The Brumley Next Generation program continues to be a marquee attraction for both graduate and undergraduate students at UT. We are truly fortunate to have such an amazing array of talented students competing for these positions. The 2020-21 class is, once again, packed with outstanding individuals who are destined for great things. We might not be assembling in person for now, but the program is as robust as ever thanks to them.

ROBERT M. CHESNEY
STRAUSS CENTER DIRECTOR
MEET OUR SPONSORS

JON AND REBECCA BRUMLEY

The Brumley Next Generation Fellows and Scholars programs at the Strauss Center are made possible with the continued support of our benefactors, Jon and Rebecca Brumley of Fort Worth, Texas.

JON BRUMLEY

Jon Brumley has had a distinguished career in the energy business. After earning a BBA from The University of Texas at Austin in 1961, and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, he served in leadership positions at a number of successful oil and gas companies. Throughout his tenure in the energy sector, he has listed eight oil and gas companies, six of which he founded, on the New York Stock Exchange. He co-founded XTO Energy (which established Cross Timbers Royalty Trust) after working almost twenty years in various positions, including President, at Southland Royalty Company. He served as Chairman and CEO of Mesa Petroleum until it merged with Parker & Parsley to form Pioneer Natural Resources Company. Mr. Brumley served as Chairman of Pioneer until co-founding Encore Acquisition Company and Encore Acquisition Partners with his son, Jon S. Brumley. He is currently Chairman and CEO of Bounty Investments.

Mr. Brumley’s recent accomplishments include a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Texas at Austin, induction into the Petroleum Hall of Fame and, with his son, recognition as Forbes magazine’s 2005 “Entrepreneur of the Year”. Due to his commitment to public education, Governor Mark White appointed him Chairman of the Texas State Board of Education. In addition to education, Mr. Brumley has been involved in a multitude of philanthropic endeavors; most importantly, improving resources at children’s hospitals in Texas.

REBECCA BRUMLEY

Rebecca Brumley is an alumna of the University of Texas at Austin, having received a master’s degree at UT. She obtained a bachelor’s degree from Baylor University. Throughout her career, she has been a leader and advocate for children and youth in education, children’s protective services, and the juvenile justice system. She has served as superintendent of the Waco State Home, a Texas Youth Commission facility; vice-chairman of the Texas State Board of Education; vice-chairman of the Texas Council of Child Welfare Board; on the United Way of Texas Executive Board; vice-chairman of Paul Quinn College Board of Trustees, and part of the Texas Health and Human Services Coordinating Council.

In 1991, Mrs. Brumley and her husband established the Red Oak Foundation in Fort Worth, Texas. She serves as its Executive Director. The Foundation encourages reading to young children through programs in non-profit agencies and pediatric clinics, and also provides scholarships to prospective teachers. Currently, Red Oak Books has given over 585,000 new, hardcover books to disadvantaged families.
The Brumley Next Generation Fellowship program at the Strauss Center provides research, training, and mentorship opportunities to exceptional undergraduate and graduate students at The University of Texas at Austin. Involving students in international affairs early in their career is an important part of the Strauss Center’s mission of preparing the next generation of leaders to develop solutions to the most pressing public policy challenges.

Now in its sixth year, the Strauss Center’s Brumley Next Generation Fellows program is an exciting opportunity open to graduate and Ph.D. students from any program at UT who share our interest in international affairs and who wish to participate more directly in the intellectual life of the Strauss Center.

This fellowship involves three key components:

Fellows are paired with a Distinguished Scholar at the Strauss Center to provide mentorship and help guide the Fellows as they conduct research relevant to their degree. This culminates in a final project which could be a scholarly article, data set, presentation, etc.

Maintain a deep level of engagement with the Strauss Center throughout the year, attending conferences and events. Each Fellow is given an opportunity to select an individual from the world of policy or academia, whom they view as an important figure in their prospective field, for a public talk that is then hosted by that student.

Attend and participate in the Strauss Center’s monthly colloquia, during which Fellows have the opportunity to discuss both substantive issues and career development in a private setting with visiting guest speakers.
Launched in 2010, the Next Generation Scholars program’s goal is to provide research and mentorship opportunities for promising UT undergraduate students interested in national security and law. The program includes a focus on civic engagement, expanding its reach by engaging students on a wider range of local, national, and international policy issues. The Scholars program for 2020-21 is being led again by Dr. Michael Mosser and Dr. Stephanie Holmsten.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: NEXT GENERATION SCHOLARS

This one-year program has two requirements:

Students take a 3-credit research training and professional development course in the fall semester. This course is designed to introduce students to policy work, including basic skills in policy research, analysis, and writing. Training includes designing research strategies and proposals, conducting policy analysis, writing resumes and statements of purpose, crafting op-eds and blog posts, and planning for next steps in their career development.

Students work closely in the spring semester with the program’s faculty on a collaborative policy research project to further enhance their analytical abilities.
Julia Bordelon is a second-year M.A. student in the Department of Geography and the Environment. She received her B.A. in Geography and Spanish from Rutgers University, where she studied the geospatial dimensions of political violence in Argentina, and subsequently worked in urban planning before returning to academia. Her current research explores the discursive construction of the U.S.-Mexico border. This work analyzes how border security is framed, and what different border securities might look like, through representations of the border in social media and public communications by the U.S. Border Patrol and several immigrant activist groups.

Fun fact: She worked as an urban planner in NJ after college.

Dream job: Policy analyst or chef

Hometown: Fair Haven, New Jersey

Major: M.A. candidate, Department of Geography and Environment

Program: Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative

Mentor: Stephanie Leutert - Director, Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative

JULIA BORDELON
Jaime Cabrera is a second-year Master of Global Policy student at the LBJ School of Public Affairs where he specializes in internet governance. He graduated with a B.A. in International Business from Tec de Monterrey in Mexico. He has worked for the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the World Trade Organization as an assistant to the Delegate on Trade Facilitation and at the Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo, Texas, as the Press and Legal Affairs Coordinator. He serves on the LBJ School's Graduate Council of Public Affairs' Executive Committee as the Financial Director for the 20–21 academic year. Jaime is particularly interested in the collaboration of private and public sectors for the global public interest and how technology can lead to better forms of governance.

Hometown: Monterrey, México
Major: Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Program: Cybersecurity and Disinformation
Mentor: Bryan Jones - Adjunct Professor, UT School of Law
Dream job: Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution at the World Economic Forum
Fun fact: His favorite souvenirs when he travels are museum tickets and public transport receipts.

Caroline Elyse Burks is a third-year student with The University of Texas School of Law, pursuing her J.D., specializing in cybersecurity and national security-adjacent law and policy. Caroline has (soon to be released) publications in the American University National Security Law Brief and the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence. Caroline has worked as an intern for the Department of Justice at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Dallas and at a patent litigation firm. Prior to law school, Caroline worked in the role playing games industry as an event manager. Upon completion of her studies, Caroline intends to practice law and hopes to make a career in patent litigation, cybersecurity, and privacy law.

Hometown: Ferndale, Michigan
Major: J.D. candidate, School of Law
Program: Cybersecurity
Mentor: Dr. Edwin Dorn - Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Dream job: National Security Policy Advisor (Legal) or AUSA
Fun fact: She builds giant lego building sets (like the Hogwarts castle) in her free time.

Jaime Cabrera is a second-year Master of Global Policy student at the LBJ School of Public Affairs where he specializes in internet governance. He graduated with a B.A. in International Business from Tec de Monterrey in Mexico. He has worked for the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the World Trade Organization as an assistant to the Delegate on Trade Facilitation and at the Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo, Texas, as the Press and Legal Affairs Coordinator. He serves on the LBJ School's Graduate Council of Public Affairs' Executive Committee as the Financial Director for the 20–21 academic year. Jaime is particularly interested in the collaboration of private and public sectors for the global public interest and how technology can lead to better forms of governance.

Hometown: Monterrey, México
Major: Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs
Program: Cybersecurity and Disinformation
Mentor: Bryan Jones - Adjunct Professor, UT School of Law
Dream job: Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution at the World Economic Forum
Fun fact: His favorite souvenirs when he travels are museum tickets and public transport receipts.
Gabriel Cortez graduated from Northern Arizona University with a bachelor’s degree in Public Administration with summa cum laude honors. As a Charles B. Rangel Fellow with the U.S. State Department, Gabriel will join the Foreign Service after completing his Master’s in Global Policy Studies at the LBJ School. Gabriel has an extensive history with the U.S. federal government, working and interning with different offices and agencies such as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Department of Health, and U.S. Department of State at its General Consulate in Milan, Italy. He has lived abroad in several countries, including Japan and Italy, and served in the Peace Corps in Ukraine for three years as a Volunteer Leader.

Alyssa Goessler is a second-year graduate student pursuing dual master’s degrees in Global Policy and Middle Eastern Studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Prior to joining the UT community, Alyssa worked in foreign policy in New York City—first, at the Mission of Jordan to the United Nations, and then in the Executive Office of the Council on Foreign Relations. Alyssa’s research aims to increase transparency, predictability, and accountability in space by employing natural language processing to better understand Arab state behaviors in space. This research could help decrease the likelihood of conflict and aid in the creation of international norms by providing further clarity on the motivations of MENA nation-states in space.
Marigny Kirschke-Schwartz is a second-year Master of Global Policy Studies candidate at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Peace, War, and Defense and a minor in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill. Her current research examines the efficacy of counterterrorism policy and reforms in the U.S. Intelligence Community, with broad interests in covert action and national security. She is spending the summer of 2020 working as a Research Associate for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, focusing on terrorism and nuclear nonproliferation policy. Upon completion of her degree, Marigny plans to pursue a career in public service.

Brianna Kablack is a Master of Global Policy Studies candidate at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. She specializes in Security, Law, and Diplomacy with interests in Middle East security and domestic terrorism. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from The George Washington University, Brianna analyzed Russian and Chinese economic warfare strategies before spending a year teaching English in Thailand. Brianna is passionate about addressing emerging threats holistically and hopes to advance U.S. foreign policy that aligns immediate security interests with long-term international development.
Raven Langhorne is a second-year dual-degree master’s student at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the Jackson School of Geosciences. She is interested in studying the food, water, and energy nexus as it pertains to international development and security. She is spending the summer of 2020 as a research intern for Glimmer of Hope, an international development organization. Her research will focus on improving irrigation structures and water access for communities in Ethiopia. Upon completion of her degree, Raven hopes to work for a non-profit outside the United States focused on international security and development.

Matthew Orr is a third-year student pursuing dual master’s degrees in Global Policy Studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs and Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He received his B.A. in Russian language and literature and lived in Russia for three years before graduate school, including a year teaching English through the Fulbright program. His interests include democratization in the former Soviet Union, US-Russian relations, energy geopolitics, and contemporary Russian literature. He is a co-host of the “Slavic Connexion” podcast.
Jonathan Roberts is a second-year Master of Global Policy Studies candidate at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Prior to attending the LBJ School, Jonathan worked in the Texas House of Representatives and earned his B.A. in Asian Studies, Government, and International Relations from UT Austin. His Brumley research will be at the intersection of human rights and U.S. strategy in East Asia. Upon graduation, Jonathan hopes to go into public service and continue to fuel his immense curiosity of the world.

Nimrah Siddiqui is a second-year student in the Master of Public Affairs program at the LBJ School. Her primary interests lie in finance and economic development with a particular interest in public healthcare systems and welfare programs. Her secondary interest lies in natural resource and agriculture policy. Nimrah received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Wellesley College, as well as a previous Master’s degree in Middle Eastern Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies in the United Kingdom. Immediately prior to entering the LBJ School, she was actively involved in the non-profit sector in the Houston area, which included developing programming for non-profits in the education and public arts space.
Leke Akinola is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin where he also received his master’s degree. Leke received his B.S. in Electronic and Computer Engineering at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria and has gained experiences spanning various fields of electrical engineering including solid-state electronics, computer networking and security, telecommunications, embedded systems, robotics and image processing. He is working on synthesizing new 2-dimensional magnetic materials for electronic applications and developing nanomagnetic devices for neuromorphic computing architecture. Ultimately, he aspires to be a research and development engineering scientist, social entrepreneur and innovator.

Fei Guo is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in the history department. He specializes in Modern China and East Asia. He is broadly interested in digital humanities, economic history, state-building, nation-state systems, geo-politics, and development. His current research focuses on China in the early 1950s. Upon completion of his doctoral studies, Fei plans to be a professional academic and hopes to continue to bridge the gap between academic research and public policy.
Claire Huitt is a joint degree student pursuing her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law and her Masters in Global Policy Studies from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Claire graduated from Southern Methodist University in 2017 with her B.A. in economics, political science, and public policy. She holds a Graduate Portfolio in Security Studies from the Clements Center for National Security. Claire has interned with the Department of State at U.S. Embassy Tokyo and the Department of Justice with the Office of International Affairs’ team for Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Following graduation in May 2021, Claire will be joining the global law firm Norton Rose Fulbright as an associate in the firm’s Washington D.C. office.

Willy Vasquez is entering the fourth year of his Ph.D. program in Electrical and Computer Engineering. His research is at the intersection of cryptography and systems security, designing provably secure systems based on advanced cryptographic primitives. Upon completion of his Ph.D., he plans to pursue a position in academia and transition his research into a startup.

Fun fact: In college, she spent a few weeks on an archeology study in Israel. At one excavation site, she recovered an intact Roman-era pot, which they unfortunately did not let her keep.

Fun fact: He can whistle like a bird.
Temilolu Ajibola is a rising junior majoring in International Relations and Global Studies and Government with a minor in French Studies. Her academic interests lie in critiquing foreign policies in African development and female security, which she hopes to incorporate into her policy research. Temi is a part of the Feminist Geography Collective where she has researched the effects of foreign militarization and women's security in Northern Nigeria. Continuing her passion for research, she has served as the Publicity Director for the Capital of Texas Undergraduate Research Conference where she and other UT students coordinated a statewide undergrad research competition. Temi is also involved in Haven Students, International Relations and Global Studies Council, and the Texas Undergraduate Research Journal.

Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri

Major: International Relations and Global Studies, Government

Dream job: Policy Analyst and eventually become a professor

Fun fact: She's played the piano for 11 years.

| TEMILOLU AJIBOLA |
Sophie Dunn is a rising junior with a double major in Middle Eastern Studies as well as International Relations and Global Studies, with a specialization in International Security. She is going into her third semester of Arabic and plans to pursue fluency in order to utilize her language in a research-oriented career. She is on the Professional Development Committee of the student-run International Relations and Global Studies Council, an organization focused on connecting students to the many opportunities International Relations majors are afforded at UT. Sophie also is a coxswain on the UT Women's Rowing Team and has been coxing since freshman year of high school. As a coxswain, her job is to help manage the team and promote a cohesive team environment. She plans to pursue a career in policy research and is interested in state fragility in the Middle East.

Bryce Blackwell is a rising senior studying the confluence of business, engineering, and design through majors in Science & Technology Management and Plan II Honors with a minor in Entrepreneurship. Bryce studied nanotechnology and innovation while abroad in Tokyo, and passionately tracks emerging tech trends as a member of the Technology Business Fellows program. He is also a member of Texas Convergent, where he works with his peers to complete interdisciplinary projects in business and computer science. Bryce has interned at Shiftsmart and Double A Labs – two companies leveraging technology to enhance how people work and communicate. In addition, Bryce serves as the Director of Business Operations for the Texas Rocket Engineering Lab (TREL). At TREL, he is helping launch the first collegiate bipropellant rocket to the edge of space by 2021.

Fun fact: He loves to kiteboard, mountain bike, and row whenever he can.
Jared Hrebenar is a rising senior majoring in International Relations and Global Studies, Economics, Government, and Chinese. He is also pursuing a certificate in Core Texts and Ideas through the Jefferson Scholars Program. Jared is actively involved in UT’s Model United Nations program, having participated in the UT conference since high school and is currently serving as the organization’s 27th Secretary-General. He also serves on both the executive boards of the International Relations and Global Studies Council and the directorate of the Chicago International Model UN Conference. Outside of academics, Jared has worked as a Communications Director in the Texas Legislature, and as the Digital Director for the 2018 Democratic Lt. Governor’s campaign. Jared hopes to one day attend graduate school and lead a career in academia.
Madison Lockett is a rising senior at UT Austin, studying International Relations and Global Studies and Government. Lockett’s studies focus on international security, with a particular interest in the intersection of technical capabilities and traditional diplomacy, warfare, and security. She intends to explore this topic in depth as a Brumley Scholar. In her time at UT, Madison participated in the Fall 2019 Archer Fellowship, and has been a Clements Center Undergraduate Fellow for three years. She also joined the Clements Center in London to study world order and the “Special Relationship” between the U.S. and U.K. Additionally, Madison spent a summer in a Spanish immersion program, and has continued her language education by studying Turkish.

Avery Leake is a rising senior at UT Austin, studying Mathematics and Plan II Honors. Throughout his UT career, Avery has been interested in the application of A.I. and financial technology to international relations and public policy. He has been an Undergraduate Fellow with the Clements Center for National Security since 2018 and attended the 2019 Clements Center Maymester at King’s College London studying the U.S., the U.K., and world order. During his sophomore year, he was an Applied Geopolitics Fellow at Stratfor working on geopolitical forecasting and analysis alongside their science and technology analysts. Currently, he’s interning with Hypergiant Industries as an Ethics in AI Research Intern. He works on developing and analyzing AI ethics strategies and conducting research on global AI policy.
Mayson OBrien is a rising senior studying International Relations and Global Studies with a specialization in European and Environmental Studies. Her research interests center on global environmental policy and environmental issues of distribution. She is particularly passionate about critically assessing the ways in which certain environmental policies disadvantage marginalized groups. In 2019, Mayson conducted research on various forms of environmental policy and the potential for their application in democracies, which was published in the *Yale Review of International Studies*. Mayson hopes to pursue a career in public service in order to help ensure that environmental policies benefit society in equitable ways. In order to achieve this goal, she plans to attend law school after her undergraduate studies and specialize in international environmental law.

Colin Phillips is a rising senior at UT Austin, majoring in Electrical & Computer Engineering Honors and Mathematics. During the winter of 2019, Colin traveled to Israel as a Data Science and Machine Learning fellow through NYU, where he studied state-of-the-art A.I. technologies and their applications across industries. This sparked a fascination with the ethical and legal implications of defense technologies and their regulation in military applications, which he will explore as a Brumley Scholar. On campus, Colin is involved with Projects with Underserved Communities, where he acts as the Project Manager of a team designing, funding, and constructing a multipurpose community center in Andhra Pradesh, India. He’s also a Product Manager of the Texas Product Engineering Organization, a player on the UT Water Polo Club Team, and a member of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society.
William Wallock is a rising junior pursuing degrees in both Plan II Honors and Quantitative Finance. He is also a student of the Jefferson Scholar Program where he is earning a certificate in Core Texts and Ideas. He hopes to devote his professional career to working in the intersection between climate security and international law. He is acutely interested in the ways that the changing environment will influence the world’s political and social order. Before beginning undergrad, William spent a year in Israel where he worked as an EMT with Magen David Adom and studied the geopolitics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Since his time in Israel, he has devoted his professional time to working in the realm of environmental policy and law. He worked as a case clerk at Lloyd Gosselink with the water and energy practice group.

Janae Steggall is a rising junior pursuing a degree in International Relations and Global Studies, a minor in History, and a Security Studies certificate. Janae is the incoming President of TX Votes, an award-winning nonpartisan civic engagement organization that devotes itself to registering, educating, and encouraging students and faculty to participate in democracy. She is the outgoing Chair of the Civic Engagement Alliance, a collection of organizations working toward greater civic engagement, especially for groups that vote at historically low rates. As a Dedman Distinguished Scholar, she has gained mentorship and support from the Dedman family to delve into and explore her passions. Through the Normandy Scholars Program at UT, Janae has enhanced her ability to analyze history and the ethics of modern-day commemoration efforts.

William Wallock

Hometown: Austin, Texas

Major: Quantitative Finance, Plan II Honors

Dream job: Senior Fellow at CSIS

Fun fact: He worked as an EMT in Tel Aviv.

Janae Steggall

Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas

Major: International Relations and Global Studies

Dream job: Foreign Service Officer (Consular, Political, or Public Diplomacy)

Fun fact: She’s learning how to cross-stitch in her free time!