



FALL/WINTER 2020

Greetings from Southridge School and the Alumni Association,

To say that this year has been challenging is an understatement. All of our lives have been disrupted by the global pandemic and it looks as though we will be with these frustrations for a while yet. And although the COVID hand we've been dealt is not ideal, I continue to be inspired by listening to the stories of businesses that are pivoting in creative ways to stay open, individuals who are embracing health and safety as a priority, and by communities who are coming together to support one another during these unprecedented times.

At Southridge, it's been encouraging to see how the community has embraced our current situation and learned to effectively deliver the best of what it can given the circumstances. One extraordinary example of this was our 2020 Graduation Celebration. Without the opportunity to gather in large groups, and with rigorous health and safety protocols in place, Southridge stepped up to the challenge and hosted a creative and memorable event for a group of students who undoubtedly deserved to be celebrated in style. Designed as a drive-in movie event, the 2020 graduating class was split into two groups and the school hosted two celebrations in one evening. It was a memorable evening and allowed us to celebrate the accomplishments of our grads in a meaningful way that left us feeling inspired.



Included in this fall/winter edition are stories of Southridge alumni who are living the values of Southridge and we are honored to share their inspirational stories with you. I hope you enjoy reading about how these alumni are making a difference in the world.

"Stay safe, Be Calm and Be Kind"

Erin McDonald
Alumni Relations Coordinator

Alumni Insights

The life of a local entrepreneur

An Interview with Kevin Reid, Class of 2008

Tell me more about your professional journey since graduating from Southridge?

Until late Grade 11, I was fixated on becoming an architect. In high school, most people knew me as the soccer guy – I was always trying to balance my artistic and athletic sides. One afternoon, I was sitting in the library nerding out on new soccer boots and performance gear and I came across a shoe sketch from an “Industrial Designer”.

In university, I was fascinated by two very different sectors of design—streetwear and mid-century modern design. Streetwear was rebellious, driven by technology, progressive thinking, and social commentary. Mid-century modern design was pragmatic, sophisticated, and timeless.

I focused most of my university work towards these two categories. During my second year, I started a clothing label with a close friend. At the same time, I was developing a number of furniture related projects in school and designing iPod speakers for a local Vancouver company called Kanto.

After 3rd year, I reached out to a brand in Copenhagen, Denmark and over the course of about 15 emails and phone calls, I found an opportunity to intern for them. The 3-month internship at Norse Projects turned into almost 2 and a half years. I went from intern, to junior designer to lead designer in that period, and watched a company grow from under 10 to over 40 employees. The whole experience of living in a design-minded country, travelling around the world, and building hundreds of products put my career into hyper speed.

I moved back to Vancouver to be the head designer for Native Shoes. Then returned to Carleton for 4th year and spent a year focused on 3D-printing modular footwear for my thesis. At the same time, I took on the role of creative director for the Canadian sneaker boutique, Livestock, and developed a menswear label called Illustrated Example, making everything locally.

What made you choose to be an entrepreneur?

There's so much opportunity for positive change in the world. I love the challenge and adventure of starting something from scratch, starting small with no constraints, and challenging the status quo.

How did you get your idea or concept for the business?

I like investing in products that last and reduce my consumption. I like to live my life fluidly, on the go and need products that can keep pace. I like to look sharp and feel good about myself, but have the capability to do anything.

I couldn't find a pair of shoes that satisfied this. And I spoke with a bunch of friends, family, and even ended up surveying hundreds of people – most people agreed.

What was your mission in creating Casca Shoes?

Our mission is simple – “Feel Good, Do Anything”. We wanted to make breakthrough products that enable people to get more out of life. We're currently focused on making the most comfortable and capable shoes on the planet, using cutting-edge technology and innovative business models to offer the customer more. Who knows where it will lead, but we've grown from two to 15 employees over the past year, all focused on challenging the status quo.

Describe the corporate culture at Casca Shoes?

We're a young, diverse group of innovators, engineers, and creatives. We have a pretty flat hierarchy, so it's very transparent and cross-disciplinary contributions are welcome.

We're all determined to leave the world a better place, and more than anything, we care.

We want to help others. We're always open to new ideas and directions.

And we're constantly shifting to make the biggest impact and create a brighter future for all.



Casca Shoe's Co-Founders Kevin Reid '08

If you had one piece of advice to someone just starting out, what would it be?

Go for it! The hardest part is starting. Get involved, put yourself out there, and get your hands dirty. Good things will happen.

What part of your Southridge experience do you still use in your professional life?

I still admire how Southridge didn't use locks on their lockers, and that trust in each other strengthened the sense of community. This has certainly influenced how we run Casca. We trust our employees and give them the freedom to be their best, in their own way. So far, I think it's generated better results – more productivity, commitment to the cause, and happiness.

Alumni Connections Building Meaningful Networks

The Story of Summer Interns at IOM—Ravi Mann, Class of 2006

At Isle of Mann Property Group (“IOM”), an internship is more than providing a job opportunity to someone interested in the real estate industry. It’s about helping people discover their talents, providing guidance on best business practices, and gaining valuable work experience so that interns can grow into professionals in the field.

“We all know that an internship helps to build a resume,” says Ravi Mann, Director of Finance & Investment at IOM and Southridge Alumnus (Class of 2006), “but for young men and women looking to enter the professional world after a lifetime of schooling, the experience can mean so much more. It’s an opportunity to be thrown out of your element and gain new experiences. In addition to learning the practicalities and nuances of working in a professional environment, it’s an opportunity to grow character and build lasting relationships that may likely inform the rest of your career.”

For the last three years, IOM has hosted summer interns and co-op students from UBC, SFU, and BCIT across various disciplines. As a vertically integrated real estate firm, they offer work opportunities from general accounting and financial analysis support to project coordination and construction best practices.

Ravi recalls how he felt a clear alignment of values instilled in him by Southridge and what the Isle of Mann asks of its employees—integrity, humility, respect, competence, creativity, and growth. “These values were introduced to me and reinforced from a very early age at Southridge; they are now central to how I conduct myself as a professional and are the standards by which we hold all of our team members to,” Ravi recounts. “Utilizing Southridge Alumni, who are educated from the same school of thought, struck me as a natural fit for our internship program.”

As a board member of the Southridge Alumni Association, it was always Ravi’s desire to make himself available to Southridge Alumni looking for guidance in the transition from university to professional life. “The job market, especially in Vancouver, is more competitive than ever, and I certainly had my struggles but eventually found success,” Ravi recalls. “With the right mentorship, I probably could have saved a lot of uncertainty, anxiety, and second-guessing myself. I hope to be that resource for whoever needs it, especially for anyone from Southridge.”

Through his involvement with the Southridge Alumni Board and the initiatives put forth through the association, Ravi came in contact with Nick Strecker, fellow Southridge Alumnus (Class of 2017).

“Having noticed that we both went to Southridge and that he was following an identical educational path as me at UBC (Finance and Real Estate), Nick had reached out to me to simply learn more about my experiences and the practical day-to-day activities of being a real estate professional. That was a little more than a year ago and we casually stayed in touch from there,” says Ravi.

“Shortly after that, Nick had noticed that we posted a Summer Financial Analyst job position on our website and requested that I consider him for the role. Having already made a great first impression, and having the intrinsic comfort with the quality of his education (both secondary and post-secondary), I was happy to make room for him, even after already filling the position with another Southridge Alumnus, Angad Maan, who came to me through our extended Southridge network. It was quickly brought to my attention that Angad and Nick are good friends, having graduated from Southridge together and presently taking the same courses at UBC.”

“That was a pure coincidence, by the way,” remembers Angad.

“Yeah, we would see each other every day at school, talk about all sorts of things together, and have no idea that we both reached out to the same guy for the same opportunity at the same company,” Nick adds.

“It made for a hilarious first day, and a great story”, Angad laughs.

Ravi had high expectations of the young alumni, but they quickly impressed him with their work and eagerness to learn.

“I would give their ‘Effort Score’ a solid 5,” Ravi jokes. “They still have effort scores, right?” (Yes, Ravi—we do!)

More than just the quality of their work, you can tell they’re genuinely great guys with strong character. To me, that reinforces how right I was to go with Southridge Alumni for our internship opportunities this year—they stood out amidst a very competitive pool of candidates, and now I can confidently say it was for a good reason.

On a personal note, I take great pride in providing professional opportunities and meaningful experiences to young aspiring professionals, and particularly to fellow Southridge alumni. It’s a great way for me to continue to stay connected to the alumni community and give young grads a chance to gain solid work experience. But more importantly, this entire experience has highlighted how powerful our alumni connections can be.

“When you graduate from Southridge, you become part of a large and high-quality network of like-minded individuals, who can (and want to) give any kind of support to guide your personal or professional growth. This network is now so knowledgeable, multi-disciplinary, and global that I firmly believe just about anyone can make a meaningful connection—and all they have to do is simply reach out,” says Ravi.

The Southridge Alumni Association is excited to announce the launch of “Alumni Connections” as a way to help encourage alumni to use this network of alumni as a powerful resource.

If you want to reach out to alumni, we encourage you to do so! And if you want to be connected, please update your record to ensure we can get in touch with you when an alumni has a request. This is just another way we are adding value to the alumni community and we look forward to making those connections happen!

[CLICK HERE](#) to submit your request to be connected to other alumni!



From left to right: Angad Maan '17, Ravi Mann '06, Nick Strecker '17

Alumni Making A Difference

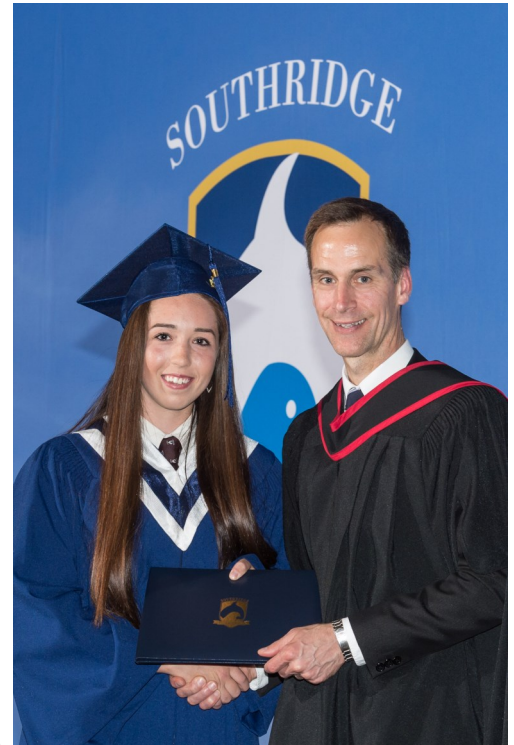
Cassia and her parents knew she was different from a young age. She thrived academically and joined in on every activity with more enthusiasm than most other children her age. By the time Cassia was in the sixth grade, she was thriving in school and was assessed above average for her academic performance. For her parents, the news was exciting but also came with a lot of pressure. As proactive parents, they wanted to ensure Cassia had ample opportunities to expand her mind, while also balancing the extracurriculars and programs they could afford.

Cassia also excelled on the softball field. She was pitcher for the White Rock Renegades and similar to her academic accomplishments, excelled in being part of an A division competitive softball team. It was during this time that her family learned about the financial aid opportunities that Southridge could offer a bright child, like Cassia. During the application process, it was evident that Cassia and her family would make a great addition to the Southridge community and was offered the Southridge Spirit Bursary.

"I remember when my Grade 7 teacher announced my acceptance," recalls Cassia, "she was so proud of me and encouraged me to take advantage of what a university prep school could offer me." From the moment Cassia attended the Grade 8 welcome, she felt an overwhelming sense of belonging. "I'm beyond proud of how hard I've worked to accomplish my personal and academic achievements, and the fact I was lucky enough to receive the gift of a Southridge education was the important validation I needed to continue to work as hard as I could in all aspects of my life." Because of this, she embraced every part of Southridge, including arts, athletics, academics, and service.

"Without the gift of a Southridge education, my life would look so different. I am proud to be the first woman in my family to graduate high school," says Cassia. For both sides of her family, receiving the Spirit of Southridge Bursary is part of a generational change that will have lasting impacts for years to come.

"This gift broke generational boundaries, and I'll be forever grateful for my experience at Southridge. Every day when I walked through those big front doors, I put my trust in the teachers who recognized the effort I was putting it, who positively supported my desire to do my best, and who lifted me up when I needed some extra encouragement," recalled Cassia.



As with most students in high school, there were times when Cassia struggled with school. "I am grateful for the personalized approach from teachers and how they helped me navigate negative self-talk and re-focus my energy on what I could control," explains Cassia. "My teachers invested the time to get to know the real me, and they believed in my abilities - I think that is something uniquely Southridge."

At the end of Grade 12, Cassia was awarded a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to attend Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. For Cassia, this was another life-changing gift that was a result of her Southridge education. "Trinity is a small liberal arts college, and Southridge prepared me not only for getting into the school but also for my performance in the seminar-style classrooms. The Harkness model prepared me to succeed once I left high school, and I knew I had the confidence to take on a new set of academic challenges."

She completed her bachelor of science degree with a minor in environmental science and now works at the Langley Environmental Partners Society as a habitat restoration specialist. "My experience at Southridge helped me focus on what I wanted in a professional career. I am thankful that I'm able to realize that by encompassing Science, community engagement, and environmental stewardship, I'm better able to be successful in my professional aspirations; Southridge helped me learn that balance," says Cassia.

"I have been given so many gifts in my life that I feel it's important to continue to give back, and I get that reward in the work I do. Southridge instilled the power of giving back to me and I'll never forget it," concludes Cassia.

Cassia has generously supported the Alumni Financial Assistance Fund and hopes others will too, so more kids can have life-changing experiences like hers.



STUDENT SUPPORT
SERVICE *Giving Back*
Alumni THANKFUL
COMMUNITY **GIVING**
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
Contribution GENEROSITY
ALUMNI GIVING

Since the very beginning, the generosity of the Southridge community has been remarkable. Through giving and volunteering, we have built a community with an unwavering culture of philanthropy. This commitment - of leaving the school even better for the next generation of students who will follow - is testament to our community.

To help support the dreams of future Southridge students, please consider making a gift to the Alumni Financial Assistance Fund.

[Donate Now](#)

**Do you have post-secondary or career knowledge
that you think Southridge students would be
interested in knowing about?**



ALUMNI PANEL SERIES

FEBRUARY 2021

NOW SEEKING ALUMNI PANEL PARTICIPANTS

**The Alumni Association has partnered with Southridge's
Post-Secondary Guidance & Career Education department to deliver a
Virtual Career Day Alumni Panel Series Event
in February 2021**

We are looking for approximately 30 alumni to help support this event. If you would like to share your post-secondary and professional insights with students, please

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER AS AN ALUMNI PANELIST](#)

We want alumni who specialize in the following areas:

- Arts and Computer Science
- STEM
- Law
- Engineering
- Human and Health Science
- Finance
- Information Technology
- Business Management & Administration
- Marketing & Communications

That's right...
for the first time ever,
the gala is going
VIRTUAL!



Join us on **Saturday, November 21st, at 7 pm** for the
Southridge Gala 2020: Home Edition
and experience fun and fundraising from the comforts of home!

This is a **FREE event** for everyone to enjoy!
Alumni, alumni families, and friends are **all welcome**.

Here is how you can join in on the fun!

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register in advance, to receive important updates.

Shop at the online Auction!

On Sunday, November 15th, a link will be emailed to you with details on how to access our online auction.

Bid often to make sure you secure those “must have” items!

Join the Live Stream Event!

On Saturday, November 21st, the Gala “show” will be presented through livestream. Expect some traditional Gala activities, as well as musical entertainment, must-see videos, interactive activities and a few exciting surprises.

Purchase a Raffle Ticket!

Don't miss this opportunity to win a *“His & Hers Canada Goose Black Parka Set”* generously donated by Howard Clothing Co.

Check your email for more details on how to purchase tickets.