



THE CENTER FOR COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chem Club Hosts Science Blowout

By: Kyle Gibson

The Alma College Chemistry Club hosted its biannual Science Blowout on Friday, November 14th, welcoming around 140 2nd and 3rd-graders from nearby Ithaca elementary schools. Science Blowout is a STEM outreach program that seeks to inspire young students by fostering an interest in science-related fields. Spearheaded by Chemistry Club, Science Blowout is a collaboration between several different science-oriented student organizations, with this iteration including IPHS club, Pre-med club, and Pre-vet club. The students in attendance rotate through the various clubs to see and experience demos and activities with each of the participating clubs. Science Blowout has been a continuing tradition for Alma College students and departments here at Alma College for *decades*, long enough that I attended these events when I was a child, and it is my immense privilege to now get to serve as the faculty advisor for this event.

Chemistry Club had several demonstrations for this year's Science Blowout, some mainstays of the program and some new ones. All the demonstrations are hand-picked, prepared, and performed by the student members of the club. The favorite demo of many (myself included) is the explosion of the hydrogen-filled balloons. If you happened to be in the Dow Science Center while it was going on, I'm sure you heard it! Some of the other demos, shown in the pictures, include the Blue Bottle, where each student gets their own vial of solution which turns blue upon shaking, and the Jug of Mystery, where one "mystery" solution can produce 5 different colors depending on what is added to it.

