

## Then and Now: **The Alumni Corner** by **Susan Black**

Hannah Cone was among the first class of elementary students when Cottonwood School opened in 1995. She attended Cottonwood from first grade through fifth grade and was accepted at the top three preparatory schools upon graduation. She chose to attend Bosque School for her middle school years. Hannah then transferred to Albuquerque Academy for ninth through twelfth grades. While at Academy, Hannah received frequent letters of commendation and recognition for the outstanding quality of her work in a wide variety of subjects.

Upon graduating from Academy in 2007, Hannah received several merit scholarships and chose to attend Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. She is presently working on a double

major in Psychology and Art with a minor in Art History. Hannah is considering the pursuit of a Masters in Education which would qualify her for a K-12 teaching credential as well. In addition she was recently inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars because of her impressive GPA. Hannah will spend this semester in Barcelona, Spain on a study abroad program focusing on Psychology and Art History.

Reflecting on her experience at Cottonwood Hannah said, "One thing that's really important to me is how much Cottonwood nurtures creativity. The fact that kids are able to choose at a given moment what they want to work on and are encouraged to explore numerous outlets of creative expression really leads to happier, more fulfilled young lives.



There are so many opportunities for kids to find out what really gets them fired up. Personally I loved the Peace Concerts and being able to sing- and I have been singing ever since!"

Hannah's mom, Melinda Cone, says that they have so many great memories of their time at Cottonwood. She said, "Hannah had such a great experience at Cottonwood. Cottonwood got her excited about learning and that's key! Cottonwood was so good about nurturing the love of learning." Melinda says that Hannah started at Cottonwood as a shy child but soon began to blossom into the amazing woman she is today. Congratulations, Hannah!