**2018 Gubernatorial Race**

The 2018 race for Governor of New York State is underway and the welfare of our state has put many voters on the edge of their seat. With some of the highest taxes in the country, a crumbling infrastructure, and a failing education system on many voters’ minds it is important to spare more than a passing glance at the platforms of those running.

**Larry Sharpe**

If you’re looking for a strong-willed Libertarian candidate for governor, Sharpe is your guy, and you won’t have to look too hard for him. Sharpe has been traveling across the state holding personable townhall meetings drawing support from a base nobody would have expected. He is a business owner from the Bronx and a former Marine who wants nothing more than to see his home state flourish. Sharpe wants government to run more efficient and effective. If elected governor Sharpe has vowed to fix the big issues and bring business back to New York by lessening the tax burden on the tax payer. If elected he will work to decentralize education, keeping Albany out of our schools, lease naming rights of popular infrastructure to companies to maintain, and legalize the use and manufacture of hemp and marijuana products.

**Marc Molinaro**

Incumbent and Democratic nominee Andrew Cuomo has been the elected governor since 2011 and has been facing some of the same battles throughout his two terms while facing major criticism from many middleclass upstate voters. Cuomo has remained tough on policy while working to lower taxes and improve living conditions. He vows to reduce expenses by fighting against the federal tax assault he claims will raise low-income and middle-class taxes by 20%-25%; also claiming he has secured the lowest middle-class tax rate since 1947, and the lowest corporate tax rate since 1968. Cuomo also made clear his concern for women’s rights and putting an end to sexual assault and extortion in the workplace, demonstrating his commitment to progressive causes.

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**Marc Molinaro**

Marc Molinaro is the Republican nominee for the governorship of NY State. Molinaro is running to unseat the Democratic incumbent, Andrew Cuomo, who is the present governor of New York. He is running in a state where the number of registered Democrats outnumber their Republican counterparts two to one. For many people, Molinaro’s stance on subjects like property taxes and reorganizing the state healthcare system is quite appealing. As stated by Grace Steyers, on the City & State New York website, Molinaro is a career politician who started his career by running for mayor of his home town of Tivoli in Dutchess County and was re-elected five times. He has a general conservative stance on topics like gun control, late-term abortion and limiting government spending. Molinaro states that “Gov. Cuomo is falsely depicting me as an ultraconservative and out of step with the common New Yorker.” In a nod to President Trump, he has some interesting ideas on how to “make New York affordable again.” Molinaro has campaigned on reducing state property taxes by 30%. The Republican candidate has also stated that he is against the idea of a single-payer healthcare system. Molinaro has also questioned Governor Cuomo, who went forward with rebuilding the Tappan Zee Bridge without sufficient funds for the massive project.

-Timothy Seitzinger

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**Allegany Artisans**

Fall in Western NY is filled with crisp air, crisp apples, and a change of foliage that is sometimes referred to as “nature’s paintbrush.” Mother Nature is not the only one with her paintbrush at the ready this time of year; Mid-October in Allegany County is also a time to celebrate the arts. On the weekend of October 13 and 14, 2018, 40 local artisans opened their personal studios for the Allegany Artisans Annual Studio Tour. For over 30 years, artists and craftspeople from this region have had an annual tour that celebrates art in Allegany County. This driving tour around the county has the picturesque backdrop of fall, which attracts art-lovers from near and far to this region. Many of the Allegany Artisans have ties to Alfred, NY, and the colleges here. Peter Midgley, an instructor at Alfred State College who teaches art history, has been an Allegany artisan for 25 years. He started his journey in clay in 1990, and he says that he is inspired by many of the artists and art that he teaches about in his classes. He had over 150 customers stop by his Wellsville studio this year. His studio is open year-round by appointment only.

Carol Amman is another faculty member at Alfred State who was on the tour this year. She owns Twin Pines Pottery in Andover and creates “Pots with Purpose.” Her Facebook page, Twin Pines Pottery, shows many examples of her work, and features glowing reviews from her customers. Lauded by her customers for the “impeccable craftsmanship” of her work, Carol says it’s enhanced with “…carvings inspired by nature’s artistry.”

Although the tour only takes place once per year, many of the artists and crafters are open to the public or by appointment all year long. You can find their information online at Alleganyartisans.com. You can also find many artisans’ work for sale at Gallery2, a store on Main Street in Alfred, NY. Gallery2 is owned by Allegany Artisan’s president, Len Curran. It is located within the building of the Alfred Sports Center. The store features a collection of locally handmade artistry, including jewelry, clothing, fine art, pottery, woodworking and more. Gallery2 is open throughout the year, and many residents find it a convenient place to shop for local goods during the holiday season.

-Cassandra Robbers

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*Photo taken from the Allegany Artisan’s website with permission from President Len Curran.*
Madison Webster

On October 12th, Madison Webster who is a 4-year standout became the Alfred State all-time digs leader with 1,358 career digs and counting. Along with that accomplishment, she was also named ACAA defensive player of the week. The lady Pioneers earned #3 Seed for the ACAA Tournament. Congrats Madison!

Q: What is your favorite sports team?
A: “Whatever soccer or basketball team my 11-year old brother is on!”

Q: If you could go on a date with anyone from the present or past, whom would you pick?
A: “My boyfriend, unless Zac Efron is available. Then my boyfriend is out of luck.”

Q: What is your favorite TV show?
A: “All-time favorite is ‘Gossip Girl.’ The one I am watching right now is ‘How to Get Away with Murder.’”

Q: What is your favorite quote?
A: “Your body is the pathway for your mind to express its athleticism.” – Gene Doorley

Q: Who is your biggest role model?
A: “My Mama.”

-Leigh Swartzfager

Effective Communications

On Sept 26, 2018 Dr. Alex Bitterman gave a presentation in the Allegany room at 8am to 23 attendees. Dr. Bitterman is the Chair of the Architecture & Design department on Alfred State. The attendees included students in the President Aspiring Leaders (PAL) Program, faculty, staff and members of the Student Affairs University.

The whole presentation is to examine “why” (not “how”) effective communication can improve personal well-being among collegiate leaders. Dr. Bitterman gave 14 perspectives to better understand the importance of effective communication.

The highlight of the presentation was when he gave everyone in the audience free cars, just like Oprah. Granted, these cars were toy cars. That made the presentation both memorable and enjoyable.

-Calvinn Tay

Calvinn’s Personal Finance Column

I have an iPhone SE and was planning to upgrade it to an iPhone 7 when I heard that the price dropped to $449. There was some money in the bank so I was thinking of doing it. After thinking it through, however, I decided not to buy it. My phone worked fine, so I could have used the money to help me set up my life after college or on more pressing needs.

The first impulse I experienced, I believe, is one we can all relate to. Many people have a sudden impulse to buy when there is a discount. Who doesn’t love a good discount!? To better manage one’s finances, we need to take a step back from our emotions and debate the pros and cons logically.

It gets easier when you have a master plan for your money. One should think of money as a tool for an end, instead of an end in itself. The very essence of properly managing money is this – think of it as a tool to serve you, not the other way around.

This way of thinking about money will help you in your next impulse buying decision and bit by bit, even maybe help you get your finances in order.

-Calvinn Tay

ERGO (ALFRED STATE’S LITERARY & ARTISTIC PUBLICATION)

ERGO is funded by the Student Senate and is freely distributed each semester and is also available to view on Pioneer Link.

We are accepting new submissions for the Fall 2018 Ergo publication if you would like to contribute. Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit their original works of art, poetry, and prose by sending them to ergo@alfredstate.edu. Dr. Aniko Constantine (SDC Bldg., Rm. 309), is the Faculty Adviser for ERGO. She can be reached at constaav@alfredstate.edu. If you wish, your submission could be published anonymously or under a pseudonym.