

SARAH GALLAGHER

B.S. BUSINESS '10

A young teen eager to work, Sarah Gallagher got her first "real" job at Foster's Freeze in Ventura. Just 10 years later, at age 25, she became President and CEO of a multinational corporation named ThinGap.

"I was always looking for ways to work when I was younger and did typical things like babysitting until I could get an actual job," says Gallagher. "Work was invigorating, and I thrived on it. I started working full time at a young age and never stopped."

That perpetual motion greatly accelerated in 2008 when she joined ThinGap as the company's Business Manager. ThinGap designs and manufactures lightweight, high-performance electric motors for niche markets. Applications include drones and satellites, medical oxygen concentrators and even Formula One race cars.

During the next four years, Gallagher helped the company negotiate favorable agreements with companies in China, get non-U.S. facilities up and running, and achieve other milestones. In 2011, when ThinGap's board of directors launched a national search for a new CEO, she stepped forward.

"I'm a far departure from my predecessors, who were all males in their 50s, but I talked to the Chairman and expressed interest," says Gallagher. "After a few months of deliberation I was offered the position."

When asked what she likes best about her role, she says, "Seeing our products designed into applications that people know about or read about is always interesting. Most of the time, they don't know it's a ThinGap product running the system. It's exciting to see the technology enable others' success."

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