



**Goodwin**  
University

Magnet School System  
Scholars' Alumni Association

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

### SOARING EAGLES

MAY 2026



#### **Alumni Profile:** **Anamaria Sousa, Class of 2017**

Anamaria entered Goodwin Magnet School System (GUMSS) as a freshman at Connecticut River Academy (CTRA) from a private school in Manchester. Arriving at CTRA from a culturally insulated educational experience, Anamaria recalls that she needed a moment to adjust to her new surroundings:

"It was definitely a culture shock. I went to a predominantly white school and everybody was like me. So when I went to CTRA and saw everybody that was different from me, it was definitely a shock..."

Anamaria attributes the openness of her fellow scholars, and the support of CTRA staff for her swift transition from uncertainty to understanding, "My freshman year I found friends of all different groups of people...people that I never thought I would be friends with."

After graduation from CTRA, Anamaria enrolled in the University of Connecticut (UCONN)/Hartford Campus where she pursued her bachelor's degree in education. She transferred to UCONN/Storrs, but when the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated, she was forced to move back home to continue her education online. She earned her master's degree in Educational Psychology in 2022. .

It was during her second year of her master's studies that Anamaria traveled to South Africa to both teach at Eros School and to study at the University of Cape Town.

"I took a class on the history of South Africa.," she recalled. She also recalls visiting the memorial built to honor the hundreds of young, school-aged youth massacred during the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

Upon earning her master's degree, Anamaria came home to work at GUMSS. She currently serves as a special education teacher at CTRA Middle School. There she helps and encourages young scholars who just need just a little more assistance. Anamaria's life journey has prepared her to fulfil her calling to be a compassionate and caring teacher:

"The students come in and they bring what they're experiencing at home. They bring it to school, and I think every day - I learned something new about them, I learned something new about myself."

Anamaria, a soaring eagle who came home to work.

Anamaria's alumni interview can be viewed on the [Goodwin University Magnet School System YouTube channel!](#)

For more information about the 1976 Soweto Uprising, please click [here](#).



## **Congratulations!** **Lovethus Henry, Class of 2019**

You may recall that Lovethus Henry was the invited speaker for the CTRA Decision Day 2025. Please join me in congratulating Lovethus on earning his Master of Science, Cybersecurity and Information Assurance. from Western Governors University.

Well done, Lovethus!

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## Well Wishes! Maralyna Bell, Class of 2018

Please join me in wishing Maralyn well as she enters Arizona College of Nursing - Hartford.

Maralyna, nurses are very much needed in our world. Our thoughts and encouragement are with you on your journey.



## Congratulations! Taylor Marchand, Class of 2018

Is there a doctor in the house? Yes!

Congratulations to Taylor on her earning her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

Well done, Dr. Marchand!

## Have You News to Share?



- Enrolled in college?
- Graduated from college?
- Earned a certificate?
- Completed an apprenticeship?
- Landed your dream job?
- Got a promotion?
- Opened your own business?
- Purchased a home?
- Have a new addition to your family?
- Have you reached a milestone in your life?

Let your achievement be an inspiration to others. Send your good news to Elizabeth Horton Sheff at [ehortonsheff@goodwinmagnetschools.org](mailto:ehortonsheff@goodwinmagnetschools.org).