

## Get Involved

**Viking Deadline**  
**Friday, Feb. 15**  
 Send all submissions to the editor, *Kassandra Garcia* at *Kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu*. Remember, anyone can contribute!

**Student Leadership Series**  
 TBA

**Student and Employee Spirit Day**  
*Every Friday*  
 wear your GC attire with blue jeans and celebrate the Viking spirit!

## Clubs & Orgs

**Baptist Student Ministries**  
*Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.*  
 BSM building

**Clay Club**  
*First Thursdays, 5 - 6 p.m.*  
 Ceramic Room, Arts & Communications

**Cosmetology Club**  
*Tuesdays bi-weekly*  
 8:30- 9:30 a.m., CTC

**Cultural Diversity Club**  
*Second and fourth Mondays*  
 1 - 2 p.m., Int'l Student Office

**DAAC**  
*Fridays, 12:45 p.m., HS 202*

**Delta Phi Delta (Art)**  
*First Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m.*  
 Design Room  
 Arts & Communications

**Dental Assisting Club**  
*Wednesdays, 11:30 - 12 p.m.*  
 HS 205

**Electrical Technology Club**  
 TBA  
 Contact Aimee Flynn  
 903-463-8684

**Eta Sigma Delta**  
*First Tuesdays, 3 p.m.*  
 Culinary Arts Building

**FCA**  
 TBA

**Future Educators**  
*Every other Tuesday*  
 12:20 - 12:50 p.m., CIS 200

**Gamers Guild**  
*First Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.*  
 Design Room,  
 Arts & Communications

**Grayson Nursing Student Association**  
*Wednesday or Friday*  
 11:30 a.m.  
 Viking Room, Life Center

**HALO (Hispanic-American Leadership Organization)**  
*Second and fourth Tuesday*  
 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
 Grayson Room, Cafeteria

**History Club**  
*Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.*  
 LA 207, Liberal Arts

**Honors College Club**  
*Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.*  
 LA 107, Liberal Arts

**HVACR Club**  
*First Thursdays*  
 5:30 p.m.  
 CTC Room 117

**LEA (Criminal Justice)**  
*Tuesdays*  
 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
 Location TBA

**Men of Distinction**  
*Thursdays, 12 - 1 p.m.*  
 Study Room 5, Library

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Please recycle this paper!

# Lunch is Served! Six Ninety One Resumes Day-time Hours

By Joanna Bryant, Lead Chef Instructor, Culinary Arts

Six Ninety One Restaurant at Grayson College will return to our lunch schedule on Wednesdays and Fridays (11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) beginning Wednesday, January 23, 2019. We are excited to share with you that we are moving to accepting reservations online through Tableagent.com.

On the Table Agent website, you will be able to check days that the restaurant is open and its availability. You can also book and confirm your reservations easily through the website. For those of you who do not want to use the website, I will still take reservations by email at *BryantJ@grayson.edu*.

In addition, we already have our Valentine's Dinner (Friday, February 15) listed on Table Agent for guests to make their reservations. Reservations for the entire semester are already available. We are hoping that this service will make reserving a table much easier for our guests!

**Here is the direct link to our page on Table Agent, or you can go to [tableagent.com](https://tableagent.com) and search in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex:**

<https://tableagent.com/dallas/six-ninety-one-restaurant-at-grayson-college/>

Six Ninety One will be closed for some weeks at the end of March and beginning of April as the sponsors and students travel to competitions in Minnesota. We are representing the state of Texas in the Baron H. Galand Knowledge Bowl Competition and the American Culinary Federation student team competition (we are the Texas state team.)

Sarah Dilling (Student Chef of the Year - Texas 2018) has been chosen as a finalist in the Central Region and will be competing for the Student Chef of the Year for the Central



Culinary Arts student David Blow oversaw the service during the Soft Opening. He's started a Healthy Cooking blog that includes fitness and motivational tips.

Region (14 states.) I have also been chosen as a finalist for Chef Educator of the Year for the Central Region (I was chosen as Chef Educator of the Year for Texas in 2018.) All dates will be listed on Tableagent.com.

As always, thank you so much for supporting Six Ninety One Restaurant at Grayson College and our amazing students. We understand our hours/days of operation are very unusual for a restaurant, and we cannot thank you enough for all your support and patience!



The Chocolate Cheesecake with Chantilly cream and toasted hazelnut brittle was as delightful to eat as it was to look at.



The Spring Mix salad surprised the palate with sweet and sour bits.

# Apply for Foundation Scholarships Now

By Cynthia Perez, Administrative Assistant III

The Foundation scholarship program is open to all eligible applicants who plan to continue their higher education journey at Grayson College.

**When applying for any of the endowed or annual scholarships, the applicant must meet/follow the following criteria:**

1. Apply to and be accepted to Grayson College. The online application process requires the applicant to provide a Grayson College student identification number. Applying without a GC ID will delay the review/awarding process.
2. Current high school students will need to apply to Grayson and obtain a GC student identification number to apply for any Foundation scholarship assistance.
3. Maintain a 2.5 or higher GPA
4. Enroll in a minimum of six (6) credit hours/semester at Grayson College.

- **Priority Application Deadline** – March 22, 2019
- **Final Application Deadline** – June 28, 2019
- Applications received after March 22, 2019 will be considered as funds are available.

Grayson College, the Grayson College Foundation staff, and the Foundation's Board of Directors are committed to providing scholarship assistance to eligible applicants who strive to further their education while enrolled at Grayson College. The Foundation provides scholarship assistance from over 250+ endowments and various annual scholarships.

Visit [www.grayson.edu](http://www.grayson.edu); Admission and Aid / Scholarship to obtain scholarship information and access the online scholarship application. The online application opened on Wednesday, January 3, 2019.

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[www.grayson.upswing.io](http://www.grayson.upswing.io)

## Palentine's Celebration

**Wednesday, February 13th**  
 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
 Location: Grayson Library  
**Free Taco Bar**  
**Free Sweet Snacks**

**Music Club**  
Every other Friday  
1 - 2 p.m., Choir Room,  
Arts & Communications

**Phi Theta Kappa**  
Wednesdays  
12:30 - 1 p.m.  
LA 107, Liberal Arts

**Psychology Club**  
Thursdays, 12:15 - 1 p.m.  
CIS 202

**Radiology Tech Club**  
The 15th of every month  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
HS 200

**Science Club**  
1st and 3rd Fridays  
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
S 106, Science Building

**Student Government Association**  
First Mondays  
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

**Sisters of Destiny**  
Every other Thursday,  
12:15 - 1 p.m.  
Conference Room, Life Center

**Student Ambassadors**  
Third Mondays, 12 - 1 p.m.  
Viking Room, Life Center

**Student Veterans Association (SVA)**  
1st and 3rd Wednesdays  
Veterans' Hub (2nd floor of  
Life Center) 12 - 1:00 p.m.

**TIPPS (Culinary Arts)**  
First Tuesdays, 2 - 3:00 p.m.  
691 Restaurant, Culinary Arts

**Veteran Nursing Student Association**  
First Mondays, 12 p.m.  
South Campus Skills Lab

**Vocational Nursing Student Association**  
First and third Wednesdays,  
12 - 1 p.m.  
Veteran's Hub, Life Center

**Welding Technologies Association**  
First and third Tuesdays,  
12 - 1 p.m. CTC Break Room  
First and third Tuesdays,  
12 - 1 p.m. South Campus

**Writers Unlimited**  
Every other Tuesday  
12:20-12:50 p.m.  
Study Room 5, Library

# Grayson College Embraces Open Educational Resources (OER)

By Todd Ellis, Director of Teaching and Learning

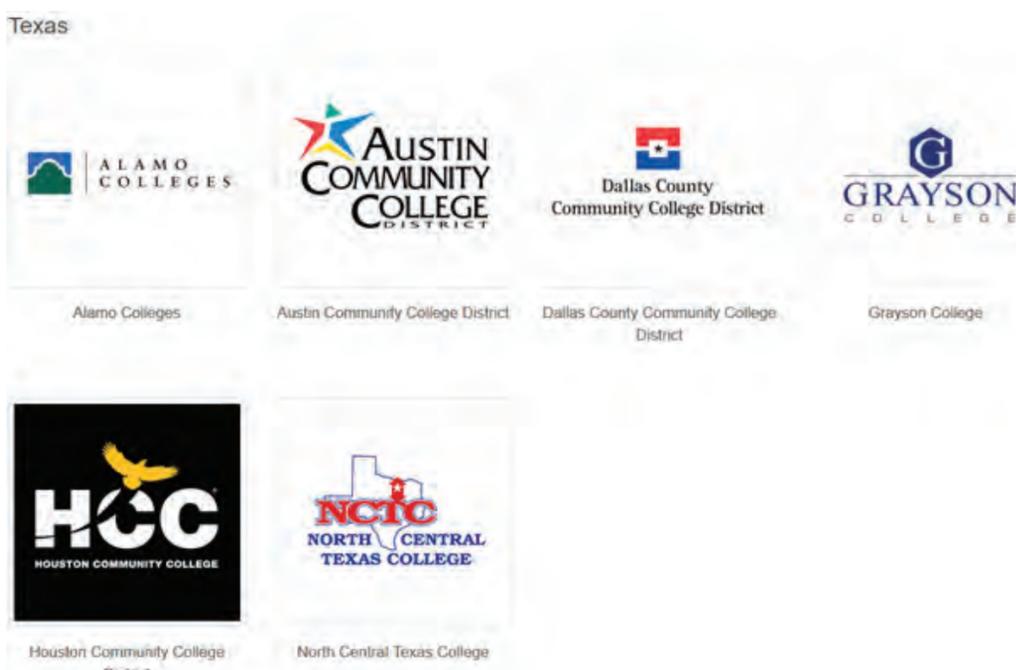
**The Program**  
The Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources (CCCOER) promotes the awareness and adoption of open educational policies, practices, and resources. They believe that these practices will expand student access to education while supporting academic freedom and faculty choice of openly licensed curriculum materials. Their membership includes 72 colleges in 32 US states and 2 Canadian provinces. CCCOER is part of the global Open Education Consortium.

We are the first Texas member who serves rural or fringe demographics exclusively. Most of the current members are in San Antonio, Austin, Houston, and Dallas. It is an amazing resource for every level of OER development and strategy, including opportunities for faculty development and fantastic free webinars.

### Membership Benefits for Interested Faculty and Staff:

• **Stay Informed:** CCCOER and OEC member communications and special webinars keep you informed about

## Texas Colleges in the Community College Consortium of Open Educational Resources



tools, emerging trends and funding opportunities for open education.

• **Community:** Be part of the largest community of practice in open education, focused on the needs and realities of community and technical colleges.

• **Expert Feedback:** Monthly webinars and our community email list deliver expert perspective on time-critical issues in open education.

• **Collaboration:** Participate in advocacy events to promote open education locally, nationally and globally.

• **Shared Visibility:** Showcase your open educational projects to a national and global audience.

• **Global perspective:** The Open Education Consortium worldwide network allows you ready participation in the global open education movement.

**The CCCOER asked us to share a quote with them describing our motivation for joining the Open movement.**

*The Open movement allows our faculty to create aligned personalized teaching experiences that encourage student engagement in the learning process. Students read when the material relates to what they need to know. Too often, publishers have become gatekeepers to teaching methodology. The Open movement allows teaching professionals to establish the frameworks that their disciplines require.*

Or as Mark Twain said, "Loyalty to petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul."



<https://www.oecconsortium.org/members/>

# Streamers for Fortnite: "Battle Royale" Explode

By Evan Gonzalez, Student

For those who have been living under a rock, the online video game *Fortnite* hit the internet in September of 2017. Its original game mode, "Save the World," had been launched by Epic Games months previously on July 5th. But it wasn't until the release of "Battle Royale" that it gained an explosive response from gamers around the world.

With well over 150 million downloads, the free game has managed to rocket itself into the "biggest game of the year" and is likely to hold onto that title for a while (Tsukayama).

Obsessed players range from elementary school age to adults nearing a mid-life crisis, and it's not by accident. The game's design caters to a multitude of gaming categories like building to shooting to exploration and survival.

"Battle Royale" is the title given to a gaming genre that existed long before *Fortnite* and was applied to games of "competitive survival player mode" ("The Rise"). *Fortnite*, however, quickly became its leading hub as the game surpassed the popularity of all its processors, likely due to its contribution to evolving "Battle Royale" elements and its low price point.

While it was released only for console and PC platforms, *Fortnite's* quickly pathed the way for IOS, Android, and Switch versions, acquiring an even more ridiculous following (Tsukayama).

Players unanimously credit the appeal of *Fortnite*: "Battle Royale" to its competitive nature and "squading up," which is the ability to play with friends and talk with mic'd headphones.

16-year-old recreational player Josh Magers, along with many others, also enjoys its constant upgrades or changes to the format of the game. "I've probably spent well over a week (total time) playing *Fortnite* since last September," Magers admitted to. He added that it's the

first activity he and his friends do when they get home for the evening, and they'll typically stay on for hours at a time.

During this time, friends not only enjoy the competitive game with each other, but they also take this time to just catch up with their friends.



The Twitch *Fortnite* streaming screen

Another regular player, Mason Snow, 17, agreed with Magers, stating, "The game itself is really fun, but I also like it because it's like a super long phone call with your best buds." Players just like them often flee to this game in "squads" of their friends to dominate competition.

Snow also loves how much the game has taken over his social media. "*Fortnite* memes are everywhere," he explained, "and it feels like an inside joke with you and everyone who plays." Playing the game builds friendships and communities with the virtual experiences and challenges.

This sense of community is even further cultivated through big-time streamers. Video game streaming is not a new concept either, yet some-

how *Fortnite* took over the scene yet again and was the reason for over 12% of traffic on the top 5 streaming sites ("The Rise").

Professional gamers and regular players alike can turn to platforms like Twitch and gain thousands of subscribers a month from streaming.

Streamer Heagan Jones, 17, has accumulated over 7,000 YouTube subscribers and 580 Twitch followers within the past two years from playing everything from mature-audience horror-based games to the unrated *Fortnite* series. "I earn roughly \$3,000 a month from streaming," Jones revealed. Most of the income is donated by generous followers that want to give thanks to the content produced daily. *Fortnite* sensation,

Tyler "Ninja" Blevins proudly earns \$500,000 a month streaming and has played with celebrities like Drake, breaking the "all-time record for Twitch viewers" ("The Rise").

The big secret to becoming a successful streamer isn't big at all; just start trying. If you think you're entertaining to watch, whether it be because of skill or commentary, open an account and see what happens.

The demand for *Fortnite* increased rapidly, going from an idea to a reality in only 12 weeks, but the game plans to stay around for years and years ("The Rise"). The passion that gamers have for *Fortnite* is sure to make it a staple in the gaming community.

References:  
[https://resources.newzoo.com/hubfs/Reports/Newzoo\\_The\\_Rise\\_of\\_the\\_Battle\\_Royale\\_Genre.pdf](https://resources.newzoo.com/hubfs/Reports/Newzoo_The_Rise_of_the_Battle_Royale_Genre.pdf)  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2018/04/03/everything-you-need-to-know-about-fortnite-and-why-its-so-popular/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.6c1d30e86ef2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-switch/wp/2018/04/03/everything-you-need-to-know-about-fortnite-and-why-its-so-popular/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6c1d30e86ef2)

# Meet Austin Lambert, BSM Director

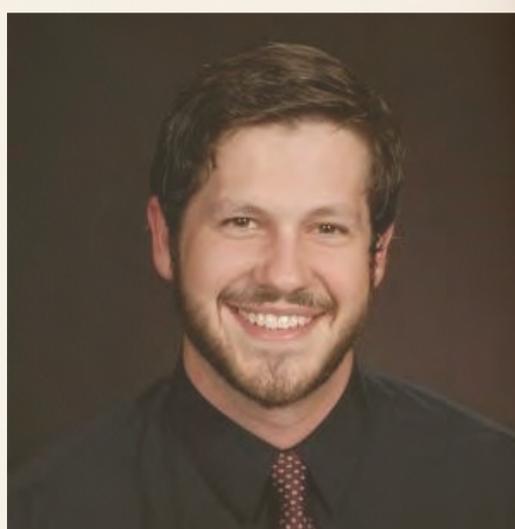
By Austin Lambert, Baptist Student Ministry Director

Howdy Grayson College!

My name is Austin Lambert and I am honored to join Grayson as the new Director of Baptist Student Ministry (BSM). I am a graduate of Texas A&M Commerce with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and earned a master's degree in Christian Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. My lovely wife Amanda and I have lived in Grayson County for the last five years as I have served as the Student Pastor to the First Baptist Church of Sherman. God has given me a deep passion for College Ministry, and I look forward to many years of serving students on this campus.

We are located inside the Baptist Student Center, which is in between the Gymnasium and the Police Station on the main Grayson campus. The BSM exists to enrich the spiritual lives of all college students by providing opportunities for fellowship, worship, Bible study, mentoring and so much more. Every Wednesday, the BSM offers a free lunch for all students and faculty members on the campus. **Please come by, grab lunch, and learn how you can get connected with our fantastic ministry in these days ahead.**

I look forward to meeting you soon!



New Baptist Student Ministry Director encourages students of every faith to come check out the resources of the BSM

# Communication Key for Speech Prof. Sarah Collins

By Marlea Treviño, Professor of English

Speech professor Sarah Collins, who is starting her second semester at Grayson College, returned to the Denison area, where she grew up, from Oklahoma to be closer to family. After earning her undergraduate degree at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma and her master's at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Collins spent 7 years as the Speech and Debate Coach at Cameron, where she traveled with students extensively to debate competitions.

From her first day on the job at Grayson, Collins has found it easy to interact with faculty and staff, who have frequently helped her navigate the campus and its departments. She feels the campus provides varied opportunities for student engagement in clubs and activities, like Honors College, which can help students develop their academic resumes. And she feels that students, especially veterans, are made aware of those opportunities.

## Emphasizing applicable skills

Collins' goals for her Grayson students are that they see her course as not just a "speech class" but as a means of improving presentation and communication skills for after graduation. Her curriculum emphasizes applicable skills and helps students enhance communication "soft skills" like interpersonal conversations and collaboration.

After a semester of working with Grayson students, Collins has found them to be technically proficient in using communication tools such as Prezi and PowerPoint and communicating in electronic formats such as Canvas messaging.

## Working on students' self-advocacy

But Collins feels her students here lack the ability to self-advocate. They struggle to make "small talk" with other students and with her "without a cell phone in hand." She'll learn that her students have questions about other classes or are facing different challenges with particular programs or people but then observes that they aren't willing to go address those problems; they seem content to just complain. So she makes addressing conflict and collaborating effectively a central focus in Speech 1311 and 1321.

Collins places most of her course content online so that students can use face-to-face class time to practice communication skills with impromptu speeches and group discussions about navigating relationship roles, managing conflict, and working with teams. For one of their group projects, her students choose a local organization with a need or problem and work together to solve the problem and create relevant marketing materials.

For her online speech courses, Collins found herself challenged at first to try to replicate the face-to-face speech-course experience for her students.



Speech professor Sarah Collins and her fiancé, Luke Garrett, plan regular times every Thursday to ensure open communication and help them manage conflict. They will be married in June.

But in partnership with Teaching and Learning Director Todd Ellis, she began searching for teaching tools to interact with students online and found that the video software Camtasia helps her develop that connection. She uses this tool to integrate parts of her PowerPoints and for video conferencing, which she finds more effective than typed messages.

## Practicing what she teaches

Collins and fiancé Luke Garrett, who works for Landmark Bank and for Oakridge Baptist Church, set aside time each Thursday to discuss anything that's come up during the week that they disagree about. Garrett's job as youth minister demands a great deal of time and typically irregular work hours. So time management is a frequent topic of the couple's Thursday conversations. Although most couples struggle some with communication, when they marry in June, Collins and Garrett should be way ahead of the game.

# GC Celebrating "Pal"entine's Day February 13 in Library

By Jean Sorensen, Professor of English

What is Palentine's Day? In 2010, "Galentine's Day" was the title of an episode in season six of the television series *Parks and Recreation*. Since that time, February 13th has marked an occasion to celebrate friendships among women.

Now, in 2019, the platonic component of love triumphs on the day before Cupid's holiday of romantic love. Today, friendship receives appreciation as even more vital to daily happiness than erotic love. Some might rightly say that friendships complete romantic love and sustain lasting happiness.

Here at Grayson College, faculty and students are collaborating to practice the important "Connect" part of the college's mission: Connect, Commit, Complete. To celebrate the pluralistic character of GC's emphasis on equity, a celebration of Palentine's Day will be held on Wednesday, February 13th from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesdays at GC already provide a great opportunity to connect at the college's Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) building, where a weekly

lunch from 12:15 – 1 p.m. takes place. The Palentine's Party will serve traditional homemade sweet snacks with a "build your own taco bar" for appetizers before lunch at the BSM begins.

Palentine's Day at GC celebrates the importance of friendships for all people in an inclusive manner that welcomes all ages, all creeds, all genders, all forms of kindness and care that build community. "Community not conformity" might be an unofficial motto for a place as welcoming as our community's college.

Save the date, February 13, and look for invitations announcing the location closer to the date (Likely, the Grayson Library). Be Viking Proud of how our college care for and supports its faculty, staff, administrators, students, philanthropic donors, workplace partners, and many community contributors and guests who visit our campus. Together, united, our connections build the strength each of us needs for our many different forms of happiness.

# Letter from the Editor: Engagement Matters

By Cassandra Garcia, Editor

## From me

The community college experience is only as good as the effort you put into it. I can tell you right now, my fellow Vikings, I do a lot more than just participate in my classes. My first semester here, fall 2017, I had a lot of personal issues resurfacing and beginning. I freely admit to its being the hardest semester of school I've ever had.

However, that was also the semester I fell in love with this college. By the end of spring 2018, I was in seven different clubs, the Secretary of Rotaract Club, served as an English tutor, became a Work Study, and I was ready to begin my adventure as the Honors College secretary and *The Viking* newspaper editor. When spring term ended, I truly began my adventures with Phi Theta Kappa at their summer meetings and became their Public Relations officer.

Now, here I am in spring 2019, getting ready to graduate in May. I could never regret my experiences as a Viking. Every semester I overcame anything that was thrown at me through the fellowship in my clubs, the opportunities I was given, and the continued guidance of multiple professors.

You truly do make time for what you care about. Any time you tell yourself that it's impossible, you can always reevaluate the situation and try it from a different angle. I promise, I have consistently worked two to four jobs since I joined the college. I made time for what I cared about, and it has made my community college experience so amazing that I start to tear up whenever I think about leaving.

## To you

Grayson tries to create an active student life for all of us for a reason. They want us to have these experiences, make friends, try new things, and to never regret coming here. If any of those aspects sound promis-

ing to you, then feel free to get involved. It is never too late to join a club or go to Grayson College events. Some of our clubs offer scholarships, free food, and free trips. If you have any questions, I try my best to answer emails within twenty-four hours at [kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu](mailto:kaegarcia@vikings.grayson.edu). I hope to see more and more students getting involved!



Phi Theta Kappa Officers (L-R) JaNae McCormack, Cassandra Garcia, and Abigail Reasnor wait to induct new members into the PTK Society

# It's Not Okay

By Kealy Hicks, Staff Writer

Editor's Note: The following letter was written in response to a real situation experienced last New Year's Eve.

Dear Sir,  
  
You don't know me that well, so let me start by saying that everything you're about to read is coming from a loving place from someone with a big heart.

I thought about coming to talk to you in person, but I'm not the best with confrontation, so I thought this letter would be better at explaining what I was unable to say to you last night.

I realize that I may have upset you. But you upset me. You see... you came to the house I call home and rang in the new year with me and several others. Many of you drank alcohol — I didn't.

You will learn why I chose not to drink in just a moment.

Everything was great, until it wasn't. I watched you, and I saw that you and your spouse were both quite drunk. I saw you gulp down two glasses of God -knows-what right before you walked out the door. I saw your spouse tripping over her own feet, barely able to hold herself up. And I saw your young daughter about to get in a vehicle with her two drunk parents.

I decided that I had to do something. I couldn't let it happen. I wasn't going to. Sorry, but not sorry.

I offered to give you a ride home because to be quite frank, you certainly didn't need to be driving. You were drunk. You said you were fine. I didn't believe you. I became overwhelmed with fear — fear that something would happen to you and your family on your way home. I followed you out to your truck and again, offered to drive you home.

Again, you said you were fine. Again, I didn't believe you.

I asked you where your keys were.

I could see it in your eyes and I could hear it in your voice: you were anything but fine.

The asking turned into begging — I pleaded with you again and again, "Please let me take you home."

You didn't want me driving YOUR truck.

Okay, fine.

"Then get in my car," I said. You refused.

I asked you to please listen to me — but you told me to listen to you... "I'm fine and live down the road," you said.

The begging turned into a crying-induced panic. You see, there was a reason I begged you to listen to me. I don't know about you, but I don't make it a habit of begging people for things.

But I had something important to say to you. So, because you refused to listen to me then, I'm saying it now.

I was three years old when my mother was killed in a car accident. She was the drunk driver.

I'm sure my mother thought she was "fine" when she left whatever party she was at and decided to get behind the wheel. Did you know that most accidents occur within just a few miles of the driver's home? My mother was also "just down the road" when she got into her car accident.

Her decision caused her to lose her life at the young age of 22. Her decision killed another person. Her decision forced me to grow up without her — changing my life FOREVER.

Think about your family for a moment...

Your decisions don't just affect you. Your decisions affect them too.

I was truly concerned for your safety and the safety of your child, and rightfully so. Agree or disagree, that's your personal choice. But let me be frank for another moment. No matter how "fine" you think you are, it is **never** okay to put someone else's life at risk.

Regardless of whether or not someone else is in the car with you, regardless of how close to home you are, if you are driving under the influence, then you are putting other people's lives in danger.

So please, for the love of God, for the respect of another life, for your own family, next time, GET A RIDE HOME.

Sincerely,  
A concerned citizen.

## Get Ready for a Spring T-giving: Local Turkey-Hunting Tips

By John Dalton Rowe, Student

Early spring mornings, Texas turkey hunters arise before sunrise to get set up in hopes of having a spring Thanksgiving dinner. Though many people think of turkey hunting as being only in the fall, considering we celebrate Thanksgiving with a turkey dinner, it is also a spring event.

Specifically, Wise County, a county Northwest of Dallas County but still part of the metroplex, with Decatur being the county seat, has a public land hunting area called the LBJ Grasslands (named after president Lyndon B. Johnson) where there is a plentiful and thriving population of Rio Grande turkey.

Jay Meyer is a ten-year spring turkey hunter from Dallas who has hunted all over Texas for turkey but hunts Wise County more than anywhere else. He says, "Wise County turkey hunting isn't like other parts in Texas by the means of it's tougher because the birds are in more confined areas with more hunters than other counties in the spring."

During his experience hunting, Meyer has used his patience and skills to kill over twelve mature Toms, (a mature male turkey), which is a major achievement, considering the lack of hunting land in Wise County.

Meyer adds, "Turkey hunting in the spring is much tougher than in the fall because hunters can only shoot male turkey or gobblers since the hens, female turkey, [hens are less colorful than gobblers and are smaller] are getting ready to lay eggs later in the spring."

The Texas turkey season is less than 2 months, starting in late March and ending in mid-April. During this time, the gobblers are trying to establish dominance within the flock and mate with hens, with a usual flock being between 15 to 20 in the spring, Meyer explains.

Many people think spring turkey hunting is weird since we have all grown up knowing we eat turkey at Thanksgiving, which is in November during deer season.

Terrance Jackson, an expert on turkey hunting who's been hunting turkey ever since he could remember in both spring and fall, says the major difference between spring and fall turkey hunting is what he calls the opportunity season and the interactive season.

He explains this in detail by saying in the fall, most hunters who are in the woods aren't hunting turkey specifically but are hunting deer, which is also in season during fall turkey season. But if hunters are given the opportunity to harvest a turkey while deer hunting, they will take it.

The interactive season as Jackson calls the spring turkey season, is called that because hunters during the spring will set up decoys, fake turkey, and use calls to interact with gobblers, trying to get them into a shootable range away.

Jackson also talks about how the flock size and amount of nutrition play a role in a turkey's life. "Turkeys are in smaller, more spread-out flocks in the spring because there is more nutrition around for the turkey to consume since all grass-

es and herbs are starting to grow during this time," he notes.

In contrast, turkey are in bigger groups in the fall, even if there is less nutrition. "Just like cows do in the winter with their young, turkey will bunch up in a flock of 30-50 and will move and live together to protect their young, away from predators while eating on acorns and other herbs they find," he explains.

Jackson has witnessed a flock of 100 turkey while deer hunting on a food plot, a planted area set aside to act as a supplementary food source for wildlife.

Jackson also says that there aren't really any major tactics for fall turkey hunting, unlike in the spring, besides being in the right spot at the right time of day.

Many hunters think that once turkey season is over, they can just hang out during the summer months, when in fact, there are many tactics hunters can do to improve their chances of having turkey on property or having a successful hunt.

John Rowe, who has been turkey hunting many years, states, "To improve your chances on getting a turkey for the season, starts in the offseason, but you first have to know what the turkey are doing during the summer months."

During the summer months, most people say they don't see turkey as often where they've hunted that past spring, but that is because the



A decoy spread of a male turkey following a female turkey during the 2018 spring turkey season about 25 yards away from the seat in the tree line on a unit of the LBJ Grasslands.



The back half of a fall flock of turkey as they travel long a gravel road on a unit of the LBJ Grasslands

male turkeys are roaming around in bachelor groups, gathering up into their fall flocks while the hens are taking care of their poults (baby turkey.)

This is good to know, Rowe says, because it can show you how to track turkey and see where they have been and where they go while not in season and what they need for survival during these months.

Even though most people don't know they can hunt turkey in the spring, there is a better chance for people to kill turkey in the spring rather than the fall.

**Correction:** Jeffery Smith, private pilot, was misidentified on pg. 5 in the November 27, 2018 issue of The Viking as American Airlines pilot David Brayer.