



staff photo by John Ryan

A touch of home

Simon Sol, a senior agricultural economics major from El Salvador, discusses his homeland with Margaret Picariello, a junior modern languages major also from El Salvador. This booth is part of the International Students Association program being held in the MSC.

Man sells bear paws despite ban

LOS ANGELES — A hunter from Washington state has been charged with selling 80 bear paws to a California man who in turn sold them as delicacies to an Asian restaurant.

Jesse Caswell, 41, of Montesa-no, Wash., was charged with two violations of the California's fish and game laws, which ban the buying or selling of any parts of a bear.

Caswell was accused of sending the bear paws via air freight to Duk Bo Kim, who sold them to Michael Wong, manager of the Golden Shark restaurant.

Kim, Wong and another man pleaded no contest to several other fish and game charges in California last month and were fined more than \$14,000.

Focus on jury selection

Lawyers learn success

DUBUQUE, Iowa — Trial attorneys who live in fear of biased juries and inaccurate eyewitness testimony can rest easier because of forensic psychology.

Psychologists like Thomas Sannito, a Loras College professor, are teaching lawyers how to be more successful in the courtroom by paying close attention to jurors' mental philosophies and behavior.

Sannito, 43, is among a handful of psychologists working in the field.

Through lectures and workshops, he hopes to show lawyers how to select a favorable jury, discredit the failing memory of an eyewitness and present their case in a sequence easy for jurors to understand.

He tells them the most psychologically pleasing ways to dress and talk, where to stand when addressing a jury, how to read non-verbal signs from both witnesses and jurors.

Sannito has been in the field of forensic psychology for five years. He said his expertise is most often requested by lawyers in jury selection.

Using a two-year study, Sannito has devised a juror checklist.

If you're looking for a conviction, he said in an interview, the best jurors are women from small families with technical jobs.

"There are several old myths that are supported by old pros in the field," Sannito said. "One of the myths involves ethnic origin.

"They had long believed that Irish and Italian and warm-blooded people are best for criminal defense and plaintiffs in civil cases because they are compassionate, warm and understanding and would tend to be more lenient.

"They felt cold-blooded types, people from Scandinavian or Germanic backgrounds,

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would be more hard-nosed and would be good for the criminal prosecution or civil defense; they wouldn't give much money away.

"But in my jury study, the Irish and the Germans were virtually even — half for conviction, half for acquittal. The conviction-prone group was the Irish women."

Sannito said trial lawyers also are concerned about confronting an eyewitness.

"An attorney is very helpless in front of an eyewitness because jurors tend to believe eyewitnesses," Sannito said. "When a wit-

ness gives crisp answers that are confident and definite, that sways jurors more than the content or the circumstances of their observation.

"It isn't that the eyewitness is lying. He is searching his memory. Thinking he has to come up with something, he ends up making up facts. I teach attorneys how to discredit them."

"I'm giving attorneys a systematic method they can use to bring out to the jury whether this eyewitness is believable or not."

For example, Sannito tells lawyers to ask eyewitnesses what they did after they saw the crime. They may say they ran across the street to call the police.

"If he ran across the street, he didn't have time to review what he saw," Sannito said. "Without review, the memory will fade rapidly."

Similarly, fear and anxiety can distort the memory.

"The human short-term memory is very limited," he said.

"On the average, a person can remember four separate items, perhaps as many as seven and incredible memories may be nine."

"If a witness is saying, 'I can remember he had a moustache,

"If a witness is saying, 'I can remember he had a moustache, he had a scar,' and delineates 10 items, we know he is exceeding his natural limitation and making things up." Sannito

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Sannito is working on a book dealing with several aspects of courtroom strategy.

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