Excel, and PowerPoint*.

### ***Leadership Experience:***

**College of Social Sciences and Public Policy Student Leadership Council, January 2019 – Present, Tallahassee, FL**

- Work collaboratively with a team and other campus organizations to organize budgeting, catering, and programming for several on- and off-campus academic events

**Regional Training Conference XXVII, Secretary General - May 2018 – September 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Organized a model United Nations conference and managed budgeting, staff, and training for over 150 delegates and staff members from Universities across the Southeast United States

**Florida State University Relay for Life, Relay for Life Team Captain - March 2018 – April 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Directed approximately 30 volunteers to fundraise to raise over \$1,000 in donations for an American Cancer Society charity event

**Florida State University World Affairs Program, September 2016 – Present, Tallahassee, FL**

- Participated in several nationally ranked competitive Model UN conferences
- Developing competent public speaking and oral communication skills

### ***Internship/Work Experience:***

**Florida Senate Democratic Office, Senator Rader, Senate Legislative Intern - January 2018 – March 2018, Tallahassee, FL**

- Tracked appropriations requests and sponsored senate bills, researched pertinent policy positions for legislative aides
- Managed office work, attended committee hearings, and answered and logged phone calls from constituents and managed the Senator's schedule

**Hudson Institute Center for Political Military Analysis, Student Telecommuting Intern - September 2017 – November 2017**

- Conducted research and analysis regarding foreign affairs and U.S. national interests abroad, provided commentary for foreign reporters regarding current events

**DeVoe L. Moore Center, Research Assistant - February 2017 – May 2017, Tallahassee, FL**

- Assisted in sorting through approximately one hundred public records, each approximately between 500 and 2000 pages long to retrieve primary data
- Contributed data, analysis, and cooperated towards a group publication about city zoning regulations and the construction permitting process

### ***Honors/Activities:***

**College of Social Sciences and Public Policy 2019 Social Science Scholar - January 2019 – Present**

Awarded a \$5,000 grant to cover expenses for a summer project, volunteer opportunity, or internship

**Florida State University World Affairs Program Outstanding Delegate - April 2018**

***What made you choose the Florida Housing Coalition?*** Scott is interested in the process of community development and affordable housing as it intersects with public policy and economic factors.