



IMPAIRED DRIVING

Task Force Newsletter



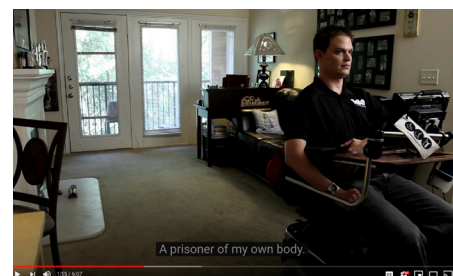
Save a Life™
Texas Department of Transportation

When Sean Speaks Helps Remind Us All to **#PlanWhileYouCan**

Leading up to the July 4th holiday, Sean Carter has been one of the faces representing the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) [Faces of Drunk Driving Campaign](#). The safety campaign educates the public about the consequences of driving impaired by telling the compelling stories of victims whose lives have been forever changed because of the decision to drive impaired.


The Faces of Drunk Driving Campaign is part of a larger TxDOT campaign called “Plan While You Can.” The safety campaign encourages everyone to make plans to get home safely before enjoying parties and other festivities where drinking may occur. Too often, a designated driver is picked after drinking has gotten underway, and the chosen individual is often the person deemed “least drunk.”

For Sean, the night his life was forever changed was March 27, 2005 — the night before Easter Sunday. After a night out of drinking with friends, Sean knew he was not capable of safely driving home, so he climbed into the passenger side of his friend’s truck. Unfortunately, his friend had also been drinking that night and was not capable of safely driving home either. Less than 5 minutes from Sean’s apartment, his friend lost control of the truck, slamming into a tree.





[Watch Sean Carter's story here.](#)

While the injury left his mental faculties intact, it caused him to lose the ability to physically talk and walk. He has no recollection of the night.




EVERY FACE TELLS A STORY







CHILLI
Fort Worth, TX



SEAN
Dallas, TX



AARON
Cypress, TX



JADE
Spring, TX

Visit TxDOT's [Faces of Drunk Driving Campaign](#) to hear the stories of victims whose lives have been forever changed because of the decision to drive impaired.

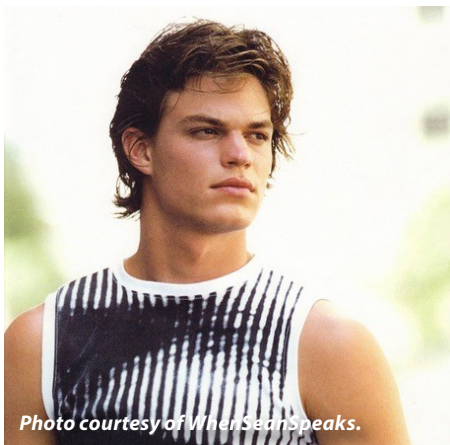


Photo courtesy of WhenSeanSpeaks.

Sean was 22 years old. He was a junior studying Business Administration at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls with plans to go on to law school and become an attorney. He was an athlete. He was a model. And, his world — and his family's world — was torn apart that night.

Unlike so many impaired driving crashes that make the headline news, Sean survived the crash. And, so did his friend. But, the crash left Sean with a traumatic brain injury. While the injury left his mental faculties intact, it caused him to lose the ability to physically talk and walk. He has no recollection of the night.

Sean and many others have worked hard to help him reestablish the connection between his brain and body. Through myriad surgeries and after 9 months in traumatic brain injury rehabilitation centers, Sean moved home. But his efforts to restore himself never stopped. Sean has made a tremendous amount of progress — with the support from his big walker, Sean has relearned how to walk. These days, he uses an iPad that speaks his typed thoughts.

Through this tragedy, Sean — and his mom, Jenny — found a new journey: educating young people to make better decisions to prevent impaired driving.



Photo courtesy of WhenSeanSpeaks.

*Sean has made a tremendous amount of progress — with the support from his big walker, Sean has relearned how to walk. **These days, he uses an iPad that speaks his typed thoughts.***

In 2010, they established the nonprofit [WhenSeanSpeaks](#) as a platform to spread awareness about impaired driving safety and to fund further research for the treatment of traumatic brain injuries.

Sean and Jenny have traveled the country, speaking to hundreds of thousands of young people about the impact of their decisions. Since 2013, WhenSeanSpeaks has partnered with the [Texas A&M AgriLife's Watch UR BAC Program](#), a TxDOT-funded project, to provide presentations to young people across Texas.

Watch UR BAC Program Manager Bobbi Brooks says that after each presentation audiences are asked to complete a brief evaluation, and “almost



Photo courtesy of WhenSeanSpeaks.

94% of the 4,500 responses say they will pass along the information to friends and family from Sean's story about the dangers of drinking and driving.” Even though impaired driving is a serious issue, it's Sean's charismatic personality and humor that advance the safety message further.

If you're interested in having Sean speak at one of your upcoming events, you can reach out to [Bobbi Brooks](#) to inquire about availability.



RECENT STATE NEWS

- [Austin police will no longer cite or arrest people for possessing small amounts of marijuana](#)
- [Young woman killed in fiery Freeway crash that involved multiple alleged drunk drivers](#)
- [32 bags of marijuana delivered to wrong neighbor, HCSO says](#)
- [CBD, hemp, medical marijuana? Here's what you need to know about Texas' changing pot laws.](#)
- [Texas researchers examine why new and expecting moms are vulnerable to overdose](#)
- [Opioid pilot program saved 200 lives in Texas county](#)



NEWSLETTER ADDITIONS



If you would like to add anything to the next edition of the newsletter, please send your information to p-ericson@tti.tamu.edu by September 1, 2020.

Submissions are due the 1st of each newsletter month, and will be distributed next on:

- September 15
- January 15
- May 15

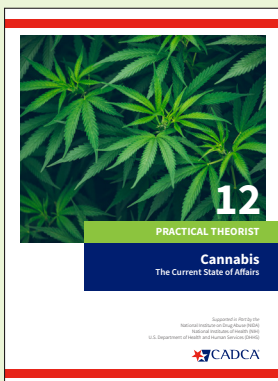


WhenSeanSpeaks.com

WhenSeanSpeaks.com

educates young people to make better decisions to prevent impaired driving. This nonprofit serves as a platform to spread awareness about impaired driving safety and to fund further research for the treatment of traumatic brain injuries.

RECENTLY RELEASED RESOURCES



[Cannabis — The Current State of Affairs, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America \(CADCA\)](#)



[Justice of the Peace and Toxicology Reporting in Texas](#)
Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)



- [Our Driving Concern Fast Pass Employer Transportation Safety Training](#)
July 16, 2020 | Webinar
- [4 D's Addressing Drunk, Distracted Drugged, and Drowsy Driving Within the Workplace](#)
July 29, 2020 | Webinar
- [Cannabis, HR, and Polydrugs: A DITTE Deep Dive](#)
August 5, 2020 | Webinar
- [Drug-Impaired Driving: An Update on Trends and Tools](#)
August 5, 2020 | Webinar
- [IACP Drugs, Alcohol, and Impaired Driving Conference](#)
August 6–8, 2020 | Webinar
- [ATSIP Traffic Records Forum](#)
August 10–14, 2020 | Webinar
- [SFST Refresher Course](#)
August 11, 2020 | Ft. Worth
- [ARIDE Training](#)
August 12–13, 2020 | College Station
- [Our Driving Concern Fast Pass Employer Transportation Safety Training](#)
August 20, 2020 | Webinar
- [DRE Recertification](#)
September 1, 2020 | College Station
- [Alcohol and Inhalants: A DITTE Deep Dive](#)
September 2, 2020 | Webinar
- [DRE Recertification](#)
September 9, 2020 | Huntsville
- [ARIDE Training](#)
September 15–16, 2020 | Denton
- [DRE Recertification](#)
September 28, 2020 | Grand Prairie
- [2020 IACP Conference](#)
October 17–20, 2020 | Webinar