



Louisiana State University

LSU Cold Case Project

Manship School of Mass Communication

Baton Rouge, LA

Partnership

The LSU Cold Case Project is an ongoing reporting project wherein students research and write about racist crimes that have been reopened under the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act. Stories appear in media outlets across Louisiana.

Lead faculty

Christopher Drew, cdrew1@gmail.com

Websites

[LSU Cold Case Project website](#)

[Cold Case Project on LSU.edu](#)

Collaborators

The work originated as a collaboration with Stanley Nelson, then-editor of the Concordia (Louisiana) Sentinel. Nelson is now adjunct faculty at LSU. Students from Southern University Law Center collaborated on some stories.

Impacts

24 stories since spring 2019; 42 total; since 2019, stories in up to 25 digital new sites in Louisiana - 10 Gannett sites included.

Stories have appeared in newspapers across Louisiana and are offered free through the LSU Cold Case Project.

Students

25,200 at Louisiana State University

160 in the journalism program

10-15 in the partnership, per semester

Student work

Drew and colleagues at LSU edit the students' work and offer it in finished form to Louisiana newspapers and other media outlets. Stories were chosen from FBI files that were part of the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act.

Some work is completed through a class called Field Experience, and some students continue the work as part-time employees.

Faculty/staff

Drew guides students through the research, reporting and editing process, and Drew and Nelson fully edit all student work so that it is available in finished form for newspapers and media outlets to run.

Funding sources

Drew is able to pay students through the endowed chair he holds.