



FALL 2023 - SPRING 2024
**BRUMLEY NEXT GENERATION
FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS**

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The Strauss Center is excited to announce our 2023-24 Brumley Undergraduate Scholars and Brumley Graduate Fellows classes. These students represent the best of our University and the Strauss Center is pleased to support their intellectual and professional growth through the Brumley programs. We look forward to seeing their contributions to Texas and the nation in the years ahead.

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ADAM KLEIN
STRAUSS CENTER DIRECTOR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meet Our Sponsors: Jon and Rebecca Brumley	2
The Brumley Next Generation Fellows Program	3

BRUMLEY NEXT GENERATION FELLOWS

Matthew Blanton	6
Bailey Crane	6
Harrison Kaeller	7
Katrina Liebsch	7
Terrence Neumann	8
Simon Rysin	8
Brittany Silvester	9
Mykhaylo Simanovskyy	9
Pedro Valdez Castro	10

BRUMLEY NEXT GENERATION SCHOLARS

Nicholas Acevedo	12
Baneen Al Qaraghuli	12
Carolina Arellano	13
Maya Arredondo	13
Jewells Escamilla	14
Ariana Guerrero	14
Suraj Pandit	15
Samantha Tanner	15
Britney Tran	16
Alexander Tsioutsias	16

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 ninth 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 2023-24 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**



MATTHEW BLANTON

Hometown: Spartanburg, South Carolina



Studies: PhD candidate in Sociology, Demography



Program: Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative



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



Dream job: Sociology professor at a major research university conducting regular international fieldwork with policy implications



Fun fact: During COVID, I drove my dogs to South Carolina from Guatemala!



Matthew Blanton is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Sociology and the Population Research Center. Matthew received his Bachelor of Arts in Intercultural Studies from North Greenville University and Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies from

Fuller Theological Seminary. Prior to joining UT, Matthew co-led a nonprofit organization in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala for five years and worked for the National Immigration Forum as a mobilizer for a bipartisan immigration reform campaign. Matthew is married with two young children: Natalie (4) and Hayes (1). His current research at UT focuses on international migration from Central America, with an emphasis on forced migration and historic trends.

Bailey holds a B.S. in Radio, Television, and Film from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to her graduate studies, Bailey split her time between Austin and Los Angeles, working as an open-source researcher and archival producer for documentaries, feature films, and advocacy projects. In this role, she conducted extensive historical and open-source research while developing sources and uncovering relationship networks. Her work was featured most recently in Richard Linklater's *Apollo 10 1/2: A Space Age Childhood* and an upcoming HBO and A24 true crime docuseries. Through her work, Bailey developed an interest in the complex, and often conflicting, dynamics between information transparency and privacy.

Hometown: Austin, Texas



Studies: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, Information Security and Privacy



Program: Tech, Security, and Global Affairs



Mentor: Adam Klein - Director, Strauss Center



Dream jobs: A career in public service



Fun fact: I'm an avid art lover who spent a summer studying Spanish art history in Madrid, Spain



BAILEY CRANE

HARRISON KAELLER



Hometown: San Antonio, Texas



Studies: M.A. candidate in Public Affairs



Program: Intelligence Studies Project



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



Dream job: Military Strategist



Fun fact: I mentor a 14-year-old as his Big Brother

Preceding his attendance at UT, Harrison Kaeller earned his B.A. in Economics with a concentration in Data Science from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. Outside of school, Harrison previously worked in non-profit program and project management.

He is always on the move, remaining busy as a member of the Alexander Hamilton Society and UT Army ROTC program, where he serves as a member of the Army Run Team, Color Guard, Ruck Team, Climate Research Team, and as an academic mentor. During his time at the LBJ School, Harrison is interested in working within the Intelligence Studies Project due to his understanding of the value of accurate intelligence for public servants. He plans to graduate in May then proceed into a career in military intelligence.

Katrina Liebsch is a second-year Master of Global Policy Studies student at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Katrina graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, Katrina worked as a data analytics engineer in oil and gas, software, and education technology. Katrina's interest in foreign policy developed through her experience studying and working abroad in the Middle East. She has studied Arabic and lived in Lebanon, Morocco, and the West Bank. Katrina has previously served as a project lead for the Austin chapter of Engineers without Borders. She brings her background in data analysis to the LBJ School where she focuses on peace, conflict, and security studies and researching non-state actors.



Hometown: Flower Mound, Texas



Studies: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies



Program: Armed and Social Conflict



Mentor: Ashley Moran - State Fragility Initiative Director, Strauss Center



Dream job: A career in public service.



Fun fact: I'm an outdoor enthusiast and avid hiker. I love hiking in Colorado and recently completed my first Class 4 14er.

KATRINA LIEBSCH

TERRENCE NEUMANN

Hometown: San Antonio, Texas



Studies: PhD candidate in Information Systems



Program: Artificial Intelligence



Mentor: Bryan Jones - Cybersecurity Fellow, Strauss Center



Dream job: Working at the intersection of science and policy to inform responsible use of artificial intelligence.



Fun fact: I lived in Manchester, UK for three years as a teenager, where I was in the most successful band of my life when I was only 16 years old.



Prior to starting the Ph.D. program, Terry Neumann was a Senior Data Scientist at the University of Chicago Crime Lab, where he helped implement data-driven elements of federal consent decree intended to reform policing in Chicago and

Baltimore. His research at UT is focused on understanding the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI), particularly in online media. He is currently working on several projects examining fairness and equity in AI-assisted fact-checking systems. In this research, Terry works with an interdisciplinary toolkit, using techniques from machine learning, natural language processing, causal inference, ethics, and network science.

Before attending the LBJ School, Simon Rysin earned his B.A. in Government and minor in Russian, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies at UT Austin. Upon graduation, Simon proceeded to work in quality control for a private medical company. As a student, Simon has conducted research on the Russian Federation authoritarian regime and Ukraine's weapon system capabilities in the Russo-Ukraine War. Simon has also been a part of the Global Disinformation Lab (GDIL) since Fall 2022, on a team researching Russia's kinetic action program and disinformation campaigns in U.S. elections. In Fall 2023, he will begin his term as Co-President of the Alexander Hamilton Society's UT Austin chapter.

Hometown: Houston, Texas



Studies: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies



Program: Intelligence Studies Project



Mentor: Mike Dennis - Fellow, Strauss Center



Dream job: Eastern European Intelligence Analyst



Fun fact: I hold the record for most lamb chops eaten (23!) in one sitting at a churrascaria.



SIMON RYSIN

BRITTANY SILVESTER



Hometown: Palm Beach, Florida



Studies: J.D. candidate, School of Law



Program: Space Security, Safety, and Sustainability



Mentor: Moriba Jah - Space Safety, Security, and Sustainability, Strauss Center



Dream job: General Counsel at NASA



Fun fact: I have a blackbelt in mixed martial arts.

Brittany Silvester is a second-year J.D. student at the University of Texas School of Law. Prior to law school, Brittany earned her B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and minor in Spanish from the University of Florida. Throughout her career, Brittany has

participated in several NASA internships in various capacities, ranging from researching Disruptive Modal Coupling technology for SLS vibrational damping to working as a commercialization analyst in NASA's Technology Transfer Office. Brittany's career goals and research interests lie at the intersection of interplanetary space travel and the law. Specifically, she is interested in determining how the law will govern sustainable methods of establishing long-term human presence on the Moon and Mars.

Misha Simanovskyy holds a B.S. in Political Science from Texas Christian University. Currently, Misha leads two projects (#BoycottBiz and Pravda) within the Global Disinformation Lab, mentored by Ukrainian scholars-in-residence. Misha's interest in disinformation stems from his passion for conflict resolution, which is closely tied to combating mis- and disinformation. Misha believes that the best policy solutions come as a result of combining deep regional knowledge, expertise in functional issues (such as disinformation or disarmament), and rigorous analysis of current world affairs and trends. Upon graduation from UT Austin, Misha intends to work in the field of diplomacy and specialize in reducing conflicts and violence in the post-Soviet space.



Hometown: Donetsk, Ukraine



Studies: M.A. candidate in Global Policy Studies, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies



Program: Post Soviet States



Mentor: Steve Slick - Director, Intelligence Studies Project



Dream job: Foreign Service Officer in Europe/Eurasia desk



Fun fact: I enjoy learning Arabic in my free time.

MYKHAYLO SIMANOVSKYY

PEDRO VALDEZ CASTRO

Hometown: Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic



Studies: M.A. candidate in Latin American Studies



Program: Central America and Mexico Policy Initiative



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



Dream job: Professor, Researcher, Policy Advisor



Fun fact: If not a social scientist, I would like to be an astrophysicist.



Pedro Valdez Castro has engaged in teaching, research, policymaking, and community development as well as studied topics like human trafficking, border management, intercultural education, and migrant integration. Before coming to

UT Austin, Pedro worked as a Migration Studies and Research Analyst at the National Institute of Migration of the Dominican Republic researching and developing policy proposals to advise the Dominican state on issues related to migration governance. He is currently conducting a research project on the cultural, symbolic, and emotional dimensions of the transit experiences among Afro-Caribbean migrants on the U.S.-Mexican border.

**BRUMLEY NEXT GENERATION
UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS**



NICHOLAS ACEVEDO

Hometown: Austin, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies, Music Performance
Minors: Italian Studies and Government



Dream job: Foreign Service Diplomat



Fun fact: I'm a former barista and enjoy making creative drinks in the morning before I start my day!



Nick Acevedo is a rising senior and although he has always been fascinated by diplomatic relations between states, Nick's time at UT thus far has profoundly impacted the discovery of his academic interests. From leading a Central Texas Model United

Nations committee educating and uplifting the next generation of leaders, to joining the International Relations & Global Studies Council to learn from his peers, Nick has found a true passion for understanding the political and cultural relations between foreign states and how their respective domestic policies can shape the world around them. Last summer, Nick had the opportunity to study abroad in Rome to learn the Italian language and the cultural and socioeconomic factors that divide Italy today. This summer, Nick will continue to study Italian and its southern dialects in Sicily as a FLAS Undergraduate Fellow.

Baneen Al Qaraghuli enjoys being involved in research and is currently serving as an undergraduate researcher at the Global Disinformation Lab (GDIL) on the Evergreen Team. This team is developing the largest Global Disinformation Database to address policies created by nation-states in favor of combatting disinformation. Her passion for research extends to her role as a research apprentice with a UT professor conducting research in Arabic on the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt. Additionally, her work as Vice-President of the Voices Against Violence student chapter at the Longhorn Wellness Center inspired her to pursue a minor in Social Work with a focus on social justice and domestic violence policies. After graduation, she plans to pursue a law degree with a concentration in national security and human rights.

Hometown: Dallas & Fort Worth, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies.
Minor: Social Work



Dream job: Lawyer



Fun fact: I moved here from Iraq when I was fourteen!



BANEEN AL QARAGHULI

CAROLINA ARELLANO



Hometown: Austin, Texas



Major: Government, International Relations and Global Studies
Minor: French Studies



Dream job: National Security Advisor or Director for DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking



Fun fact: I've traveled to more than 20 countries.

Carolina Arellano has a minor in French Studies and a certificate in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies. Outside of class, Carolina has conducted research with the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS), focusing on the emergence

of populist movements in Bolivia and Venezuela and producing an analysis of the history of U.S. intervention in Chile and Mexico. During her time at LLILAS, she interned with Tejiendo Alianzas, a non-profit NGO whose mission is to develop sustainable sources of income for indigenous communities in Oaxaca, Mexico. Carolina has previously served as the Co-Director of the Programs Committee for the International Affairs Society and as Crisis Director for Central Texas Model United Nations. Carolina has also served as a FIG mentor for first-year students, where she guided them through the successful completion of their first semester.

Outside of class, Maya Arredondo has conducted research with the Innovations for Peace and Development and the Politics of Race and Ethnicity lab, examining how historical patterns of inequality laid the foundation for socioeconomically driven policing patterns today as well as the tradeoffs between policing responsiveness, public safety, and the implications of racial disparities in criminal justice outcomes. She is interested in analyzing the pressing challenge artificial intelligence (AI) technology poses to public policy – specifically how, when used by law enforcement and the state, AI contributes to systemic injustice in the American criminal justice system. She desires to serve as a catalyst for positive change in Texas and beyond by reforming the criminal justice system to ensure security and equity for all under American democracy.



Hometown: Houston, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies, Sociology
Minor: French



Dream job: Director of the National Institute of Justice and a chef with a show on food network



Fun fact: I'm a Longhorn Hellraiser and love to "raise hell" with other UT sports enthusiasts!

MAYA ARREDONDO

JEWELLS ESCAMILLA

Hometown: Austin, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies, Plan II Honors



Dream job: US Foreign Service Officer



Fun fact: I can't remember which language I officially learned first, because I grew up speaking English and Spanish at the same time.



Jewells Escamilla's policy interests are in human rights, human security, the U.S.-China Bilateral relationship, and Indo-Pacific relations. On campus, Jewells is involved with the Indo-Pacific Cyber China team at the Global Disinformation Lab

(GDIL), the Clements Center for National Security, the creative writing program, and the International Business Organization. Outside of UT, Jewells volunteers at Casa Marianella, a shelter for refugees, and also tutors refugee students at Austin ISD. Her idea of a dream job would involve being a U.S. Foreign Service Officer. Jewells is also an Austin native who loves reading, thrifting, writing, playing soccer, and going for hikes in the Zilker Greenbelt.

Ariana Guerrero's previous research revolved around investigating human rights abuses, immigration policies, and conducting undocumented migrant interviews to depict migrant vulnerabilities inside the U.S. system and abroad. Through her research of migrant testimonies, Ariana has aimed to analyze migrant vulnerabilities and connect them to the root causes of migration. She hopes to propose policy that protects migrant rights domestically while also proactively thinking of action plans to structurally mitigate migration into the U.S., all while protecting human rights and migrant bodily autonomy in Mexico and Central America.

In the past, Ariana devoted her time and focused her community service work inside nonprofits all over Texas, such as the ACLU of Texas, La Unión Del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), and her latest work inside The Equal Justice Center (EJC).

Hometown: Alamo, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies, Race, Indigeneity, and Migration Studies
Minors: Spanish, Portuguese, Human Rights and Social Justice BDP



Dream job: International Human Rights Attorney



Fun fact: I'm a dog mom and my puppy's name is Bean!



ARIANA GUERRERO

SURAJ PANDIT



Hometown: Houston, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies, Plan II Honors
Minors: Religious Studies, Business, and Public Policy



Dream job: Navy Seal



Fun fact: I love Greek food!

Suraj Pandit is a rising junior at UT Austin double majoring in the Plan II Honors Program and International Relations and Global Studies (IRG). He is a Jefferson Scholar and is completing minors in Religious Studies and Business and Public Policy. Suraj also works on a

podcast with the UT IRG Council researching and presenting weekly episodes to explain current events, such as the recent conflict in Armenia and Azerbaijan. During his education at UT, Suraj is focusing on International Security in the Middle East and counterterrorism policy. After graduation, Suraj plans to attend law school and work as an intelligence analyst.

Samantha Tanner has long been interested in international affairs and public policy and is an active member of the International Affairs Society and an undergraduate fellow at the Clements Center for National Security. Throughout her time at UT, she has supplemented her coursework with practical discussion and experience in these organizations. Samantha is also a research associate at the Global Disinformation Lab (GDIL), a research organization dedicated to collaborative research on the global circulation of digital disinformation, where she writes literature reviews and collects and analyzes data to produce a database of global disinformation policy. Through this experience, she has developed a strong interest in the relationship between technology policy, cybersecurity, and international affairs and hopes to explore this relationship further.



Hometown: Allen, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies
Minors: Arabic and Business



Dream job: Foreign Service Officer



Fun fact: My favorite thing is coffee and I have traveled to three different countries within a week to try their famous coffees.

SAMANTHA TANNER

BRITNEY TRAN

Hometown: Houston, Texas



Major: International Relations and Global Studies, Government.



Dream job: International human rights lawyer and professor



Fun fact: I have a food account on Instagram where I review the restaurants I visit!



Britney Tran is a rising senior double-majoring in International Relations and Global Studies and Government. On campus, Britney is involved with Texas Orange Jackets, one of the oldest honorary service organizations at UT, where she served

as the Director for Public Relations. She also conducts research with Innovations for Peace and Development, where she is currently researching state renewable energy legislation. In Fall 2022, she participated in the Archer Fellowship Program, where she interned at the Women's Foreign Policy Group and the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. After graduation, Britney hopes to pursue a career in public service and help shape U.S. humanitarian foreign policy.

On the Forty Acres, Alexander Tsioutsias is an Associate Justice on the Student Government's Supreme Court and a staff writer and podcast manager for the Texas Undergraduate Law Journal, inviting guests across the UT campus (both students and professors alike) to discuss their research and how it relates to and influences the law. He is also a former Texas Intelligence Academy Fellow and J.J. "Jake" Pickle Undergraduate Research Fellow, where he recently investigated and presented on the inverse relationship between public opinion polls and defense spending during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars during the annual Longhorn Research Poster Session. At the moment, Alexander is completing an internship with the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions at the State Department in Washington, D.C., helping leverage data analytic tools to provide strategic insights that advance foreign policy.

Hometown: Dallas, Texas



Major: Government, Plan II Honors; Certificate in Security Studies
Minor: History



Dream job: Formula One driver for Ferrari



Fun fact: Last summer, I started a week watching the Washington Nats in D.C. and ended the week watching the Dodgers in L.A.



ALEXANDER TSIOUTSIAS



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