

Liveris Academy Update

SEPTEMBER 2024



This edition of the Liveris Academy Update contains:

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Academy news



ACADEMY DIRECTOR, Professor Tim Kastelle

Dear Friends of the Academy,

2024 been an exciting year in the Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership. We saw our first major graduating group at the end of last year, and welcomed fifteen new scholars, keeping our overall number at around ninety-five. We have also recently welcomed our first official PhD scholarship, supported by a generous donation from Oscar and Peta-anne Groeneveld.

Having turnover like that has definitely changed the feel within the Academy. It's fantastic to see the great things that our alumni are already accomplishing out in the world, even though it's sad to see them go. At the same time, the incoming scholars have injected a great deal of new energy, passion, and knowledge into the Academy.

We are now evaluating applications for 2025 scholars! Entry remains extremely competitive, and applicant numbers have been similar to last year – we received applications from around

370 people for about 15 scholarships. It's inspiring to see the quality and enthusiasm of applicants, and how strongly the mission of the Academy resonates with them. The only downside is having to say no to so many qualified and clearly exceptional people. This is one of the reasons we continue to look for more scholarships to expand our impact.

The curriculum of activities we undertake within the Academy is an important part of achieving that impact. We've made important changes to the activities this year. First off, we've introduced a skill-building program for our first-year scholars. This includes a series of workshops on critical thinking run by Professor Deborah Brown and Dr Peter Ellerton from the UQ Critical Thinking Project. We also address learning through projects, building empathy, presentation skills, and a number of other foundational skills. Secondly, we've introduced challenge-based learning projects. These are problems that tend to be complex, poorly defined, and best approached through multi-disciplinary thinking. Everyone in the Academy has been working on a major project throughout the year, looking to develop initiatives to improve the sustainability of a major project in Brisbane. Our partner on this is still secret, but when we can tell you more about how it's gone, we will!

Engaging with people, organisations, and businesses is an important part of helping the scholars develop the capabilities they need to achieve our mission. If you are interested in working with the Academy in any way, would like to learn more about ways to sponsor scholarships, mentoring scholars, or offering internships to these wonderful individuals, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Working with the scholars, our alumni, and our stakeholders is an enormous joy and privilege – every day!

-Tim Kastle

Director, Andrew N. Liveris Academy for Innovation and Leadership

Connect with me on LinkedIn: [Connect with Tim](#)

[Connect with the Liveris Academy.](#)

2024 Liveris Academy Scholarship Recipients



In February we welcomed a significant group of scholars to the Academy, following a rigorous application and interview process.

Congratulations to 2024 Incoming Liveris Academy Scholars! (left to right, top row to bottom)

- Joshua Ryu
- Daham Kannangara

- Lauren Hall
- William Armstrong
- Natasha Miric
- Shreyas Raman
- Chloe Mather
- Siddhesh Karekal
- Charlotte Sargent

- Lachlan Andrews
- Patrick Sutton
- Eleanor Hanna
- Henry Yip
- Harshita Rupani
- William Henry

Meet our new scholars

Groeneveld Scholarship Recipient

Through their gift, Oscar and Peta-Anne Groeneveld wish to support a scholarship for Higher Degree by Research students, undertaking research in the areas of Health, Engineering and/or Technology. The donors believe in helping motivated students make a difference, building their global awareness and leadership skills to help them support vulnerable communities. They hope that this Scholarship will give HDR students the professional network, connections with influential figures in a range of fields and expert insight to make the most of their research impact.

Wendi Ma is the inaugural recipient of the Groeneveld Scholarship, and joins the Academy community in September 2024.

Wendi Ma, PhD Candidate - Computer Science, UQ



Wendi Ma is a PhD candidate in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and part of Dr. Shekhar Chandra's research group.

He has extensive deep learning research experience, having worked with Dr Chandra's team since his third year of undergraduate studies. Currently, he is focused on solving novel computer vision problems across both general vision and medical imaging applications.

[Read more about Wendi's research interests](#)

2024 Distinguished Speaker Series

Ann Duffy, Chief Sustainability Officer, MI Global Partners (MIGP)



Ann is an accomplished and engaging thought leader, advisor, writer and speaker on sustainability and legacy planning for communities, business and global sport events. She has a proven track record with industry-recognised sustainability strategies and outcomes reflecting strong engagement, governance and innovation. Ann's extensive knowledge and international network in sustainable development and social innovation has been built through more than 30+ years in major event and legacy planning and delivery.

Recently, Ann has been the Lead Sustainability and Legacy Advisor for both the United 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup for Canada, USA and Mexico Bid and Los Angeles 2024 Summer Olympic & Paralympic Games Bid.

In 2024 Ann joins the Liveris Academy as an [Executive Advisor](#), bringing her expertise, inspiration and curiosity to mentoring, dialogues and innovation projects in ways that will serve the pressing challenges and opportunities of our time.

[Connect with Ann on LinkedIn](#)

Mark Wiseman, Senior Advisor & Chairman, Lazard Asset Management (Canada)



Mark Wiseman is a Canadian investment manager and business executive and an industry-leading expert in alternatives and active equity investments. He is a Senior Advisor and Chairman of Canada at Lazard and a Senior Advisor at Boston Consulting Group. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of NOVA Chemicals.

Previously, Mark was Chair of the Alberta Investment Management Corporation's (AIMCo's) Board of Directors. He was also a Senior Managing Director at BlackRock, Global Head of Active Equities, Chairman of its alternatives business, Chairman of BlackRock's Global Investment Committee and also served on BlackRock's Global Executive Committee.

[Connect with Mark on LinkedIn](#)

Cindy Hook, Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee



As CEO of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee Cindy is responsible for leading all aspects of organising the Games to create an outstanding experience for the athletes and spectators and leave a positive legacy for Brisbane, Southeast Queensland, and Australia. Her responsibilities include Games planning; raising revenue through sponsorship, philanthropy, ticketing and merchandise; managing the operation of the venues; event security; volunteer recruitment and much more.

Cindy has 35 years of global leadership experience across three continents with Deloitte, including over seven years as a CEO.

[Connect with Cindy on LinkedIn](#)



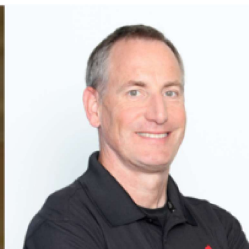
2024 Speaker Overview

In May this year [Andrew N. Liveris](#) spoke with scholars in-person, focusing on his position as

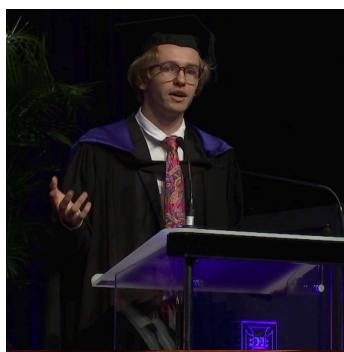
Head of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Organising Committee. We will also shortly welcome Brisbane Lord Mayor, [Adrian Schrinner](#) to the Liveris Academy.

In addition the 2024 speaker series has included the following people:

- [Michael Whitehead](#), Head of Sustainability, Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee
- [Veda FitzSimmons](#), Director, Pollination
- [Olivia Back](#), Associate Director, Pollination
- [Dr Jason Fox](#), Regenerative Finance
- [Drew Mitchell](#), Senior Director of Physical Literacy, Sport for Life
- [Professor Deborah Brown](#), Professor in Philosophy
- [Professor Peter Ellerton](#), Curriculum Director, UQ Critical Thinking Project
- [Professor Tyler Okimoto](#), Associate Dean Academic, UQ Faculty of Business, Economics, and Law



Scholar Experiences



Kyel Steensma - 2024 UQ Engineering Valedictorian

Kyel Steensma was awarded the title of UQ Engg Valedictorian for his recent graduation. Kyel joined the Liveris Academy in 2021, as the recipient of a Stavros Niarchos Foundation Scholarship. Kyel graduated in July with a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) and a Master of Engineering, Chemical Engineering.

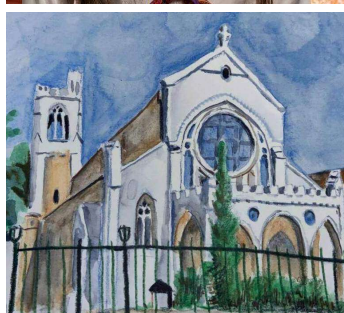
[Listen to Kyel's inspiring speech](#)



Esandi Kalugalage - 2023 Liveris Academy Alumni

Esandi was awarded a UQ University Medal for achieving outstanding academic results for the duration of her Bachelor of Electrical Engineering & minor in Data Science program in 2023. Esandi joined the Liveris Academy in 2020, as the recipient of a Liveris Academy Undergraduate Scholarship. This year, she began her career, taking up a Graduate Electrical Engineer position at Energy Queensland.

[Connect with Esandi on LinkedIn](#)



Lilly Van Gilst - Liveris Undergraduate Scholar

In the 2024 Winter break, Lilly participated in a UQ Short Term Global Experience, travelling to Florence for a three-week intensive - July in Florence – at The Florence University of the Arts.

[Read Lilly's travel reflection](#)

Oliver Barr-David - O'Moore Scholarship Endowment Scholar

In June 2024, ten Liveris Academy scholars participated in the 2024, New Columbo Plan and Liveris Academy supported, Cross-Cultural Exchange and Social Entrepreneurship Indonesian Study Tour to Indonesia.

[Oliver shares the experience here](#)



[Read more Academy News](#)

Alumni Profile

Rachel Huang, Snr Research Assistant, UQ; Head of Business Development, Vacayit; Research Commercialisation Intern, UniQuest



Rachel joined the Liveris Academy in 2021 after being awarded a Ravago Group Scholarship. She completed a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours), majoring in Biological and Chemical Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biomedical Science in 2022.

We recently met and had the chance to catch up on what Rachel has been up to for the last 18 months, and where to next.

[Read our conversation with Rachel here](#)

Events

Sir John Monash Leadership Series, Brisbane

The John Monash Leadership Series showcases talented and influential Australian leaders in conversation with John Monash Scholars on a revealing theme – What I've Learnt About Leadership – that is destined to provide insightful lessons for anyone interested in the challenges of leadership.

In May this year, Liveris Scholars were invited to attend to hear Andrew Liveris kick-off the 2024 Series in Brisbane.

Interviewed by 2013 BHP John Monash Scholar Jillian Kilby, Andrew shared some of the most pivotal challenges of his career, and the decisions that helped him to overcome them.

[Read more about the interview and the series](#)

The Big Dialogues (TBD)- A Brisbane Dialogue

TBD was founded in Brisbane in late 2019 by a group of friends concerned about the deterioration of public (and private) discussion, who saw a need to establish a truly independent public forum for discussion of big ideas and issues.

TBD is an independent, neutral, intergenerational, all-volunteer, not-for-profit project to foster better discussions about big ideas



and issues. [Read more about TBD here](#)

TBD's flagship is the Big Dialogues series of public events: long-form, moderated dialogues between widely differing experts, on complex issues, with high production values, in a congenial environment to encourage guest involvement.

The Liveris Academy is a sponsor of this fantastic event. The May event took place at the beautiful Princess Theatre with the topic: **Housing - What Do We Want To Achieve?**

Current Liveris Academy Undergraduate Scholar, [Joshua Ryu](#), [reflected on the event](#)

The Academy recommends...

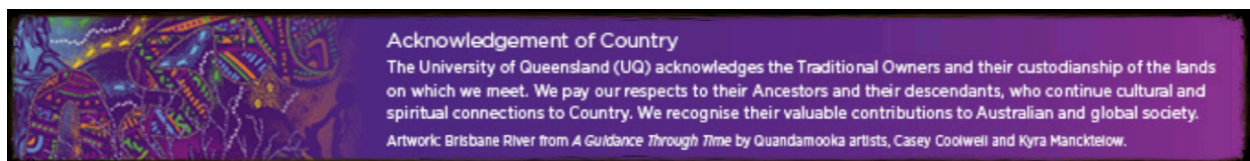
The Liveris Academy Global Leadership Podcast

In this podcast series you will hear from Liveris Academy Scholars interviewing leaders they identify as being important to them. They ask the hard questions about leadership and innovation that we can all relate to.

Catch up on conversations with leaders such as *Professor Sarah Jane Kelly, Dr Alan Finkel, Professor Chris Perry, Leela Dilkes-Hoffman and many more.*



Catch up on past episodes of the Global Leadership Podcast Series



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