

I love talking with a girl about this, too.

That's the other thing! When I started BASE jumping back in 2005, I was one of 50 women worldwide who were BASE jumping. Females are some of my favorite people to teach. It's a 10:1 guy to girl ratio. It wasn't until about two and a half years ago that I went on a BASE jumping trip with more girls than guys. Everyone was so stoked. The guys were stoked because there were a bunch of girls there, and the girls were stoked because there were a bunch of girls there!

Women bring such a different energy to it. In the beginning, I had to be one of the dudes. I made sure I stayed that way, because it was the only way I could go get jumps. Now that there are more doors open for women to come into the sport, you can let your femininity show through a little more. Being able to totally be a girl and then go BASE jump and keep up with all the dudes is just so fun.

Why do you identify with WAM women?

It's been a lifelong dream to inspire other people, mostly women, because I've seen the limits that a lot of society puts on people, especially in regards to sports. I've made it my goal to inspire, support, and encourage them to follow their dreams and live their passions, so I do a lot of motivational work, keynote speaking, and personal development coaching. I see so much potential in people. It's kind of heartbreaking when you see the potential and they don't because of all the pressures of society and what people say to them.

What challenges you about your job?

I need to get over mental stuff as much as the students do, realize that one of my students might get hurt, and get over the guilt. One of my past students actually died—later in his jumping career. I hate the saying "At least they died doing something that they loved," because no one hits the wall and loves that. But what they loved drove them so far that they enjoyed every aspect of it.

What's inspiring or rewarding about what you do?

All of it. No, really. The people I meet are so inspiring and so are their stories. Being able to connect with positive, like-minded people who share my passion has been such a blessing in my life. It's hard in such a small community to find people like that. You meet them along the way in such interesting places. But the fact that we can jump off of a fixed object, fly our own bodies, and live, is the force that keeps me doing it.

Your passion is so intertwined with your work and your life.

Yes. Yes, it is.

How do you balance them? Can you even separate them?

It's a delicate balance. Sometimes I have it and sometimes I don't. Sometimes it feels like a job and sometimes I'm riding a plane up with a student about to take her first jump, and I think, "I can't believe I get to do this for a living!"

For a while, I didn't have that balance. Everything I ate, drank, and dreamed was BASE jumping and skydiving. That wasn't fun anymore, and I was limiting myself by driving so hard all the

time. With BASE jumping, the only thing I haven't found a balance for and still don't love is all the driving. But, once we get out there, I get to watch someone experience something that she previously wouldn't have been able to experience. Unlike an office job, where the weekends are free time, my job's free time is scheduled minute by minute. One minute I'm coaching; the next minute, I have free time to do my fun jump. After the student jumps, it's just me, and I get to do what I love on my own.



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