

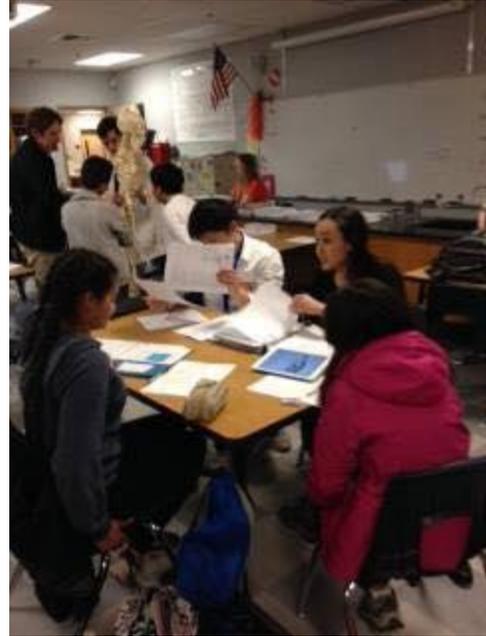
# Achievements with Pinkerton Middle School

- **Farrah Nasrollahi**  
M1 Student of CNUCOM

I have always loved teaching. My first real experience with teaching was in undergrad when I started working as a Berkeley Writing Coach. Every week I would go to a new school and teach a new student about how to “analyze the theme of Moby Dick” or “write about the most influential person in their life.” But it didn’t feel like it was enough. I never got to work with the same student twice and I wasn’t passionate about what I was teaching.

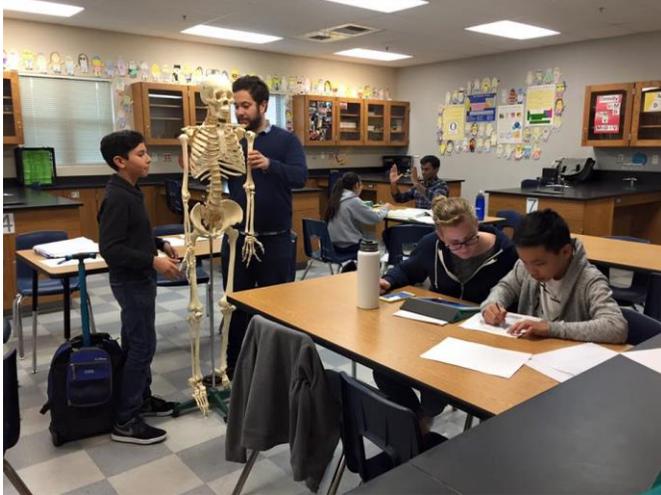
I loved the core of what I was doing, which was making a connection to the youth, a real connection, not several decades removed, but among students within several years of my own age, but it wasn’t my real passion. My real passion was making connections between medicine and science. When I was younger, for as long as I can remember, I always wanted to learn about medicine but never had the resources to do so. More importantly, I never saw the relationship between what I was learning in school and how it applied to medicine.

However this story is not about me, it seems several CNUCOM students had this same vision for themselves and their community. The vision I described as working with the youth and it was only as a combined effort that we were able to impact the students at Pinkerton Middle School, here in Elk Grove, and have medicine make its very well deserved appearance in their learned sciences.





When approaching Pinkerton Middle School my intention was not to work with kids in Science Olympiad, it was in fact, originally, to actualize what I had set out to do several years ago; to start a program in which I was able to present science topics that students were learning in the setting of medicine. Trying to reel in the abstract and make science beautiful by showing its medical applicability.



However, the kids were already months into Science Olympiad and given the approaching competition date, the possibility of starting up a new afterschool activity with the kids in the midst of their studying for the competition was not feasible at that time. Despite feeling a little let down, Mrs. Paula Bennett, the dedicated science middle school teacher we worked with, assured me that a relationship with the students could continue after Science Olympiad and working with the kids in their preparation for the competition would be a good introduction to our flourishing relationship with the Pinkerton Middle School students.

The CNUCOM medical students very enthusiastically and eloquently taught the middle school students the applicable sciences, demonstrating every concept in a medical context. It was so heartwarming to witness how willing the middle school students were to learn about medicine and our impact definitely did not go unnoticed as the Pinkerton Middle School students surpassed their expectations in the Science Olympiad competition, placing 4<sup>th</sup> in the physics event, 7<sup>th</sup> in Anatomy and Physiology, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Elk Grove Unified School District and 12<sup>th</sup> overall in Northern California.

Science Olympiad was a great success and was more than I could have ever hoped for. More importantly, it couldn't have been accomplished without the dedication of our wonderful inaugural class. I have listed some of those wonderful students that dedicated their time to the community:

Amram Averick  
Amie Cai  
Rachel Ivanhoe  
Victor Lau

Spencer Salazar  
Rick Siu  
Jacob Stoker  
Chris Phillips

Lexi Mullen  
Sam Sullivan  
Rainy Zhang  
Prashanth Venkataraman

I am also so happy to announce that, like Mrs. Paula Bennett had previously mentioned, we will be able to begin some preventative medicine/general integrated medical science based talks with the middle school students following Science Olympiad. In addition, because of our great success with Science Olympiad, it seems some other schools in the community are also eager to have our students get involved their science curriculums as well, among which includes the neighboring high school, Consumes High School.

