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Foreign Policy Magazine Includes Winthrop Alumna among Top 100 Global Thinkers

Winthrop University

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Foreign Policy Magazine Includes Winthrop Alumna among Top 100 Global Thinkers

Quick Facts

- Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers list recognizes the world's pre-eminent thought leaders around the world.
- Ghadiyali, a Facebook software engineer, earned a B.S. in chemistry at Winthrop.



Zainab Ghadiyali

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – [Foreign Policy Magazine](#) has named **Zainab Ghadiyali '09** one of the top 100 [Global Thinkers](#) of 2015.

The [Facebook](#) software engineer, who co-created **non-profit wogrammer**, earned her B.S. in [chemistry](#) – with minors in human nutrition and biology – at Winthrop University. Foreign Policy recognized Ghadiyali and wogrammer co-creator Erin Summers for their efforts to **highlight the technical accomplishments of women in engineering**.

Ghadiyali said that she was surprised and honored to discover her inclusion in **Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers list**.

"It is a huge honor to be included on a list that includes some of the leading change-makers of our time," said Ghadiyali.

The Mumbai native added that Winthrop provided her with a **strong foundation** that proved instrumental in deciding her career path.

"Winthrop gave me a great platform to leverage, and I am very grateful to my peers and the professors who helped me constantly during my four amazing years there."

The San Francisco resident discovered her passion for engineering after switching careers. She worked in public health and started to pursue a Ph.D. in health economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She changed course after taking part in – and winning – an on-campus hackathon competition hosted by Facebook. Ghadiyali switched to UWM's Industrial Engineering and Computer Science graduate program and immersed herself in engineering. She met Summers at Facebook, and the two decided to start wogrammer to **debunk the "brogrammer" stereotype and encourage young women to pursue their interest in tech careers**.

Since 2009, [Foreign Policy](#) has recognized the **world's pre-eminent thought leaders** in its issue "**100 Leading Global Thinkers**." Honorees include advocates, innovators, artists, government officials and visionaries from across the globe.

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