The Ellen DeGeneres Show introduced the world to a story of tragedy, friendship and hope featuring Class of 2007 Tulane University alumni Jackson Smith and Brian McKenna back in October 2015. When McKenna was paralyzed in a mountain biking accident in June 2015, the set of events that followed resulted in a heartwarming parable that becomes more uplifting each time DeGeneres, a native of New Orleans, reaches out for an update.

Smith is a graduate of the School of Liberal Arts and is a current Tulane Law School student. McKenna earned his degree from the A. B. Freeman School of Business. The two recently made the trip to Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, California, for their first in-studio visit with DeGeneres. Grab a tissue and watch what happens when you mix a recipe with these basic ingredients: love, Ellen, Drew Brees, New Orleans and Tulane.

“I’m inspired by their friendship.”

*Drew Brees*