

The University of Texas at Austin



FALL 2022 - SPRING 2023

**BRUMLEY NEXT GENERATION  
FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS**

“ The Brumley Undergraduate Scholars and Graduate Fellows programs are flagship initiatives for the Strauss Center. The energy and talent of the 2022-23 classes are extraordinary and represent our university at its best. The Strauss Center is excited to support this year’s Brumley students as they launch their intellectual and professional journeys—we’re confident that these future leaders will make important contributions to our nation and the world.

”

**ADAM KLEIN**  
**STRAUSS CENTER DIRECTOR**



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# JON AND REBECCA BRUMLEY

The Brumley Next Generation Fellows and Scholars programs at the Strauss Center could not be possible without the continued support of our longtime 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

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.

### GRADUATE STUDENTS: NEXT GENERATION FELLOWS

Now in its eighth 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 in their prospective field for a public talk that they then host.



Attend and participate in the Strauss Center's Fellows colloquia, during which Fellows have the opportunity to discuss both substantive issues and career development in a private setting with visiting guest speakers.



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: NEXT GENERATION SCHOLARS

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 2022-23 is being led again by Dr. Michael Mosser and Dr. Stephanie Holmsten.



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. They also take a trip to D.C. to meet with policy experts and put some of their skills into practice.

# BRUMLEY NEXT GENERATION GRADUATE FELLOWS



John-Patrick (JP) Akinyemi is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Information, Risk, and Operations Management at the McCombs School of Business. JP received his B.Sc. in Business Information Systems at the University of Texas - Arlington. Before embarking on his journey as a doctoral student, JP worked as an IT Business Analyst in the Supply and Commodity Training industry, living in London and Houston, spending his off-time coordinating STEM events for Houston middle and high school students. At the McCombs School, JP focuses on interdisciplinary study of artificial intelligence, particularly around climate misinformation and harms such as bias, privacy, and cybersecurity.



Hometown: Leiden, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands



Major: Ph.D. candidate in Information, Risk, and Operations Management, McCombs School of Business



Program: Artificial Intelligence



Mentor: Chinmayi "Chinny" Sharma - Scholar in Residence, Strauss Center



Dream job: Professor



Fun fact: He enjoys watching French and Spanish speaking shows on Netflix in an attempt to improve his skills in those languages.

## JOHN-PATRICK AKINYEMI

# DANIELA GARCIA

Hometown: Progreso, Texas



Major: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative



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



Dream job: Writer



Fun fact: She was literally almost born at the U.S.-Mexico border.



Daniela Garcia is a second-year Master of Global Policy Studies student at the LBJ School. She graduated from UT Austin with a degree in International Relations and Global Studies, specializing in International Political Economy and Latin American Studies. At the LBJ School, Daniela focuses on migration policy, researching migration flow responses through an abolitionist perspective and the psychological experience of migration.

Parham Gohari is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department within the Cockrell School of Engineering. Parham spent the early stages of his Ph.D. studying the mathematical aspects of how machine learning algorithms process data. In 2021, Parham became a Strauss Center Cybersecurity Fellow, intending to better familiarize himself with the legal and public policy perspectives overlapping with his technical research. In his work at the Cockrell School, Parham is leveraging his technical experience in data privacy and machine learning with his knowledge of the legal and policy outlook for these disciplines to help bridge the gap between the two to find unique solutions to data privacy issues.

Hometown: Tehran, Iran



Major: Ph.D. candidate in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Cockrell School of Engineering



Program: Artificial Intelligence



Mentor: Bart Huffman - Cybersecurity Fellow, Strauss Center



Dream jobs: Data Protection Officer at Google, Meta, or Apple; Commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission Agency



Fun fact: He loves playing piano!



# PARHAM GOHARI

# KATHLEEN HILLERY



Hometown: Stratham, New Hampshire



Major: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: State Fragility



Mentor: Ashley Moran - State Fragility Director, Strauss Center



Dream job: Any job that will help me effect real, positive change in the world



Fun fact: Her hometown is one of two Strathams on the planet. The other is in Australia.

Kathleen Hillery is a second-year Master of Global Policy Studies student at the LBJ School. She graduated from Gettysburg College in 2012 with a B.S. in Chemistry, then worked in biomedical research and development before joining the U.S. Navy in 2014. Her time in the Navy, particularly her tour in the Mediterranean Sea from 2015-2017, influenced her professional interests in the nexus between negative climate-based outcomes, regional instability, and human migrant flows. At the LBJ School, her research aims to demonstrate the connection between climate change and national/international security, particularly as they pertain to migration.

David Johnson is a second-year Master of Global Policy student at the LBJ School. He earned his undergraduate degree in International Studies from Texas A&M University – College Station, then began a career working for an oilfield service company. In this role, he spent five years as a field service technician in the Middle East, then as a service manager for India and Bangladesh. At the LBJ School, David studies Arabic, the Middle East, energy policy, and national security. As a Brumley fellow, David will study the geopolitics of the energy transition and how the changing energy landscape will affect U.S. policy toward Arabic geopolitical partners.



Hometown: Waco, Texas



Major: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Intelligence Studies Project



Mentor: J. Paul Pope - Senior Fellow, Intelligence Studies Project



Dream job: US Foreign Service



Fun fact: His high school's chapter of the FFA (Future Farmers of America) hosted a game of donkey basketball as a fundraiser.

# DAVID JOHNSON

# ESTHER KO

Hometown: Arlington, Virginia



Major: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Asia Policy Program



Mentor: Dr. Sheena Greitens - Director, Asia Policy Program



Dream job: Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs



Fun fact: She knows how to play seven instruments: violin, viola, tuba, piano, flute, guitar, and bass guitar.



Esther Ko is a second-year Master of Global Policy Studies student at the LBJ School, where she specializes in national security and nuclear nonproliferation policy. Before attending the LBJ School, Esther earned her B.A. in International Relations and Global Studies from UT Austin, focusing on international security and Latin American studies. Esther has conducted research on North Korea's nuclear and conventional military capabilities, as well as the "Gold Standard" in U.S. nuclear trade agreements.

Kevin Lentz is a second-year dual Master of Global Policy Studies and Asian Studies student. He holds a B.A. with honors in Philosophy from Southwestern University and a Master of Political Economy from the University of Sydney. At UT, his research focus is Chinese state-backed disinformation and the Chinese Communist Party's operational concepts of information warfare. After graduation, Kevin hopes to work in national security, with specific regional interest in the Indo-Pacific.

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas



Major: M.A. candidate in Asian Studies, College of Liberal Arts; M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Asia Policy Program



Mentor: Dr. Rhonda Evans - Director, Edward A. Clark Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies



Dream job: Political Economy and Security Analyst, Indo-Pacific



Fun fact: He used to be a cook at a renowned Austin restaurant; he has a cameo in a Munchies documentary about it.



# KEVIN LENTZ

# IGOR MAGALHÃES



Hometown: Belo Horizonte, Brazil and Houston, Texas



Major: J.D. candidate, School of Law; M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative



Mentor: Timothy Langford - Former National Intelligence Officer for the Western Hemisphere, Office of the Director of National Intelligence



Dream job: Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations



Fun fact: He's a Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Igor Magalhães is a J.D. and Master of Global Policy Studies dual degree candidate with the UT School of Law and LBJ School of Public Affairs. Igor earned a B.A. with honors in Government and a B.A. with honors in History from UT Austin in 2019, during which time he also served as a Clements Center National Security Undergraduate Fellow. With a regional focus in Latin America, Igor's primary research interests are transnational organized crime, international corruption, irregular migration, and great power competition.

Thomas McAuley is a second-year student pursuing a J.D. from the UT School of Law and a Master of Public Affairs from the LBJ School. He received a B.A. in Economics from Georgetown University, where he commissioned as a U.S. Army officer through the Reserve Officer Training Corps. After graduation, he served on active duty for four years, with his final assignment, overseeing new Army technologies before their adoption, sparking his interest in studying how technology drives changes in security policy. His research at UT Austin focuses on cyberspace and transnational crime.



Hometown: Houston, Texas



Major: J.D. candidate, School of Law; M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Technology, Security, and Global Affairs



Mentor: Bryan Jones - Cybersecurity Fellow, Strauss Center



Dream job: FBI Special Agent and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney



Fun fact: He used to live in South Korea.

# THOMAS MCAULEY

# CAMERON POURSOLTAN

Hometown: Houston, Texas



Major: M.A. candidate in Public Affairs, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Technology, Security, and Global Affairs



Mentor: Adam Klein - Director, Technology, Security, and Global Affairs, Strauss Center



Dream job: Tech policy advisor



Fun fact: He had Houston Rockets season tickets in the nosebleed section as an 11th grader, and went to roughly 40 home games in one season.



Cameron Poursoltan is a second-year Master of Public Affairs student at the LBJ School. He graduated summa cum laude in 2015 from Texas A&M University-College Station with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics. Currently, Cameron is State

Policy Director for Congressman Michael McCaul, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, after serving in a variety of roles on the Hill over the last seven years. Cameron is interested in learning how the U.S. can maintain international leadership in critical technologies such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and advanced semiconductors. He plans to conduct research on how to bolster U.S. research and development, manufacturing, and production of these essential tools.

Maureen Rendon is a second-year Master of Global Policy Studies student at the LBJ School. Prior to joining the LBJ School, she graduated with a double major in Music and Political Science from Southwestern University. Maureen was born in Laredo, Texas, and grew up in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Growing up in a town where violence became normalized, she felt the need to address the root causes of violence through policymaking. At the LBJ School, Maureen is specializing in International Development, with a focus on transnational organized crime and human smuggling. Her studies have helped her develop proficiency in policy analysis, development, and finding creative solutions.

Hometown: Laredo, Texas and Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico



Major: M.A. in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative



Mentor: Dr. Kenneth Greene - Associate Professor, Department of Government



Dream job: Director of a department within the Organization of American States



Fun fact: She has performed piano in Carnegie Hall in NYC!



# MAUREEN RENDON

# LIZ WONG



Liz Wong is a second-year Master of Global Policy Studies student at the LBJ School. After graduating cum laude from the Honors College at the University of Mississippi with a dual degree in International Studies and Chinese in 2018, Liz moved to China to complete her Chinese Language Flagship Certificate. In recent years, Liz has worked as a digital marketer on both sides of the Great Firewall and brings her varied expertise in SEO, marketing, and linguistics to UT Austin. Currently, Liz is a GRA and Team Lead at the Global (Dis) Information Lab for Project Barn Owl, combining open-source intelligence techniques, her trilingual research abilities, and novel data collection strategies to investigate coordinated inauthentic activities.



Hometown: Knoxville, Tennessee



Major: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Program: Intelligence Studies Project



Mentor: Steve Slick - Director, Intelligence Studies Project



Dream job: Disinformation Researcher or Policy Analyst



Fun fact: She has won multiple headstand competitions.

Fei Guo is a Ph.D. candidate in History in the College of Liberal Arts. He specializes in Modern China and East Asia, with a specific interest in state power, development, and computational methods. His dissertation focuses on political movements and violence in China during the 1940s and 1950s. He is currently also working on digital history projects that aim to apply NLP methods in historical research.



Hometown: Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, P.R. China



Major: Ph.D. candidate, History Department



Dream job: Teacher



Fun fact: He really loves the Mongolian hotpot.

# FEI GUO

BRUMLEY SENIOR FELLOW

BRUMLEY SENIOR FELLOW

TAYLOR HAM

Hometown: Wills Point, Texas



Major: M.A. candidate, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasia Studies



Dream job: National Security Advisor



Fun fact: Her family has a bearded dragon named Berry as a pet.



Taylor Ham is a second-year M.A. student at the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Prior to her work in this program, Taylor earned her Master of Global Policy Studies from the LBJ School, where she focused on national

security, counterterrorism, and intelligence. Taylor is specifically interested in studying Russian foreign policy in the Middle East, particularly in the use of private military companies (PMCs) in ongoing conflicts, intelligence operations, and asymmetric warfare. Additionally, Taylor studies narrative construction and disinformation in Russian domestic media around PMCs and their operations in Africa.

Siyun Jiang is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Government, while also pursuing an M.A. in Statistics from the Department of Statistics and Data Science. She broadly studies political economy and judicial politics, conducting analyses with quantitative and computational methods. Using millions of judgments and course records, her dissertation studies state-society relations in authoritarian regimes and judicial reforms in China. Her research has received generous support from The Texas Politics Project and the Ward Fellowship. Before joining UT, she lived in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Thailand, earning a M.Phil. in Social Science from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Hometown: Hangzhou, China



Major: Ph.D. candidate, Department of Government; M.A. candidate in Statistics, Department of Statistics and Data Science



Dream job: Professor



Fun fact: She once wrote her master thesis on an overnight bus from Vilnius to Warsaw.



SIYUN JIANG

BRUMLEY SENIOR FELLOW

## BRUMLEY SENIOR FELLOW

# ELOY OLIVEIRA



Hometown: Belo Horizonte, Brazil



Major: Ph.D. candidate, LBJ School of Public Affairs



Dream job: President of the Brazilian National Academy of Public Administration



Fun fact: He built his own classical guitar.

Eloy Oliveira is a Ph.D. candidate at the LBJ School. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Law degree from Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Brazil. Before joining the LBJ School, Eloy led Republica.org, a Brazilian think-and-do-tank focused on using data to improve the motivation, responsiveness, and effectiveness of people working in government in Brazil. Prior to Republica.org, Eloy was engaged in public service, working at the Minas Gerais State Government in Brazil, where he led projects related to Public-Private Partnerships.

## BRUMLEY NEXT GENERATION UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS



# RAGHAV AGGARWAL

Hometown: Sugar Land, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies; Economics; Asian Studies



Dream job: United States Ambassador



Fun fact: He hopes to visit the Mongolian countryside once in his lifetime.



Raghav Aggarwal is a rising junior triple-majoring in International Relations & Global Studies, Economics, and Asian Studies, with a specialization in international security. Throughout his time at UT, he has developed his interest

in political and social interactions between China, India, and the United States, from historical and contemporary perspectives. As a Brumley Scholar, Raghav plans to research policies that can help improve India-U.S. relations, especially in the realm of security. After graduation, he hopes to attend graduate school for security studies, later embarking on a career of furthering U.S. engagement in the Asia Pacific.

Julian Alin is a junior, double majoring in International Relations and Global Studies as well as Economics, with concentrations in International Security and the Middle East. Additionally, Julian has a minor in Arabic and certificate in Core Texts and Ideas. Outside of class, Julian has conducted research with Innovations for Peace and Development, along with UT's Global (Dis) Information Lab, is an Undergraduate Fellow with the Clements Center for National Security, an Arabic Flagship Program scholar, and a Foreign Language and Area Studies award recipient. His research in the past has focused on territorial control and armed conflict in Afghanistan, as well as analysis of potential security threats to inform appropriate policy recommendations.

Hometown: Austin, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies; Economics



Dream job: Bringing peace to the Middle East



Fun fact: He is a professional sax player.



# JULIAN ALIN

# ANGELINA BRAESE



Hometown: Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Major: International Relations; Government; European Studies



Dream job: Ambassador to Montenegro or Croatia



Fun fact: She's lived on four continents!

Angelina Braese is a rising junior majoring in International Relations, Government, and European Studies. A native of Bosnia & Herzegovina, Angelina's academic interests center primarily on the ethnopolitics of the Western Balkans, E.U. public policy, and U.S.-NATO relations. Recently named a National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholar, Angelina hopes to utilize her current study abroad in Zagreb to develop fluency in Croatian, informing future work as a public servant focused on bilateral relations between the U.S. government and countries of the former Yugoslavia.

Recently named a National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholar, Angelina hopes to utilize her current study abroad in Zagreb to develop fluency in Croatian, informing future work as a public servant focused on bilateral relations between the U.S. government and countries of the former Yugoslavia.

Carolyn Diaz is a Mexican-American rising junior, majoring in International Relations and Global Studies with a focus on International Security and the Middle East. She is also pursuing a minor in Arabic. Carolyn enjoys being involved on campus through organizations such as International Affairs Society and Central Texas Model United Nations. Her college experience on the Forty Acres began in pursuit of a career in international journalism, then shifted toward preparation for work in either the non-profit sector or within government and diplomacy. As a Brumley Scholar, Carolyn is excited to learn about the process of policy work and how she can apply it to craft a better tomorrow.



Hometown: Plano, TX



Major: International Relations and Global Studies



Dream job: Ambassador or work in the United Nations



Fun fact: She was born on Easter.

# CAROLYN DIAZ

# KUSH PATEL

Hometown: South Padre Island, Texas



Major: History



Dream job: Chief Innovation Officer



Fun fact: He loves listening to old Bollywood movie soundtracks.



Kush Patel is a rising senior, pursuing a major in History and minor in Entrepreneurship. His professional experience, he focused on the impact of emerging technologies and STEM innovation on national security. Through his work with the UT Inventors

Program as an ambassador and teaching assistant, Kush promoted STEM innovation efforts through strategic partnerships with industry and government, which facilitated his interest in learning more about how to promote innovation ecosystems. After graduating from UT, Kush plans to pursue a master's degree in public policy and management, with an emphasis on emerging technologies to prepare for a career in public service tackling innovation issues.

Anuraag Routray is a rising junior and Dedman Scholar, studying Plan II Honors, Government, and Security Studies. His interests lie at the intersection of technology and national security, specifically on innovation and STEM education, a passion that began in high school with his participation in competitive robotics and debate. At UT, Anuraag has explored these interests further by gaining a variety of experience across multiple disciplines. His varied background has prepared him for what he hopes to be law school and a career in public service after graduating from UT.

Hometown: Katy, Texas



Major: Plan II Honors; Government; Security Studies



Dream job: NBA General Manager



Fun fact: He went on a 70-mile hike in New Mexico a few summers ago!



# ANURAAG ROUTRAY

# KASHOV SHARMA



Hometown: Milpitas, California



Major: Electrical and Computer Engineering



Dream job: Director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships



Fun fact: He has been to over ten national parks (so far).

Kashov Sharma is a rising junior majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering on the Data Science track. His academic interests include U.S. technology policy, the implications of U.S.-China competition for national security, and industrial policy, specifically in sectors critical for defense supply chains. During his first year at UT, Kashov worked for Intel, where he gained exposure to not only how semiconductor chips are designed but also to the challenges of U.S. manufacturing on the cutting edge.

Emma Liisa Söderlund is a senior, double majoring in Marketing and International Relations and Global Studies within the Liberal Arts Program, while also completing a certificate in German. Originally from Estonia and Sweden, Emma Liisa moved to the U.S. just before starting high school. Through her life experiences, she has developed a deep interest in international relations, particularly in security and transatlantic relations with Russia after the start of the war in Ukraine, as well as the role of non-state actors. Emma Liisa has interned at the Dallas/Fort Worth World Affairs Council, the Estonian Mission to the United Nations during its presidency of the UN Security Council, and the transatlantic relations department at the Foreign Ministry of Estonia.



Hometown: Tallinn, Estonia and Frisco, Texas



Major: Marketing; International Relations and Global Studies



Dream job: Working for an international organization like the UN



Fun fact: She can speak Swedish, Estonian, and German.

# EMMA LIISA SÖDERLUND

# MIA WEISSBLUTH

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois



Major: Middle Eastern Studies; Government



Dream job: Political Risk Analyst or Photo Journalist



Fun fact: She lived in Jordan the summer between her junior and senior years of high school.



Mia Weissbluth is a rising junior from Chicago, studying Middle Eastern Studies and Government with a minor in Arabic. On campus, Mia is involved with the Central Texas Model United Nations. Her interest in international affairs, specifically within the

Middle East, began in high school. Since then, she has gained direct experience in the study of this region, through attending KIVUNIM in Jerusalem to study Hebrew, Arabic, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, as a scholar in the Arabic Flagship Program, and as an Embodying Peace Fellow. Mia hopes to work in conflict transformation in the Middle East after graduation.

Samara Zuckerbrod is a rising senior, majoring in Sustainability Studies and English, with a certificate in Business & Public Policy. She is primarily interested in research studying climate security policy of E.U. nations, as well as circular economic policy in general. Her passion for environmentalism and climate change mitigation has driven her to hold multiple positions at UT's Campus Environmental Center, including Director and External Relations Director, as well as to act as Vice Chair of UT's Green Fund student committee and study circular economic models on the ground in Amsterdam and Berlin. After graduation, she plans to pursue a master's degree in public policy, and eventually a Ph.D., to help craft, communicate, educate, and inform policy and policymakers to help protect our planet.

Hometown: Bellaire, Texas



Major: Sustainability Studies; English



Dream job: Environmentalist Policymaker or writer for Saturday Night Live



Fun fact: She has a twin sister who goes to Texas A&M.



# SAMARA ZUCKERBROD



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[strausscenter.org/brumley-scholars](https://strausscenter.org/brumley-scholars)