

Senior tutees graduate strong!

Casey (right) is laser-focused on her goal of becoming a nurse. She and tutor Elena Breer (Harvard '18) have worked together for three years.



Nitza (left) will be attending Lasell College in Newton. She and tutor Katie Dobos (UMassBoston '18) have worked together for the last two years.

David (right) won the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship given to one senior at each Boston Public School. He and Ben Kelly (Harvard '17) have had a fun, quirky relationship for four years.



Zainab (left) will be attending UMassBoston to study biology. Tutor Vanessa Contratto (Harvard '18) has worked with Zainab for two years.

Sebastian succeeds through determination and quiet humility

EVkids senior Sebastian sets a quiet, humble example for the younger tutees. Through his four years with EVkids, he has maintained a quiet motivation, one that has led him on to graduate high school and soon to college.

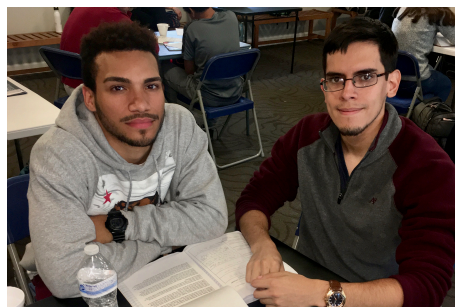
Though both are reserved, Sebastian finds that he and his tutor, Gerardo Castillo (Harvard '18) “communicate very well,” and says that Gerardo “keeps me motivated.” The pair have been working together for 4 years, paired together as freshman. Even though they appear to be complete opposites, each of them is quiet and humble, in a way that has made them not only a hard-working tutoring pair, but unlikely friends.

“I have a new friend that can always reach out to me for help whenever he wants in the future,” said Gerardo. Sebastian agrees and said Gerardo and EVkids “keep me out of trouble.”

At the beginning of this year,

Sebastian was struck with that most common of afflictions: senioritis. He struggled with keeping up his interest in academics. Gerardo leveraged their strong communication skills and common drive to help Sebastian turn things around. They worked to develop Sebastian’s academic self-advocacy skills and persistence. Sebastian sought help from his teachers, came to Tutoring early, and even stayed late to finish a project.

“My favorite things about Sebastian are his will, work ethic, and his ability to bounce back after any struggle,” said



Gerardo.

Sebastian treated his college acceptance with the same quiet humility he does everything else. When an EVkids Education Advocate suggested he visit his top-choice school for a special visitation day, he casually mentioned that he had already been accepted!

Sebastian’s work ethic hasn’t wavered with his acceptance to college. He plans to study automotive engineering at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, and has already lined up a summer internship.

Sebastian, with a little help from EVkids and his tutor Gerardo, has worked steadily through his four years of high school. He set a goal and worked hard to achieve it. EVkids is proud to count Sebastian as one of the newest members of the EVkids alumni community!

How can a drum solo and Nutella help you learn Spanish?

Sixth-grader Michael stood by himself near the welcome table at the Community Event, looking uncomfortable. EVkids Education Advocate Ashley Clavel tried to make him feel more at ease: She started a conversation, offered him a cookie, and pointed him to the craft table. Nothing worked. He wasn't interested.

Then his tutor Gillermo walked into the room, and Michael sprang to his side like a magnet. Gillermo Gomez (Harvard '18) has been Michael's tutor for two and a half years, and the pair are inseparable.

With characteristic creativity and enthusiasm, Gillermo found a creative and fun way to help his tutee Michael memorize the numbers in Spanish for an upcoming Spanish quiz: practice them to a beat, making a song. Michael counted

to a beat, "uno, dos, tres, cuatro, cinco, seis, siete, ocho, NUTELLA!" swapping "nueve" for his favorite yummy chocolate spread. Despite Gillermo's worries that Michael would forget nine is "nueve" and not "Nutella," Michael got everything right on the quiz! To celebrate, Gillermo brought in jars of Nutella for him and Michael. Learning the numbers with a beat (and Nutella) helped Michael ace his quiz and taught him a creative and effective way to remember information in the future.

This will be Gillermo and Michael's last semester together, as Gillermo graduates college and moves on. As Michael continues on to 7th grade, he'll carry with him an important lesson: There isn't always a drum solo, and there isn't always Nutella, but there is always a way to learn.



Plays and songs and dinner, oh my!



EVkids tutee Ashna (11th grade) took on the role of a selfish bunny who learns an important lesson in the Community Event stageplay.

For the 20th year in a row, the many branches of the EVkids community came together for food, fun, and fellowship at the annual Community Event. With their bellies full of home-cooked food provided by tutees' families, tutees danced to original choreography, performed in skits with their tutors, and debuted a play inspired by a West African folk tale about a greedy bunny who learns to work with her neighbors for everyone's benefit. Tutees couldn't wait to get on stage after spending more than a month rehearsing their performances on weekends.

At the end of the night, everyone joined together to sing an old EVkids classic -- "Stand By Me." As the Tutoring year wraps up, tutees know that their tutors will indeed stand by them.

Save the Date!

*9th Annual
Expanding Horizons Gala*

November 17, 2018 The Charles Hotel

From awkward to awesome

Alumni Spotlight

When Miguel and Alvaro first met, Alvaro was a shy, quiet 7th grader who liked math, loved soccer, but struggled with reading and writing. Miguel was a freshman at Harvard, having just moved from Colorado. Miguel had struggled with the same subjects as a student, and he saw a little of himself in Alvaro. Though Miguel was nervous about the responsibility of tutoring and mentoring this young man, he was really curious to get to know him.

Together, Miguel and Alvaro spent their weekly Tutoring sessions writing creative stories and persuasive essays, and working on grammar. Eventually they got Alvaro's reading and writing skills up to grade level. By their second year together, Miguel had learned the key to getting Alvaro to open up: Get him talking about soccer!

Miguel knows that without EVkids he never would have met Alvaro, and they never would have built the strong, authentic relationship they have without the support of the EVkids community.

At the end of Miguel's senior year of college and Alvaro's sophomore year of high school, they had to say goodbye. It was bittersweet, but Miguel was confident that their work together had prepared Alvaro for his final years of high school.

Miguel graduated from Harvard with a B.A. in Psychology in 2015, and received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach high school English in Italy for a year. When he came back, he accepted his current position teaching math at the Community Charter School of

Cambridge. Back in Boston, Miguel reconnected with EVkids in time to cheer Alvaro on at the annual EVkids Moving On Ceremony.

That was the first time in two years Miguel had seen Alvaro. He noticed that Alvaro had grown up, looked more confident, and smiled more than Miguel had ever seen. Catching up with him felt like catching up with a life-long friend.

Miguel reflects often on how Alvaro changed him. As a high school teacher, he uses the skills he learned with Alvaro, like how to explain concepts, clarify misunderstandings, and help students think critically. And he learned that personal relationships are paramount.

"It took a while working with Alvaro to open up and be invested. I learned that building relationships takes time, but that you need to build that relationship with your tutee to really accomplish anything," Miguel said. "The best part was just having conversations, just having a connection that was consistently there."

Today, Alvaro is in his first year at UMassBoston, and Miguel is a member of the EVkids Board, helping to develop new programs like the College Success Project. Through this new initiative, alumni like Miguel will continue to mentor college-enrolled EVkids graduates like Alvaro, to help them stay on track and graduate college. As Alvaro wraps up the semester at UMassBoston, he knows he can count on Miguel for help and encouragement at every step along the way.



Count me in! I want to be part of the community of support!

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YOU'RE INVITED!

Harpoon Beer Tasting

May 4, 7-8:30 p.m.

Tickets at www.evkids.org/harpoon

Moving On Ceremony

May 12, 10-11:30 a.m.

Cristo Rey High School Library

NYC Reunion

May 5, 4-6 p.m.

Hosted by Scott Murphy (H '92) and Jen Hogan

Harvard Reunion

May 26, 3-5 p.m.

Hosted by Julie Whitman ('93) in the Catholic Student Center Lounge

Details at www.evkids.org.

Contact 617-297-2239 or jaclynbarbarow@evkids.org for more information or to RSVP!

