The Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) at Northeastern University School works with lawmakers, lawyers, the families of victims of racial homicides, activists, researchers, and journalists to redress the failures of the criminal justice system in the mid-twentieth century. We pursue scholarly research and remedial measures, including memorialization projects, truth commissions, and law reform. We maintain the most comprehensive archive on racial homicides in the country, with files that include the records of law enforcement agencies and civil rights organizations, court documents, witness statements, photographs, and oral history.

In 2014 we opened files in thirty racial killings from the 1940s. We completed our work on the little-known murder of a voting rights martyr in Georgia, and pursued remedies in two Louisiana lynchings. We hosted a legislative workshop in Birmingham, and we met with scholars, archivists and civic leaders in Mobile, Montgomery, Atlanta, Labadieville, Hattiesburg, Natchez, Nacogdoches, and Wilson, NC. We initiated promising and exciting new programs. In one such program, we are expanding our mission to address the current civil rights crisis facing ex-offenders and other persons with criminal histories. We are collaborating with the HIRE Network (Helping Individuals with criminal records Reenter through Employment) to support and encourage legislators and other regulators to eliminate unfair barriers to employment. Another new program, to be launched this month, engages high school students in cold-case investigations using our methodology.

Our events calendar for the past year featured Toni Morrison, who addressed a University-wide audience at our annual Martin Luther King commemoration in January, and Angela Davis, who, in September, brought our program to a West Coast audience on the fiftieth anniversary of the Birmingham Church bombing.

Case Watch

From the Docket

The Alabama Docket

In 2013, CRRJ took on twelve new cases from the state of Alabama. John Jackson, 30 years old, was killed by a police officer, Hubert Alexander, in Fairfield in 1941. Jackson was standing in line with a girlfriend waiting to enter a movie theatre when the officer approached and asked why he was laughing.
Jackson replied that he had not laughed, at which point Alexander arrested him for “disorderly conduct” and shot him four times. **Walter Gunn** was beaten to death by a deputy sheriff in Macon County in 1942. **Henry Williams**, a private in the armed services, was, in 1942, shot to death by a bus driver, Grover Chandler, in Mobile as Williams headed back to his base at Brookley Field. Williams had asked the driver to move along so that he could make a curfew. Prentiss McCann, a 23-year-old father of three and a veteran, was killed on a street in Mobile in 1945. McCann had gone to the grocery store. The police, investigating a nearby dice game, shot into the group, and Mobile Officer Melvin Porter killed McCann. **William “Willie” Daniels**, a 21-year-old veteran and coal miner, was shot and killed in Westfield in December 1946. Daniels and his new wife were Christmas shopping in the company store when a white sales clerk accused him of bumping her. He denied it, but was nevertheless accosted and then shot to death by John W. Vanderforth, a private guard for the store. **Sam Watson, Jr.** was slain in Selma in 1946 by a city police officer named Powell. Watson was 41 and married with one daughter. The police were called because Watson’s car had run out of gas. One of the officers sought to start the car, whereupon Watson asked him not to run his battery down. He was arrested, shot and killed. **Mary Noyes**, a 22-year-old pregnant mother of three, was killed in Camp Hill, Tallapoosa by one Albert O. Huey, a private citizen, in 1947. Noyes was at a café when Huey started shooting up the town because of a dispute he had with an African American soldier. As she was pregnant, Noyes could not run away from the gunfire in the café and was killed. CRRJ is seeking to locate relatives of Mary Noyes. **Amos Starr** was shot in the back and killed in Tallassee 1947 by Cecil Thrash, a police officer who suspected him of having committed a misdemeanor. Thrash was prosecuted in federal court for violating Starr’s civil rights, but the jury, after deliberating 22 minutes acquitted the officer. **Samuel Lee Williams**, 34 years old, was shot and killed by a streetcar conductor, M.A. Weeks in 1949 in Birmingham, because he refused to ride Jim Crow. **Willie Carlisle**, 19, was alleged to have been part of a group of teenagers who let the air out of the tires on a police car in Lafayette in 1949. He was arrested and beaten to death in jail. Officer James Clark were tried and acquitted in state court. In a subsequent federal proceeding Clark was convicted of a civil rights violation and sentenced to ten months. **Hillard Brooks** was shot and killed by Montgomery police officer M.E. Mills in 1950. Brooks refused to follow the operator’s instructions to enter the bus from the rear door after he had paid his fare at the front door. The driver called on Officer Mills, who was nearby, and who pulled Brooks off the bus and fired at him, killing Brooks and wounding two passersby. **Bodell Williamson**, 24 years old, was found dead in Wilcox County in 1967. Sheriff “Lummie” Jenkins claimed the young man drowned, but some said he was killed.

**The Georgia Docket**

CRRJ undertook five new investigations in Georgia in 2013. **Willie Davis**, a 26-year-old soldier on leave in Summit, was shot by police chief James Bohannon without provocation at a roadhouse on the outskirts of town. Davis’ mother moved to New York City after her son’s death to obtain legal assistance from the NAACP, but the case went nowhere. CRRJ is currently searching for relatives of Willie Davis. **Madison Harris**, a 21 year old veteran, was shot on a sidewalk as he sought to board a streetcar in Atlanta by the
driver, T.H. Purl, in 1946. Harris was shot in the temple. At the initial hearing in Recorder’s Court, Judge Calloway ruled the killing justifiable, and the case never went to trial. CRRJ is seeking to locate relatives of Madison Harris. Walter Lee Johnson, a 22-year-old veteran, was also shot on the sidewalk next to a streetcar in Atlanta in 1946. Johnson had shouted out to a friend “stay straight and fly right,” and the operator, W.D. Lee, thought he was being disrespected. He asked Johnson to repeat what he had said and then shot him in the abdomen. Judge Calloway of the Recorder’s Court once again ruled the killing to be a justifiable homicide.

**The Louisiana Docket**

CRRJ added three Louisiana cases to its docket, including a 1933 lynching and near lynching in Labadieville. Freddie Moore, 16, was arrested and charged with the murder of a white teenaged girl who lived near him. He was turned over to a mob that tortured and then hung him from a bridge in town. The mob attempted to lynch a second youth, Norman Thibodaux, in connection with the girl’s death, but he was cut down when someone in the crowd vouched that he had not been in town when the murder occurred. The teenager’s stepfather allegedly confessed to killing her sometime after the lynching. Moore’s parents successfully sued the sheriff in federal court for releasing their son to the mob. CRRJ is working with the family to clear Fred Moore’s name. Raymond Carr, a military police officer, was killed by Louisiana state trooper Dalton McCollum in November 1942. On duty in Alexandria, Carr was investigating a disturbance caused by a quarreling couple when state troopers approached and told him to go back to his base. Carr and his partner explained to the officers they were forbidden by army regulations from abandoning their post, at which point the troopers chased after Carr and shot him in the abdomen. McCollum was returned to the job after a one-day suspension. Edward Green, an army private in transit, was killed by Odell Lachnette, a streetcar operator in Alexandria in 1944. The driver ordered Green to move to the Negro section of the bus. Green hesitated or refused to give up his seat in the front, at which point the driver drew his revolver and told Green to get off the vehicle. The soldier disembarked, with Lachnette following on his heels. While forty witnesses looked on from the bus, the driver shot and killed Green. No action was taken against Lachnette, who went back to work after a brief detention.

**The Mississippi Docket**

CRRJ investigated four cases from Mississippi this year. George Andrews, a 24-year-old Army private and resident of Hattiesburg, was stationed at Camp Shelby when he was killed in 1944. Andrews had returned to Hattiesburg to look after his pregnant wife and two small children. As he prepared to board a city bus to return to base, the driver, B.F. Williams, shot him on the steps, then chased into the buses and shot him again. His defense was that he thought Andrews’ handkerchief was a gun. The same bus-driver shot Joseph T. Daley of New York, a black sergeant on duty, on the same bus-line just a year after Andrews’ death. The driver remained on the Hattiesburg line for years after these incidents. CRRJ is
working with Andrews’ family and seeking to locate the relatives of Joseph Daley. **Samuel Mason Bacon**, 59 years old, was killed in 1948 by Fayette Town Marshal Stanton D. Coleman. Bacon was traveling from Akron, Ohio back to his home in Natchez. When the bus pulled into Port Gibson Bacon was ordered to give up his seat and refused to do so. He was arrested and found shot to death in his cell the next morning. The Town Marshal claimed Bacon came at him with an ax when he went to look in on him in the cell where he had been detained overnight on a charge of “disturbing the peace.” **Tom Jones**, 24 years old, was shot by a Woodville police officer at a Greyhound Bus stop in 1945. Jones was traveling home to Wilkinson County from New Orleans, where he was working as a longshoreman. When the bus arrived in Woodville, he asked the driver, Buddy Dawson, for his luggage. The driver chastised him for not saying, “yes sir” and told him he was “not in New Orleans” anymore. Dawson struck Jones with a flashlight and Jones hit him back. Woodville Police Officer David McDonald was called to the scene and shot Jones at point-blank range three times in the chest. Jones died with his hands in the air. No charges were ever brought. **CRRJ** is working with the Jones family. **Matt J. McWilliams**, 68 years old, was killed in 1947 by Kemper County sheriff Arnold Harbor. Harbor sought to evict McWilliams from his prosperous timber farm.

**The North Carolina Docket**

CRRJ add three new North Carolina cases to its docket this year. **J.C. Farmer** was shot to death in Wilson by the police in his front yard as his mother watched from the porch. The incident occurred in 1946. Farmer had defended himself against Fes Bissette, a constable who was beating him up. The constable’s gun discharged and hit him in the hand. A posse of law enforcement men and private citizens immediately hunted Farmer down and killed him. **Dan Carter Sanders** was shot and killed by a 16 year old, Bobby Johnson, in 1946 in Johnston County. Sanders had stolen some hound dogs belonging to Johnson’s father. A group of men, led by the teenager, hunted Sanders down and shot him to death in a field. The shooter is believed to still be alive. **CRRJ** has referred the case to the FBI under the Emmitt Till Act. **Otis Newsome**, a veteran and father of three young children, was killed by gas station operator U.C. Strickland in 1948 in Wilson. Newsome and a friend stopped at a gas station for brake fluid, and asked Strickland to assist them in putting the fuel in the car. The attendant refused. Newsome asserted that service was included in the price he had paid for the gas, at which point Strickland shot him in the stomach. Strickland was charged with first-degree murder. A jury acquitted him. **CRRJ** is working with the families and communities in these North Carolina cases.
The Texas Docket

CRRJ pursued one new Texas case in 2013. Ellis Hutson, Sr., was killed in Nacogdoches in 1948. He was 50 years old. Hutson’s son, Ellis, Jr. had been beaten and arrested. When Hutson came to the county courthouse to bail his son out of jail, the arresting officer, Constable Travis Helpenstill, became enraged that Ellis, Jr. had refused to plead guilty. Helpenstill shot Hutson, Sr. three times in a corridor in the courthouse, killing him instantly. A state jury acquitted Helpenstill of murder. At a subsequent federal criminal trial, he entered a *nolo contendere* plea and was sentenced to 90 days, suspended. CRRJ is working with the Hutson family.

Hutson’s relatives, G. Vogel Rosen’15, I. Koleosho ’12, Nacogdoches, TX

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The Japanese-Latin-American Internment Case

While it is universally known that the United States rounded up and interned 120,000 persons of Japanese descent during World War II, what is less well known is that persons from South American states were sent to the United States for internment under the same military program. Over 2,000 persons of Japanese descent from 12 countries in Latin America were forcibly arrested, deported and interned in camps in the United States for the duration of World War II. Some of these former detainees are pursuing legal action to obtain reparations for the harms they suffered. The claimants, the
Shibayama brothers who were deported from Peru, assert they were not adequately covered by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided reparation for the survivors and family members of the internment of Japanese nationals and citizens living in the United States, but offered smaller amounts to the Japanese Latin-Americans. In 2013 Laura Misumi ’13 provided legal assistance to advocates on issues relating to the suit, which is pending before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

FROM THE DOCKET: THREE CASE REPORTS

Freddie Moore 1933 Assumption Parish, Louisiana

The thin, teenaged body of Freddie Moore hung from the truss of a bridge over Bayou Lafourche in the middle of Labadieville for a day or so before his relatives could remove it. A two-foot board tied to the lynch victim’s foot warned anyone who might have wanted to give him a decent burial. “Niggers, Let this be an Example” proclaimed the bold handwriting, “Do Not Touch For 24 Hrs. Mean It.” The elegant St. Philomena Church, which received its first parishioners from the town of Labadie and its surrounds in 1848, stood right across the street from the corpse, which was naked from the chest up, bound at the hands, and positioned precisely parallel to the vertical frame of the bridge closest to the sky-bound church steeple. Townspeople passed by with their children, snapped pictures of Moore, and later, it was reported at the time, sold the cards to raise funds for a church mortgage. Freddie’s family, meanwhile, fled the parish for safer ground.

Freddie was sixteen-years-old and a farmhand when he was killed in October 1933. One Saturday morning he had been seen chatting with a white neighborhood girl about his age. She was later found dead in a field, and Freddie, because he had talked to the girl, was detained in connection with her murder. A mob of men from Assumption and nearby parishes wrested the keys from a deputy at the parish jail and kidnapped Freddie. They dropped a noose around his neck and took him back to the field where the young woman was found. There they tortured him, and then dragged him through the streets of town until they reached Labadieville Bridge, where he was hung. Townspeople later said the stepfather of the girl Freddie was accused of murdering admitted on his deathbed that it was he who had killed her.

That night at Bayou Lafourche the mobsters nearly lynched another teenager whom they suspected of involvement in the murder. They hunted down Norman Thibodaux, threw a noose around his neck and hung him next to Freddie. But a man in the crowd hollered out that he knew Thibodaux had not been in the parish when the girl was killed. Spared by seconds from death by noose, Thibodaux was quickly shoved into a sheriff’s field, and shot at, the lynch mob, Fernand the canes and feigned escape. He hid in a twenty-two miles until Orleans. The nineteen-New York to share his in Harlem sponsored by

FROM THE DOCKET: THREE CASE REPORTS

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No one was ever prosecuted for the crimes against Freddie Moore and Norman Thibodaux. Moore’s parents did, however, successfully pursue a federal civil action for damages, winning a jury award against the parish sheriff in the amount of $2,500. Despite the paucity of the award, the case represented a rare victory in the campaign against lynching.

Robert Black, ’13, was the first researcher to relate the full story of the lynching of Freddie Moore and the near-lynching of Norman Thibodaux, including legal developments in state and federal court. Professor Burnham visited Assumption Parish to retrace the events, and following up on Black’s work, investigative journalist David Mitchell wrote an article about the case for the Baton Rouge Advocate. Mitchell located a cousin of Freddie Moore, Janet Hébert Johnson, who had been pursuing the case on her own. In interviews with CRRJ, Johnson recalled that her grandfather went to Labadieville to cut down his nephew’s body and to rescue his family. CRRJ is working with Johnson to clear the name of Freddie Moore.

Prentiss McCann

1945
Mobile, Alabama

Born in Choctaw, Alabama, Prentiss McCann followed the footsteps of thousands of southerners who left the cotton and timber farms during World War II to take advantage of the boom economies in the seacoast cities. Mobile, New Orleans, Alexandria – these port towns almost doubled in population as the shipbuilding industry expanded to keep pace with the Navy’s needs. McCann had himself enlisted in the military, but in 1943 he was discharged from Camp Shelby because he had flat feet. He moved his young wife and three small children to Mobile, settled down in the historic Maysville neighborhood, and took a job as a truck driver at the Brookley Field Army Air Depot. On a Saturday evening in July 1945, McCann left his wife home with their infant twins and toddler, and headed to a nearby market to buy eggs. On the way to the store, he stopped outside of the Midway Club, where some fellows were playing dice. Moments later, Mobile police drove by to disrupt the fun and arrest the gamers. Most of the crowd, players and onlookers alike, ran off when the police pulled up, but McCann did not move and remained talking with a friend. Officer Melvin Porter, seated in his police car, shot McCann twice in the head, felling him instantly. The officer was alleged to have said, moments later, “I’m sorry it happened. The gun got caught up in the door.” The NAACP, led by Mobile’s John LeFlore, gathered affidavits and waged an unsuccessful campaign to get the Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice to prosecute Porter and his partner. Despite clear evidence that Porter’s self-defense claim was fabricated, the Department closed the case because, it contended, that it would be difficult to overcome the officers’ version of the events.

Hannah Adams, ’15 took up the McCann case in this year’s clinic. She worked closely with librarians and historians in Mobile and met McCann’s children and wife in Georgia and other relatives in Alabama. Bit by bit, she recovered the pieces of the story, bringing some sense of closure to the family, and
particularly to McCann’s daughter, Claudine, who had been searching for the truth about her father’s death. CRRJ is working with the McCann family and civic leaders in Mobile to memorialize his life.

Samuel Bacon

Samuel Mason Bacon grew to adulthood in Adams County where he was a farmer and a Natchez community leader. While he was relatively content in his hometown, his wife, restless during the war years when money was to be made in the cities, left Mississippi for Fairfield, Alabama, and one of the Bacons’ three daughters moved to Akron, Ohio. Eventually Bacon closed down his farm and joined his daughter in Akron, where he took a job at the Firestone Rubber Company. He appreciated the steady work and good hourly wages at Firestone, but Bacon found himself missing the rhythms of the farm, the smells, sounds and gossip of St. Catherine Street on a Saturday afternoon, the resplendent view from the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi river, and his home church. Pining to see his family and homestead in Natchez once again, Bacon planned a trip back to the South. He also thought he might be able to persuade his wife, Fannie, to reunite with him, and hoped to visit her in Fairfield with that purpose in mind.

And so in March 1948 Samuel Bacon boarded a southbound Greyhound bus headed for Natchez. It was a long but fairly comfortable ride for Bacon until the bus reached Vicksburg, whereupon the Greyhound passengers traveling further on into Mississippi transferred to a Tristate bus. The fifty-nine year old Bacon was handsomely attired and traveling with his bankbook and some cash, which he would need for his visit in Natchez and his journey to Alabama. When the bus arrived at the small town of Port Gibson, forty-two miles from his destination, the bus driver told Bacon to give his seat to a white man and stand in the crowded colored section at the rear. With white seats still available, Bacon said he would not do so. At the next stop, Fayette, about a half-hour from Natchez, the bus-driver, James H. Minninger, threw the dignified, upright man off the bus and had him arrested for “creating a disturbance.” Held overnight in the Fayette jail on charges that have never been revealed, on the morning of March 15, just three days after he had left Ohio, Bacon lay dead in his cell. Stanton Coleman, the Fayette town marshal, had shot him at close range in his cell, once in the belly and once in the chest.

Bacon’s family waited in vain for him at the Natchez bus station. When they finally learned their relative was being held at the Fayette jail, he was indeed there but he was already dead. Bits and pieces of the story gradually emerged as black riders who had witnessed the arrest found the courage to relate the events. Protests ensued, but all for naught. Bacon’s three daughters wrote repeatedly to the Justice Department, as did scores of citizens, incensed by the marshal’s incredulous claim of self-defense. Bacon’s daughters, one of whom is still alive in Akron and another of whom worked for the Southern Negro Youth Congress in Birmingham at the time of the slaying, described their beloved father as a pious, hardworking person. “He did not drink, nor use profanity, and he had never been arrested in his life,” they wrote to the Justice Department’s attorneys.
While the Mississippi authorities cleared the marshal in a sham grand jury proceeding, the Federal Bureau of Investigation assigned its agent, George Gunther, to pursue the matter. Gunther would, in the 1960s, earn an infamous reputation among civil rights activists in southwest Mississippi. In 1961, he once threatened the civil rights leader Robert P. Moses with bodily harm when Moses, who had been badly beaten, questioned whether the agent had sent a false report about the assault on him to Washington. Leaving no room to doubt his loyalties, Gunther, on retiring from the FBI, signed on as an informant for the Mississippi Sovereignty Commission, whose mission it was to obliterate the state’s civil rights movement.

Back in 1948, George Gunther reported to the FBI and DOJ in Washington that Bacon had been “disruptive” on the bus and that he had “behaved as a wild person” at the jail, attempting to strike the town marshal with a pick ax that had been in his cell. Armed with Gunther’s report that Bacon had brought trouble on himself, the Justice Department closed the case.

This past year Mary Nguyen, ’14, met with Bacon’s surviving relatives in New York and Natchez. For them, and for history, she pieced together the fullest account there is of how and why Samuel Mason Bacon died. She searched the archives of Congress at Justice Archives in Harvard’s court records were none, and historians Nguyen lingered nine year old

![M.Nguyen ’14, M. Wells (CRRJ Fellow), Mason’s grandson, New York](image)

**UPDATES**

**Commemorating the Life of Isaiah Nixon, Voting Rights Martyr**

Isaiah Nixon was killed in September 1948 in Alston because he voted in Georgia’s Democratic primary. A farmer and turpentine worker, Nixon returned home to his wife and children after casting his vote in Montgomery County. Later that day, two men who at the polling place had warned Nixon against voting showed up on his front steps. As he came out of his house, they shot him dead. The men, brothers, were tried in a Georgia court and acquitted of the murder. Christopher Bridges, ’12, recovered new archival material in the Nixon matter. His meticulous research led to a joint project among CRRJ, and the UNESCO Transatlantic Slave Trade Project, and the Rosewood Heritage Foundation to commemorate the life of Isaiah Nixon in Alston, Georgia, where he lived and died. Nixon’s wife, Sallie Zimon, fled to Florida from Georgia with the couple’s children immediately after her husband was slain. For many of Nixon’s family members, the commemoration on November 14, 2013 was their first trip to Alston. Bridges, who is currently the Racial Justice Fellow at the ACLU of Northern California, joined Sally Zimon and other family members, officials from UNESCO, and civic leaders at the event. Bridges planted a
magnolia bush and helped to install a cemetery bench in honor of Isaiah Nixon. This event marked the first public recognition of Isaiah Nixon’s sacrifice in the name of democracy since his death in 1948.

Seeking Apology for 1946 Lynching of John C. Jones

In June 2013, with legal assistance from CRRJ, Webster Parish NAACP President Kenneth Wallace petitioned the Parish Police Jury to issue an apology for the 1946 lynching of John C. Jones near Minden. Together with his 19 year old cousin, Jones, a World War II veteran, was accused of peeping into the window of a home of a white woman. The two men were locked up in the Minden jail and released by the sheriff into the hands of six white men who took them to a creek and beat them. Jones died in his cousin’s arms. The Justice Department pursued charges against several of the lynchers; all were acquitted. On behalf of the family members of the victims and the local NAACP, Wallace sought to have the parish acknowledge its role in the crimes. “You have a Confederate Memorial right up in the square,” Wallace told the parish officials, “And if we’re honest, Confederate ideology is what killed John C. Jones.” He also pointed out in Minden that there was a memorial shrine marking the location of where “the first white child in the Minden area” was buried. One of the officials acknowledged the other memorials and then explained that the men accused of Jones’ lynching had been acquitted of the lynching. That, he said, should be the end of the matter. Reverend Wallace is determined to bring the case again before the parish officials in 2013.

Seeking Apology for 1940 Lynching of Elbert Williams

In September Dr. Dorothy Granberry led a group of Tennessee citizens in seeking an apology from the office of Attorney General Eric Holder in connection with the 1940 lynching of Elbert Williams and the banishment of NAACP voting rights advocate Elisha Davis. Granberry, assisted by Andrew Cohen ’14, had appealed for an apology unsuccessfully to the Tennessee United States Attorney, who informed her that his office could not comment on past cases. Other avenues are being pursued.
George Stinney Case Goes to Court Armed with CRRJ’s Archival Research

When he was sent to the electric chair in South Carolina in 1944, George Stinney, 14 years old, was the youngest child to have been killed by the state in the twentieth century. In recent years the case has gained notoriety, and efforts have been made to redress this travesty. Clayton Adams ’13 began research on the case in 2011, drafting memorandums for South Carolina lawyer Steven McKenzie, and providing him with evidentiary material. The Stinney family is now seeking to obtain a review of the conviction in Columbia, and evidence uncovered by CRRJ is at the center of these legal efforts. CRRJ dug up letters in the South Carolina Department of Archives and History from the South Carolina Governor Olin Johnston in 1944, that cast doubt on the police investigation that led to the boy’s conviction.

RUBEN SALAZAR FILM PREMIERES

The film Rescuing Ruben Salazar: Visions and Voices premiered in Los Angeles in September. Salazar, a well-known journalist who chronicled the radical Chicano movement, was mysteriously killed in 1970 during a Los Angeles demonstration against the Vietnam War. CRRJ assisted filmmaker Philip Rodriguez obtain and analyze government documents relating to Salazar’s public life and violent death. The documentary premiered in September in Los Angeles.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR PERSONS WITH CRIMINAL HISTORIES

CRRJ has initiated a pilot project on a current criminal justice issue: barriers to employment facing persons with criminal histories. Thanks to input from Professor Michael Meltsner, CRRJ is collaborating with the Legal Action Center’s H.I.R.E. Project to address the collateral effects of convictions in the area of employment rights for former prisoners and others with criminal records. CRRJ assisted in the drafting of a “ban the box” bill in New Hampshire, which would prohibit employers from asking an applicant about his or her criminal history until a conditional offer of employment has been made. Hearings on the Bill in the state Legislative Assembly will begin in January 2014, and CRRJ will be preparing the briefing papers for the Committee hearings. CRRJ is serving as the Faculty Advisor for one of the Law School’s first year law offices in the Legal Skills in Social Context program, which is producing a national tool kit for legislators, activists and policy-makers on the issues associated with post-conviction employment barriers.

Professor Rose Zoltek-Jick, who is now Associate Director of CRRJ, is leading this initiative. In the coming year, CRRJ intends to pursue other avenues together with the LAC to further public education and policy-making on the “ban the box” movement and other impediments to prisoner re-entry.

COLLABORATION WITH NU SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

In 2013, CRRJ began a collaboration with the faculty from the NU School of Journalism offering students interdisciplinary research projects on cold cases. Sponsored by Professors Laurel Leff and Walter Robinson from Journalism, CRRJ has worked with their graduate students to share and compare investigative methods, interviewing and writing techniques, and ethical modalities. In the Summer 2013 Clinic, a journalism student, now a professor at the University of New Hampshire, examined the history of the World War II internment of Latin American citizens of Japanese descent by the US Military in the United States. In the Fall semester, two journalism students researched 1940s-era cold homicide cases from Atlanta and are now working with Alexander Cherup ’14, who did the original archival work on
these cases.

**ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE**

CRRJ convened a briefing session with Alabama public officials at the Birmingham Town Hall. Professor Melissa Nobles, MIT Political Science and advisory board member of CRRJ, and Margaret Burnham presented their research and discussed opportunities for official inquiries by legislative and executive bodies into historic racial violence in Alabama. Nobles and Burnham provided the state legislators, city officials, law enforcement officials, and academics in attendance with a comprehensive dossier of Alabama cases. CRRJ is working closely with civic leaders across the state who are exploring the creation of a standing commission.

![Professors Nobles and Burnham, H. Adams ’15, M. Newman ’15, Birmingham, Alabama legislative briefing](image)

**CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT**

CRRJ is collaborating with a community-based group in Cambridge, Massachusetts and educators at the Cambridge-Rindge and Latin High School to introduce students to our case method. At CRLS the Kimbrough Scholars Program is designed to create exciting hands-on opportunities for students to work and study in the field of racial justice. The students, under the supervision of their teachers, members of the community group, and CRRJ staff, are examining American history, restorative justice, and law through the lens of a cold case on our Mississippi docket. The young victim, a World War II veteran, was killed in 1945 because he wanted to leave a white man’s farm and go to work for his father-in-law. The students plan to travel to Mississippi to interview persons with knowledge of the events.
FIELD RESEARCH

Hannah Adams ‘15 and Michelle Newman ‘15 were in Cecil, GA meeting the family of Prentiss McCann, and in Birmingham, AL researching the murder of Willie Daniels. Adams also traveled to Mobile to meet with historians, librarians and family members on the McCann case. Molly Campbell and Rosie Nevins travelled to Wilson and Johnston counties, North Carolina to research the murders of Otis Newsome, J.C. Farmer and Dan Sanders. Georgi Rosen Vogel ‘15 and Ibinabo Koleosho ‘12 went to Nacogdoches, TX to investigate the Hutson matter. Mary Nguyen ‘14, Kirsten Blume ‘15 and Michele Wells investigated the Tom Jones case in Wilkinson County, MS., Natchez, and Long Island, NY. Melissa Nobles and Margaret Burnham met with members of the DeBardelaben family in Atlanta, and Burnham and Koleosho interviewed witnesses and family members of Hatti DeBardelaben in Detroit. Burnham investigated the murder of Freddie Moore in Assumption Parish, LA.

FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIP

Michele Wells was CRRJ’s Summer 2013 Fellow. Wells, currently a graduate student at the University of London, holds bachelors’ degrees from Brooklyn and Spelman. She is interested in how black communities have used the dramatic arts to portray history. She wrote the play, The War At Home, during her fellowship. The play, which is based on CRRJ’s cases, was work-shopped at the law school in August, and it is Wells’ graduate project at the University of London.

Bayliss Fiddiman is the 2013-2014 Fellow for CRRJ. Fiddiman graduated from the Law School in May 2013 and has been working with CRRJ since 2011. Her work is featured in our video, The Trouble I’ve Seen.


In April Melissa Nobles, Head, MIT Department of Political Science and Margaret Burnham discussed their work on racial violence between 1935-1955 at Emory University and at the Southern Center for Human Rights, where they were joined by Emory University Professor of Journalism Hank Klibanoff.
In November Margaret Burnham presented a work-in-progress titled Soldiers and Southern Buses: Jim Crow Transportation, the Double V Campaign, and Restorative Justice at the Northeastern Humanities Center, and in March she presented her work at the Center for Social Justice and Public Service at Santa Clara Law School.

EVENTS

NO WELCOME HOME: REMEMBERING HARMs AND RESTORING JUSTICE

On January 18, 2013 CRRJ hosted its annual event in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Titled No Welcome Home: Remembering Harms and Restoring Justice, and attracting an audience of 1,000, the event featured Toni Morrison, who read from the novel Home and addressed the relationship between past racial harms and present understandings of race in the United States.

CRRJ premiered its award-winning documentary, The Trouble I’ve Seen at the event. Narrated by Julian Bond, the documentary features CRRJ’s investigations of three harrowing civil rights cold cases. Victims’ family members from Texas, Alabama, Illinois, Maryland and California attended the event. The three families featured in The Trouble I’ve Seen were able to share their stories with a large audience for the first time. The documentary can be seen here: http://www.northeastern.edu/law/news/multimedia/videos/crrj-trouble-seen.html

Commemorating the Lives Lost in the Birmingham Bombing

September 15, 2013 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing of Birmingham’s 16th Street Baptist Church. CRRJ’s California supporters, organized by Kaylie Simon ’11, hosted an Oakland event to commemorate the lives of the six young people who lost their lives that day. Angela Davis, the keynote speaker, recounted her memories of the bombing, shared what it was like growing up in Jim Crow Birmingham in the 1950s, and reminded the audience that terrorism has long been a defining element of American history. The program also featured the Vukani Mawethu Choir and spoken word artist Dante Clark.

Burnham, Davis, and Kaylie Simon ’12 (student of Angela, then Margaret, CRRJ board member and Contra Costa County Public Defender)
IN THE NEWS

On January 21 Margaret Burnham wrote for Cognoscenti about President Obama’s responsibility to redress past racial harms. You can read the piece here: http://cognoscenti.wbur.org/2013/01/21/obama-mlk-inauguration-margaret-burnham

On February 18 CRRJ was featured on WVCB’s Cityline. Karen Holmes interviewed Rebecca Miller, director and producer of the CRRJ documentary, The Trouble I’ve Seen. The interview can be seen here http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsQRdEvYRCI

On July 16 Margaret Burnham contributed an article to Cognoscenti on the Trayvon Martin verdict. The article can be read here http://cognoscenti.wbur.org/2013/07/16/george-zimmerman-verdict-margaret-burnham. She also wrote for Cognoscenti about the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights March and blogged about the Alabama Legislature’s pardon in the Scottsboro case, http://nuslblogs.org/category/faculty/margaret-burnham/.


On October 23 the Baton Rouge Advocate published an article by investigative journalist David Mitchell on the case of Freddie Moore. Freddie Moore, 16, was lynched after accusations that he killed his next-door neighbor. CRRJ is working with the family to try to clear Freddie Moore’s name. The article can be found here http://theadvocate.com/news/7274951-123/labadieville-lynching-in-1933-receiving.

On November 15 CRRJ was invited to participate in a presentation of the University’s most innovative projects at its Empowerfest Campaign. An interview with Margaret Burnham at Empowerfest may be found here: http://vimeopro.com/empowernortheastern/empowerfest/video/81638644.

AWARDS

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Circle of Excellence conferred on CRRJ an award for the documentary, The Trouble I’ve Seen. CASE promotes educational material. CRRJ received the Gold Award for News and Research Videos.

H. Adams ’15, Burnham, Law School Dean Jeremy Paul, Empowerfest 2013
ABOUT US

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Research Collaborators: Alfred L. Brophy, David Cunningham, Daniel T. Kryder, Leslie McLemore, Melissa Nobles, Margaret Russell, Geoff Ward, Jason Morgan Ward

CRRJ IN OAKLAND, SEPTEMBER 2013
CONTRIBUTE TO CRRJ

CRRJ relies on individual support to cover litigation expenses, student travel, and its reconciliation and restorative justice projects.

Please make a donation to help us pursue our work, training tomorrow’s civil rights lawyers and filling the gaps in American history.

Visit https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1386/giving.aspx?sid=1386&gid=1&pgid=846&cid=1907, then check the box marked “Other” and write in “Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Program” in the special instructions. Your full donation will benefit CRRJ.

OR

Mail your check (made out to “NUSL- CRRJ”) to Northeastern University School of Law; Civil Rights and Restorative Justice; 140 DK; 400 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.

400 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115 | Email: crj@neu.edu | Tel. (617) 373-8243 | http://www.northeastern.edu/civilrights/

September 2014, Alston, GA. Sallie Zimon commemorates the sacrifice of her husband, Isaiah Nixon. The couple’s two daughters are behind her. Nixon was murdered because he voted in the September 1948 Georgia gubernatorial election. CRRJ recovered the story of his life and death in 2012.