

Then and Now: **The Alumni Corner** by Susan Siebert

A few years before Cottonwood School was founded, Sean and Seth Stambaugh embarked on their education at a Montessori school, where Susan Siebert was their early childhood teacher, and Susan Black and Carla Graf were their junior elementary teachers. They joined Cottonwood School in 1996 and were among our first graduates! Their mom, Linda Weisband, credits their early Montessori education for teaching them how to manage time, work independently and work for their own satisfaction. "As independent learners," she says, "these qualities impacted how they learned throughout their schooling."

Sean Stambaugh

After graduating from Cottonwood School, Sean was accepted at Albuquerque Academy. He was one of the founders of *Pulp, Pith and Zest* (essays and photography) and served as Editor of that publication. He com-

peted with the debate team for three years, with better than a 75% win/loss record nationally! After graduating in 2005, Sean majored in Political Science with a minor in Philosophy at Haverford College. In his senior year he was selected by the faculty as a writing tutor. He graduated in 2009, and is applying for graduate school to attain his Masters in Education degree. Sean looks toward a future teaching high school or college.

Seth Stambaugh

Seth attended Albuquerque Academy after graduating from Cottonwood School. He excelled in Art, receiving an award that placed his work in the school's permanent collection (three paintings hang in Brown Hall). He received a Gold Key for an abstract piece he created in 7th grade. Seth was the youngest published writer/gay activist for the first issue of *Pride* (now *Pride and Equality*). He was featured in the Albuquerque Journal for this contribution.



**Sean Stambaugh and Seth Stambaugh
Cottonwood Class of 1998**

Albuquerque Academy Class of 2005

**Photo taken at Sean's 2009
graduation from Haverford**

Seth graduated from Academy in 2005, and will graduate this year from Lewis and Clark College, where he is majoring in English. He traveled abroad in Australia, making the Dean's list with a 3.75 GPA while there. He is lined up for the MAT program at Lewis and Clark, and plans to become a Montessori elementary teacher!