



FALL/WINTER 2022

*Dear Southridge Alumni,*

*This year has been an absolute whirlwind (in the best way possible). While we have had many things to be grateful for in 2022, we are especially grateful that we have been able to see so many of your lovely faces in-person.*

*We had a wonderful turnout at our Alumni Homecoming BBQ & Basketball Tournament in May, which combined a scaled-back Country Fair with the Alumni Basketball Tournament. Homecoming was the perfect opportunity to bring together multiple generations of the Southridge family.*

*In June, we were very excited to host our first reunion in three years for the Class of 2012, who celebrated 10 years of being Southridge Alumni. To give you an idea how long ago 2012 was, one of the top charting songs at the time was “Call Me Maybe” by Carly Rae Jepsen and everyone was quoting lines from “The Dark Knight Rises”. The reunion was graciously hosted at the Southridge-family owned Ocean Park Village Pub, where a wonderful time was had as alumni, some of whom traveled from other provinces, reunited and reminisced.*



*The year is not over yet, our dedicated Alumni Association board members, with the support of Southridge and our fellow alumni, have much more in store. Stay tuned and keep in touch, we can't wait to see you!*

Arjun Hair  
Alumni Association Board Member

*Great schools* are measured  
not by the accomplishments of  
their students, but by the  
*lives* led by their alumni.

Drew Stephens, Head of School

Upcoming Event



FALL/WINTER 2022

# IN CONVERSATION

Topic :  
**ALUMNI IN BUSINESS**  
Tips on starting your own business &  
thriving in the business world



November 30,  
2022



Alan Brown Great Hall  
Senior School



6:30PM



**Arjun Hair**

Business Lawyer  
Class of 2012



**Harkaran Dial**

Business Owner  
Class of 2019



**Rick Mann**

Business Director  
Class of 2004

JOIN US FOR BEERS & BUSINESS!

RSVP NOW

To RSVP, please [click here](#)

We look forward to connecting with you!

## Alumni Insights

### Soaring Through the ASK Program

In September of 2019 the Southridge School Alumni Association announced the beginning of a unique mentorship program. Since then, our Grade 10 and 11 students have been eager to learn from our vast network of Southridge alumni through the Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Program.

The ASK Program enables alumni to share their professional and personal experiences with current students, which helps them as they prepare for the future. Grades 10 and 11 are formative exploratory career years for our students, and our alumni mentors have been playing a pivotal role in guiding them. Since its inception, the program has flourished, and has proven to be beneficial for all, but for one pair, it was life changing. Liam Kobylanski, (Class of 2022) recalls the beginning of his journey through the ASK Program, with mentor Spencer Thomas (Class of 2015). “When I was initially paired with Spencer, I completed the interviews and assignments just like everyone else, but it was never enough,” explains Liam. At the time of their initial pairing, Spencer was an instructor pilot for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University located in Prescott, Arizona. For Liam, who was interested in becoming a professional pilot, he says “it was a perfect situation where Spencer was a few

steps ahead of me and could guide me along my journey.” Liam was eager for more answers and remembers “sending Spencer questions non-stop,” and is thankful for Spencer “never losing his mind over the thousand questions [he] asked him.”

Spencer looks back on the first year of their mentor-mentee relationship fondly. “We discussed various topics about aviation, university, high school, work, and life.” After the first year, the pair kept in close contact with one another. “We often chatted about Liam’s progression from where he was in high school and his desire to one day be where I was as a flight instructor, and soon to be airline pilot,” recalls Spencer. “During my Grade 11 year, Spencer told me to go for it, and take the risk,” says Liam. With that encouragement from Spencer, along with the experiences and mistakes he’s shared with him, it led Liam to what he describes as the best decision he’s ever made – starting his Private Pilot’s License training. As Liam began pursuing his private pilot’s license, he was also working diligently at school. “Simultaneously learning to fly an airplane and being a student of

Southridge is no easy feat,” Spencer acknowledged; This was also something Spencer had accomplished when he was in his Grade 11 year. “I was happy to mentor him through this journey and carefully guide him around the potholes I found myself in when I was in his shoes,” recalls Spencer.





At the end of Liam's time at Southridge, he was quick to decide who he would like to invite to his commencement ceremony – his mentor Spencer was at the top of the list. Having the person who guided him through the ups and downs of his latter senior school years, both in his aviation pursuit and in life was important to Liam. Spencer flew in all the way from Arizona to proudly watch the milestone of Liam crossing the stage at his commencement ceremony.

The two men are now both moving forward in their careers with great acceleration. Since meeting Liam, Spencer has acquired nearly 1,000 hours of flight time, training the next generation of commercial pilots at one of the world's leading aviation programs. He has also flown for a major airline in the United States, and is now flying premier heavy private jets all around the world. Liam is currently attending Mount Royal University in Calgary. "I would not be sitting in my dorm at MRU Aviation typing this message if it weren't for Spencer," Liam states in his reflection of his experience with the ASK Program.

The pair's initial bond as mentor and mentee has evolved into a strong friendship today. The two speak highly of one another. In a touching note from Liam, he says "This program changed the course of my life. I don't even want to think about where I would be without Spencer's guidance. I am forever grateful for this opportunity." Spencer says that from what he experienced and what he knows of Liam, "he will go on to be an exemplary professional pilot." Spencer continues to sing Liam's praises, saying that, "Liam has an amazing career ahead of him that will allow him to circumnavigate across the globe many times over. Liam is a great character who is intelligent, quick thinking, and very motivated. Liam is the type of pilot every captain wishes they had in the right seat next to them, and he will one day be what every first officer wishes to be, a great captain. I hope one day Liam and I can share a flight deck, and cruise through the flight-levels together as professionals."

Both Spencer and Liam have shared how valuable they believe the ASK Program is for both the alumni, and the students of Southridge. It keeps the alumni connected to the school in a meaningful way and as Spencer describes, "at the very least this program takes some stress off of the

Southridge students and guides them in the right direction."

Spencer also adds that, "teaching the Southridge mentees how to properly network will be very useful to them throughout life, especially in their new fast approaching endeavors into their university careers. Having credible and reliable professional relationships you can call on will pay our mentees dividends in future life chapters."

Some words of advice from Spencer for current and future mentors: "Be passionate about the guidance you are giving your mentee and make them feel supported in any way you can. Pay this experience you have as a mentor forward. Inspire and motivate your mentee. Challenge them to lead by example, take the occasional risk, and think "outside the tube" as us pilots say."

Spencer's hope is that the ASK Program comes full circle, and that in the future "our mentees will be in our shoes, inspiring, motivating, challenging, and leading the next generation of Southridge students to success." Coincidentally, in Liam's final

note, he says "I think one day, I will be a mentor like Spencer."





JOIN US FOR OUR

*Alumni  
Holiday  
Social*

22 DECEMBER 2022 | 6PM-9PM  
SOUTHRIDGE SENIOR SCHOOL  
ALAN BROWN GREAT HALL

TICKETS GO ON SALE NOVEMBER 15TH



## Alumni Insights

### A Place to Grow and Chase Your Dreams

"When thinking back to my journey at Southridge, there are two key words that come to mind: transformative and accepting," says Brea, a 2015 Graduate. As a young student, Brea found academics challenging, but she found Southridge a safe place to grow regardless. "There are many opportunities at Southridge for every student to shine. It's an accepting place where students are encouraged to take risks and be themselves" says Brea.

As an empathetic and shy grade 6 student, Brea looked for opportunities where she could volunteer her time at School. "I had always veered towards younger students as they give off a love and light that's rare to find," says Brea. Brea, who was 11 years old at the time, approached the Kindergarten teachers in hopes to shine in a volunteer role in their classrooms. "I was greeted with excitement and gratitude and immediately made strong connections with the children," says Brea. During her time volunteering she would read with the children, create art projects, and help with math homework. "This brought so much love into my life," says Brea. "Southridge was transformative for me because it was instrumental in shaping who I would become." Brea was able to get hands on experience at a young age, showing her what being a teacher would look like. By the time grade 7 rolled around, she had set her sights set on becoming a teacher one day.

*"Southridge was transformative for me because it was instrumental in shaping who I would become"*

In Brea's grade 11 year, Southridge held a University Fair that brought people to talk about their experiences in different job fields. The University Fair pushed her further along the path to being a teacher. In 2015, right after graduating Southridge, she attended Vancouver Island University where she took the 5-year concurrent Education program. "With patience, a lot of support and perseverance, I graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Education," says Brea. Graduating at the beginning of a global pandemic was not easy, but Brea was committed to being the best teacher she could be.

"During my grade 12 year, my best friend wrote in the 2014-2015 yearbook that within the next 10 years I would be back at Southridge, but this time as a teacher," says Brea. After coming back from University with her Bachelor of Education degree she found out Southridge was hiring. Brea was promptly brought on as a teacher on call for Southridge, and then was approached with the opportunity of becoming the Kindergarten Associate Teacher. "I absolutely loved my time as a student and teacher at Southridge," reflects Brea, who recently made the big move back to the island. "I'm excited about where my teaching career is going to take me. I couldn't be more thankful for the wonderful and supporting staff, students, and families of Southridge. Because of you, my dreams became possible."



# Alumni Giving Back

## *Ways to Give Back this Year*



Our remarkable group of alumni are making a difference in the world and we are so proud of everything you all continue to achieve. This incredible community, of more than 1,400 strong, often acknowledge that the opportunity to attend Southridge changed the course of their lives; allowing them to develop their knowledge, confidence, and character, and achieve their full potential. For some alumni, the opportunity to attend Southridge was made possible through financial assistance.

Southridge was built on the desire to create a school of students with strong minds and good hearts. Since the day we opened our doors, financial assistance has been offered so that deserving, mission-aligned students and their families could join our community. Funded through the generosity of donors, financial assistance makes a Southridge education a reality for over 25 students every year – students whose lives will be forever changed for having attended our school. No gift is too small. It is the cumulative generosity of our association that will change the life of a deserving young person. **What a remarkable way to make a difference in the world.**

To learn more about alumni who have received bursary support [click here](#).



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## Serving our Alumni

At Southridge, we value our connection with alumni. No matter where you live, we are committed to providing opportunities for alumni to keep connected to the Southridge community and to each other.

We encourage you to stay connected and to update your information regularly so we can send you exciting information about upcoming events, alumni programs (ie. the ASK Program) and other ways to support the Southridge community.

By keeping in touch with us, you will...

- Receive a University Care Package from Southridge (applicable to recent grads)
- Connect with Southridge and the Alumni community
- Receive the [Spirit Magazine](#), twice per year – with interesting stories, photos, alumni profiles, and more
- Expand your network for professional growth and development.
- Continue your involvement in the well-being and future of Southridge

## Stay Connected!

As a member of the Southridge Alumni Association, you have access to events, activities, and networking opportunities that you do not want to miss. To receive invites, newsletters, and other communications, please ensure your contact information is up to date.

To Update Your Record, please [CLICK HERE](#)

## Follow Us Online!

