

WhenSeanSpeaks Program Rains High School

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Rains County was able to recently host the WhenSeanSpeaks Program at Rains High School to over 400 students. In 2013, WhenSeanSpeaks Inc. contracted with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to do presentations at 15 venues, as subgrantees of a Texas Department of Transportation Grant. For the Fiscal Year October 1, 2014, WhenSeanSpeaks Inc. was awarded a \$93,000 grant, to do 50 presentations, again as subgrantees of Texas A&M AgriLife. Their partnership with the Watch UR BAC program has continued now through the FY 2019 grant year.

This is the second time Sean has spoke to Rains High School students and his message is still as strong and powerful as ever. Please continue to read Sean's biography.

Fourteen years ago, Sean Carter, was like many young people. Working full time, attending college full time, and when he had the opportunity, going out for a drink, or two, or many, at area bars. The night before Easter Sunday, 2005, Sean went out to a couple of bars with a couple of buddies. Sean was 22 at the time. On the way home as the passenger, the threesome were involved in a single vehicle drunk driving crash.

The careful plan that he had made, to attain his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and go on to Law School, were lost. Sean became a poly-trauma statistic, with multiple fractures, internal injuries, and worst of all, a Traumatic Brain Injury. In fact, Sean was diagnosed with one of the worst types of TBI, a severe diffuse axonal injury, which encompasses the whole brain.

When Sean emerged from a 39-day coma, he was unable to walk or talk. Sean's mother had to gain guardianship of him, because of his inability to communicate. But with the belief of some of his caregivers, and the persistence of his Mother, Sean began the journey back to personhood communicating by typing his thoughts into a tablet computer that spoke the words that he typed, thus he began his career as a public speaker. As technology and Sean's abilities improved, he traded the tablet for an iPad and a Bluetooth speaker.

Sean was born in Denison, Texas on January 11, 1983. He graduated from S&S Consolidated High School in 2001, and then attended Grayson County Community College, while modeling for the Campbell Agency in Dallas. He is now 36 years old and lives with his mother, Jenny Carter, in College Station, Texas.

In 2007, Sean began sharing his message of the dangers of drunk driving at the Lou Sterrett Justice Center, in Dallas, speaking at MADD Victim's Impact Panels. Through coverage in the Dallas Morning News, Sean's new career was launched. He and his Mother formed WhenSeanSpeaks and in 2010, the company incorporated and was granted 501c3, Non-Profit Status. During this time, Sean also worked to improve his physical self. In 2013, he was awarded his personhood back, and in January 2015, Sean went to his Social Security Office in Tyler and notified them of his desire to give up his monthly Social Security Disability benefit.

Sean and his Mother now share their message encouraging others not to drink and drive, and challenging young people to abstain from drinking until they are of legal age. He also shares his life with Traumatic Brain Injury, raising awareness and advocating for others with TBI who are unable to do so for themselves.

Sean has spoken from Long Island, NY to Seattle, Washington. He has spoken to more than 200,000 people at more than 500 venues. Because of the TXDOT Grant, his efforts are now focused in Texas.

Although Sean cannot utter a word, his message is being heard loud and clear.

For more information, you may contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 903-473-4580 or visit us at rains.agrilife.org. We are also on Facebook at [Facebook.com/pages/Rains-County-Family-Consumer-Sciences](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rains-County-Family-Consumer-Sciences). Go and “Like” our page to keep up with the latest news, events, and programs offered by Family & Consumer Sciences in Rains County.

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