

Hatfield to be featured presenter at fall Coffee Night, Nov. 10

Alumni should mark their calendars for this fall's Coffee Night, where the featured writer will be Sharon Hatfield, author of "Never Seen the Moon: The Trials of Edith Maxwell," a book that recounts the true story of a Wise County woman accused of killing her father and whether the crime was committed in self-defense. The book examines several social issues of the Appalachian region during the early 20th century.

Hatfield will present during the fall Coffee Night on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 6:30 p.m. She will also present a public lecture the following day, Nov. 11, at 1 p.m. Both events will be held in the Chapel of All Faiths.

An award-winning journalist and a former employee of *The Coalfield Progress* in Norton, Hatfield is the wife of UVA-Wise alumnus Jack Wright '72. Hatfield currently teaches writing at Hocking College in Ohio and is working on a book of Appalachian literary criticism.



Computer science students successfully complete software project for local sheriff's department

Sighs of relief and smiles of success marked the culmination of an ambitious project completed by computer science students at UVA-Wise. Students in Ross Grable's software engineering course, taught within the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, built an evidence database for the Washington County Sheriff's Department. The students presented their final product to the Sheriff's Department on May 10 when their software was successfully installed on a select few of the department's computers.

According to Captain Jack Davidson of the Sheriff's Department, the evidence database will remove the slow process of physically looking through evidence records, which will ultimately result in faster lookups and in easily determining the age of evidence records.

"There are other programs out there that do this, but they are cost-prohibitive for a small department such as ours," Davidson said. "This project brings affordability to smaller departments."

Davidson said that the amount of evidence currently on-file within the department was another reason for implementing the database. Thousands of evidence files must now be entered into the program's database, including weapons, clothing, drugs, and anything else seized as a result of a criminal investigation. The database will be managed by the department's IT technician, Brent Greene, although data entry will be handled by two evidence custodians.

The semester-long project was initiated by Karen Jackson of the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), who understood the needs of the Sheriff's Department and proposed the idea to Captain Davidson and Grable, an associate professor of computer science at UVA-Wise.

"For our school and the Sheriff's Department, it would be difficult for us to have done this kind of project without Ms. Jackson," Grable said.

Jackson, the CIT's director of broadband outreach, is optimistic that this is the first of many projects between UVA-Wise and other entities in the region. "This is a perfect example of how a mutually beneficial relationship can exist between organizations and businesses in Southwest Virginia," Jackson said. "The students have the benefit of gaining 'real world' experience and the organization gets the benefit of the talents and creativity of UVA-Wise students. I hope that others will follow the lead of the Sheriff's Department and look for ways to partner with the College's students and faculty."

The students – Coby Addison, Jason Brooks, Mark Hale, John Malene, Joey Papuckoski, and Cole Phillips – are all majoring in computer science at UVA-Wise. This is the first time students in the software engineering class have developed software for an actual client. The students say that they are reaping many benefits from the project.

"This project is a great opportunity to expand my knowledge of the software engineering field," Malene said.

"What I will take away from this is a newfound respect for software programmers and how much they have to go through to create one application," Brooks said.

The student project is not the only way in which the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is improving studies in the computer science field. The department recently added two new degree options to their offerings: the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and the Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems. The Computer Science degree will be math- and science-intensive while the MIS program will produce graduates who understand the needs of business and are able to manage the computer system needs of business.



Brent Greene, the IT technician for the Washington County Sheriff's Department (far left), accepts the final version of the evidence database software application from computer science student John Malene. The software was built by UVA-Wise software engineering students (left to right) Joey Papuckoski, John Malene, Mark Hale, Jason Brooks, Coby Addison, and Cole Phillips (not pictured). The students' instructor for the course was Ross Grable (far right).