

Who is Doing What

## VWS Alumni Corner

Interview with Georgia Simmerling  
Class of 2007



**VWS:** Tell me about your work and education after graduating from the VWS.

**GS:** With the immense support of my teachers and the entire faculty while I was away from school a lot due to my skiing career, I graduated on time in 2007. I made the Canadian Alpine Ski Team shortly after graduating and have been a full time athlete since. I love what I do, and feel honoured representing my country, especially when the team travels overseas. I am blessed to be able to pursue my passion of alpine ski racing and have the sport I love so much be my career (for now at least!). I travel the world all year round with skiing, meeting new people everywhere I go, and experiencing many different cultures. I will say I have eaten my fair share of Wiener Schnitzel, and can say with confidence that it is not my favourite European meal. Being on the National Team, I (or any of my teammates) do not have the time to attend a university full time. We make a choice to ski race and earn money doing it, while we can. I know school will always be there for me and fully attend to go to university after my ski career.

**VWS:** What do you enjoy most about your work?

**GS:** Yes it is tough sometimes...living out of a suitcase 10 months of the year, rarely seeing my family and friends from home, waking up at 6 am to go train at the top of a mountain for 5 hours in -30 degree weather. Did I mention doing this in only two layers of spandex on our bodies? But for the most part, I love calling what I do my job. If I didn't still love it after all these years of dedicating my entire life into this, I wouldn't be writing about this now.



**VWS:** What do you think are your greatest successes in life?

**GS:** I would have to say representing my country at the 2010 Whistler Olympic Games this past February. I have never felt so passionate and proud, in my entire life, to be called a Canadian. Having 60,000 people cheer for you walking into GM Place at the Opening Ceremonies is a pretty thrilling experience.

**VWS:** How did Waldorf education affect your life, and your choice of career?

**GS:** Haha..I don't think Waldorf directed me into ski racing, or maybe it did? But I can say having the opportunity to think freely and experience so much diversity through my education with Waldorf as given me the mind I have today. I am referring to everything from being outside gardening learning about a plant's life instead of sitting in front of a computer screen as a young child, to the dynamics of an Elaine Mackee or Eitel Timm\* run classroom. There's just more to education in Waldorf!

**VWS:** What are your fondest memories of your time at the VWS?

**GS:** I would have to say the high school hiking trip at the beginning of each year. It is the ideal way to learn who your teachers are, get to know your classmates, and figure out a little bit of who you are as well, all while hiking in our beautiful backyard mountains of BC! The Grade 12 project wasn't too shabby as well.

\*VWS high school faculty

*Interview by Michelle Gibson, for Development*

*Editor's Note November 5th, 2013: Georgia will be representing Canada at the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia.*