Santino Siordia (commonly referred to as Sonny) is a senior on the poetry team at Hancock. Sonny joined the poetry team because he loves listening to songs with stories and messages. As a child, he knew early on that he wanted to write stories and make people feel emotions.

Sonny has been writing poetry since the 3rd grade when his class was assigned to write a haiku. “I enjoyed it and wrote several more. I learned more about poetry in 5th grade, more poetic devices, structures, and styles of writing. I want to share my poetry, listen to others, and become a better writer.

Poetry Club allows me to write, share, listen, and learn,” Sonny told the Signature.

The Revisionaries are Hancock’s poetry team name and meet every Tuesday and Thursday with Ms. Chapman. They make sure they create a comfortable safe space.

“Everyday starts with questions that allow us to answer in a unique, poetic manner. We read professional poems with certain characteristics. This allows us to learn and implement if we so choose. After we read professional poetry, we write our own with new ideas we just learned. After writing, we share, give feedback, and REVISE, REVISE, REVISE! DO IT AGAIN!” is the club’s chant.

Sonny describes himself as a shy student, but the encouraging support from the poetry team helped him persevere. “I knew a few people there, but I was still shy, anxious, scared. I wanted to share poems that I wrote, but I would get so anxious that my hands and voice would get shaky.

This may have been the easiest part to get over, since the people in that room are the greatest group of people that I’ve had the pleasure to meet and be a part of. Being around this environment encourages… Continued on page 2
Louder Than a Bomb
From page 1

me to continue writing, especially Ms. Chapman. She’s helped me grow as a writer, a poet, a teammate, a student, not just in school but in life, and most importantly, a person. I can’t thank her enough for everything she’s done for me,” Sonny shared.

Sonny’s accomplishments while in Poetry Club include becoming more outgoing around people and feeling like he can be himself and express himself openly and comfortably. As a team, they made it to the Quarter Finals of the Louder Than A Bomb Citywide competition.

LTAB is the largest youth poetry festival in the world. It is a Chicagowide festival with Olympic type poetry bouts, poetry workshops, and special events presented by the Young Chicago Authors. More than 120 teams, tournament style, compete in four team bouts. In prior years, it has been held at a Cook County Juvenile Detention Center showing their commitment to the youth of Chicago. This is one giant safe space where poets can express themselves openly. There are points awarded up to ten, but the point is just a point. The point is the poetry, Sonny explains.

Poetry can be the outlet students can use to express themselves if it is hard for them to express how they feel while talking as it was for Sonny. “I’m antisocial, quiet, shy, and scared of crowds. I want to be able to express myself in writing but grammar limits my ability to express emotions and pull emotions out of readers. I use poetry as a way to escape from myself. For the time when I read or heard poems, I get to connect. When you hear poems that you can connect to, it’s like everyone who understands the subject shares a space, spiritually, within the atmosphere of the poem.”

Sonny’s story of his love of poetry can be traced back centuries earlier to the start of civilization itself. Many of the earliest stories were told orally in the form of a song or poem and were meant to entertain and educate. Poetry has persevered through the ages, just like Sonny perseveres, and is still being performed today.

Sonny cannot underestimate the infectious positivity his team members had for each other. “These poets are the most supportive bunch I’ve ever been a part of. From day one, the returning members (Eveny, Cortez, Maria, and Camrynn) and Ms. Chapman supported everyone in the room. I was still uneasy sharing my poems since they were so personal, but every time I went, I felt more and more comfortable in the presence of the Revisionaries,” Sonny explained. “I will never sink knowing that I have family like them in my life.”
Will You Be More Successful If You Take AP Gov?
by Ricardo Ochoa

“Of all the skills and knowledge that we tested young people for that we know are correlated with success in college and in life, which is the most important? The ability to master the U.S constitution,” David Coleman, head of the College Board, stated in a 2016 New York Times article “The Two Codes Your Kids Need to Know.” He explained how students who take AP Gov will see success in their future life.

AP Government is a course that focuses on the articles of Confederation, the branches of the government, and the Constitution. With that knowledge, students apply it to current events to further understand contemporary issues.

At Hancock College Prep, the course of AP Gov is currently taught by Ms. Chapman who has been teaching it for two years now. Throughout the two years, she has had a decent passing rate in her classes which goes to show that those students that passed have a great understanding of our government. Vanessa Arellano, junior at JHCP, is currently taking the AP government course.

“It has definitely presented its challenges to me, but it has also been very informative and educational,” Arellano stated. It has caused a lot of students to stress as students need to put more “effort and time,” Arellano mentioned with her experience in AP Gov.

Ms. Chapman brought up a name of someone who took AP Gov and benefitted from it. Emma Gonzalez, a survivor of the Parkland shooting took the AP Gov course. With the knowledge that she learned about the government she was able to go against this violent act as she has became an advocate for gun control. In a bold speech, she spoke about how AP Gov gave her a consciousness to help her fight against gun violence.

However, not all students are given the privilege to take AP Gov yet alone any AP course. According to a USN article “What to Do If Your High School Doesn't offer AP Courses,” it stated that students in rural area are less likely to receive AP courses. A report from the College Board stated, “For instance, students who live in rural areas may be less likely to have access to AP courses than their urban and suburban peers.”

At Hancock, out of the junior and senior classes, only 45 students take AP Gov.

“Understanding how the government works is the essence of power. To be a strong citizen you need to know how the structures of the government work and how to operate within them,” Stephanie Stanford, College Board Chief of Global Policy, stated in a New York Times article “The Two Codes Your Kids Need to Know”. If the students who take AP Gov pass the course, they will have a great understanding of our government, which will lead them to become aware of their government. “The more they learn about it, the more they will feel empowered to be active in the society they live,” Chapman stated referring to her students.

Will this information lead students to success in future life? Arellano stated, “Knowing how the government works is important because you know the power we are under. It can really be beneficial to future success because you will know how it all correlates and therefore you’ll know how to get around and reach goals that would make you successful.” Ms. Chapman also agreed that AP Gov will grant success as she stated, “Of all the classes I taught in 22 years, I think that this class is very relevant.”

Hancock's baseball team took a break from spring training with Coach Villarreal at Lawn Lanes. Luke Ramos won the Mookie Betts Award for bowling.
On February 15, twenty-one days after President Trump ended the federal government shutdown he started back in December of 2018 due to a disagreement between him and Congress over an appropriations bill to fund operations for the 2019 fiscal year, President Trump declared a national emergency. President Trump included the funding of the construction of a southern border wall between the United States and Mexico, as well as stricter border security at our southern border in his version of the bill. Trump had requested a $5.7 billion allocation of funding to these projects, which Congress only agreed to allocate $1.375 billion. The White House is faced with the fact that it would actually cost $8.1 billion to fund the construction of the wall, with funding needing to be cut from other departments to do so. Now citizens of the United States are faced with the same question we seem to face every time President Trump commits an act like this, which is: Was this justified?

“They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems [to] us.”

A statement I’ve heard across many news sources and from the President’s mouth itself is: There is a “national security crisis” at the United States-Mexico border, causing an influx of drugs and crime into the United States. Back in June of 2018, Andrew C. McCarthy, a columnist for National Review wrote about illegal immigration into the United States. He writes about the situation with national security “becoming a crisis,” stating, “The situation is different when we are dealing with outsiders who seek entry into the community.”

McCarthy backs up the strengthening of the southern border by blaming this crisis on the previous loose national security laws in place when he closes out the article with, “The current crisis is the fallout of a category error. We have a security problem that has been exacerbated by laws that, depending on your perspective, are either foolish or cynically designed to enable illegal immigration.”

“FAKE NEWS - A TOTAL POLITICAL WITCH HUNT!”

In actuality, the “crisis” President Trump cites as the reason to declare national emergency appears to have been inadvertently caused by the President himself. After the 35-day federal government shutdown, many agencies necessary for maintaining the United States’ federal law enforcement and security apparatus were negatively affected. The Department of Homeland Security alone made up 20% of the government operations and employees hit by funding and salary cuts according to Matthew Flug, who spent seven years in the United States Intelligence Community. The sudden influxes of crime in places like Washington D.C. and “southern border cities” directly correlates with the time of a government shutdown, since population lowers in those areas, according to Mario Macis, an Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins University. In short, yes technically there is a national crisis, but the cause of this crisis isn’t an influx of illegal Mexican immigrants “brining their crime and their drugs;” it’s the fault of our President, himself.

"These aren't people. These are animals."

Another statement I’ve heard more times that I would’ve liked is: President Trump needed to declare national emergency in order for the United States’ illegal immigration problem to be solved. I, of course, turned to National Review first to see what their opinions on the matter were before I looked up a professional legal stance, but to my surprise, even National Review—a conservative publication—doesn’t support President Trump’s declaration of national emergency with their article “Trump’s National-Emergency Declaration Is an Act of Weakness” by Jonah Goldberg, a conservative columnist and political commentator. Goldberg begins the article in the first body paragraph with, “Powerful presidents enact their agendas through Congress, not executive orders. It’s why they usually manage to get their big-ticket items passed shortly after an election, when they can declare a

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Trump’s Oopsie  From page 4

mandate.” This article was an editorial so there aren’t many sources provided or cited, but that does mean we get to hear the raw opinions of a traditionally American conservative political commentator, and even he doesn’t support President’s Trump’s recent actions.

“Why are we having all these people from sh*t hole countries coming here?”

Now in a rare turn of events, the factual legal information in a Trump article is more bleak than the conservative opinion is. Unfortunately, as subjective as Trump needing to declare a national emergency is, there’s only a subjective answer to defend against it. That, of course, also means that this statement is technically accurate if you want to ignore the legitimacy of the “illegal immigration problem” detailed earlier and truly believe this was necessary.

What I was more interested in was the legality of declaring national emergency over something so meager. Lloyd Dehaime, a lawyer of 29 years who studies immigration law, international law, and many other fields of legal expertise, spoke on the topic of declaring national emergency. Dehaime states, “In the United States, powers were interpreted from constitutional documents to vest in the President to declare a national emergency. Unfortunately, no written criteria were developed nor were any safeguards developed to end a national emergency.”

According to Dehaime, there isn’t really any legal reason a president has to give to declare national emergency. So, even if the problem President Trump cites as the reason for declaring national emergency is inadvertently fabricated by Trump himself and seemingly everyone, even those who usually support every breath he takes, is against him, there was nothing legally wrong with President Trump’s handling of the situation.

In the end, I believe it’s obviously clear that President Trump made a poor call on a bad situation he made up himself.

Montage Poem from English II: “The Real American”

“Dream” makes a giddy sound, not strong dreams of forests and meadows
On the bones of Native Americans
Waiting for those who’d worked a thousand years on the bones of the slaves
Yet never owned their own
On the bones of the Hispanics
Any of this free country.
On the bones of those who fought just to speak

Too bad the world works this way.
We didn’t live in a two story house
With maid or a wood panel station wagon
Nor vacation camping in Colorado
Foreign dirt still on our sales
Like “rent”, “feeding a wife”, “Satisfying a man.”

We heard the crack of whips, the mothers moans in anthems like the undertow of grief.
But the greatest lessons you will ever teach will not come from your syllabus

The right kind of American
In the past tense of his continent before the first foreigners

The greatest lessons, are the ones you don’t remember learning.
They have a set of standards for every subject.

The greatest lessons you will teach you won’t even remember.
They give awards for the best attendance but not for keeping your family off the streets.

Alexis C., Angel Z., Omayra E.
On the Soapbox

Project Soapbox is a public speaking competition facilitated by Mikva Challenge that calls young people to speak out on issues that affect them and their communities. These powerful speeches have lasting, transformative impacts on classrooms, schools, and communities.

Soapbox speeches are two-minutes long, about an issue that the student identifies, not an assigned topic. It includes relevant research and evidence on the issue. It addresses a specific audience with a call to action.

This is the speech Hancock’s Connor Wallace (pictured on the right) delivered:

Ciara Minaj Carter Frazier was a 31-year-old trans woman of color who was beloved by all of her friends and family. On October 3 last year, she was stabbed to death and left behind a dumpster of an abandoned building on the West side of Chicago. Her death made her the 22nd known victim of a killing of a transgender person this year.

This is NOT an unusual occurrence. Not only are we murdered, but we’re abandoned by our families, kicked out onto the streets, abused, and even illegal in certain countries. Suicide rates for us are alarmingly high, and even in the ever so “accepting” United States, our own government is trying to define us out of existence. All of this pain just because of who we identify as, because of something we as transgender people cannot control.

We have GSAs in our schools, and we have the Center on Halsted, but while these are a great help to our community, these organizations are not international. We need to take this stigma by its ugly, unwanted throat and cut it.

What I ask of you, no, what I demand of you, is to educate yourselves on our community. Research our community, learn about what we go through on a daily basis—take a peek at how many of us die because of who we are, because it isn’t just America. Once you’re educated on us and who we are, take a stand against those against us. Stand up to your transphobic friends. Let them know that what they’re saying is wrong.

We are people, and we’re being killed not only by weapons, but by your silence as well. Your silence lets people know that murdering us, that demonizing us, that saying we are less than the cisgender community and the rest of the world isn’t that big of a concern when it should be. Those 22 corpses in 22 graves with 22 mourning families surrounding them are 22 too many.

Get educated. Speak up. Stop letting us die.

Tell us whatchoo got to say!
Believe it or not—Hancock cares whatchoo think.
Email your response to any ideas in this issue or submit your writing, photos, or art to Mr. Salazar at rsalazar@cps.edu.
You might be included in the next issue.
Hancock Students Travel to France and Germany

The International Club, sponsored by science teacher Mr. Phillips and French teacher Mme. Phillips, spent nine days traveling to about six cites in early March. Photos and captions below by Joselyn Quintana.

On the Rhine River Plain, stands Alsace, a historical region that reflects German and French culture. Pictured on the left is its capital, Strasbourg, centered on the Hill River’s Grand Île island.

Entry Door of the Dachau Concentration Camp in Bavaria, Germany. Translation of Arbeit Macht Frei: “Work Sets You Free.” This former prisoner camp was the first to open in 1933 during World War II.

In May 1945, General Alfred Jodl of Germany signed the unconditional surrender of the German Third Reich to the Allied Powers at this table located at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) in Reims, France, now known as the Museum of Surrender.
Instead of a Quinceañera, I Traveled

Essay by Sofia Prado

I was beyond enthusiastic for the international trip. There was just one thing I was worried about; falling behind in my classes. All these questions rose to my head, like “How far will I be?” “What am I going to do when I get back?” “Will I ever catch up?” The international trip this year was to Paris, Strasbourg, and Munich. I had the opportunity to go because I had the choice between having a quince or to go on the trip. I chose to go on the trip because when else would I get the chance to travel?

Throughout the entire trip I was left in complete awe and in shock of the architecture, the people, and the scenery. Driving city to city was an experience in itself, noticing the automobiles used, and seeing the variety of crops grown in the land. In Paris, we had a taste of their version of the metra, where we had the opportunity to take many trips on the train to take us to destinations like chapels or museums, such as the Louvre.

Ever since I was about 9 or 10, I dreamt about going to the Louvre. I even made a model of the museum itself with logos, which still lives in my bedroom today. Walking up to the Louvre was something out of a dream. Seeing the tall large glass pyramids shine off from the sun was something that will stick with me forever. I was beyond excited as I kept on reminding my friends. Seeing the Mona Lisa, the Winged Victory of Samothrace, the Venus of Milo, and so many other beautiful works of art truly geeked me out.

We made it to the Palace of Versailles the following day. The day was partly cloudy, so when the sun came out, the gold throughout the palace, even the fences shined brightly. My friends and I waited in line to get in and when we did we were in, we were handed an audio guide, which would be used to learn about the over 200 rooms in the palace. Each room told a story of who resided in it and how they lived. The hall of mirrors was so much more beautiful than I thought it would be.

Even though I still have a bit of jet lag and have fallen quite behind in all my classes, the experiences I had during the trip made it all worth it. I truly got out of my comfort zone when it came to interacting with French and German people. I became more confident in asking questions about the area and spoke up for myself when needed. Even though the trip was about eight days, I really got to understand the differences of the people and how they lived in Paris, Strasbourg, and Munich.