

All are winners in Special Olympics basketball game

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Stephen Slattery tries to defend against Gary Carter during Tulane University Special Olympics Louisiana unified intramural co-ed basketball game (Photo by Cheryl Gerber)

The inaugural Special Olympics Unified Rivalry Basketball Game was held Saturday at the Reilly Center on the uptown campus of Tulane University. Two teams, one comprised of Tulane students and Special Olympic athletes and the other of LSU students and Special Olympic athletes, competed for the Unified Rivalry Cup. Tulane emerged victorious with a score of 26-4.

“Tulane has been an incredible partner of Special Olympics for the last two years,” said Gabe Feldman, associate professor of law and director of the Tulane Sports Law Program. “We’ve made a big push to have more unified sports in Special Olympics, to have people with and without special needs playing on teams together.”

Feldman was involved in the movement to relaunch Special Olympics in New Orleans. In 2016, a unified intramural basketball team was formed at Tulane. Games resume in March. A unified touch flag football league will also be established this year.

Jennifer Hew, associate professor at LSU Dental School and state dental director for Special Olympics Louisiana, was excited to participate in the event.

“We run a lot of programs for Special Olympics at the dental school,” she said. “It means a lot to the students. They love to do outreach projects, and as soon as I told them about this game, they were pumped to come.”

Above all else, Feldman believes the opportunity to involve the special needs community with the Tulane community is exciting for both parties.

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Jamie Logan is a senior majoring in English and classical studies with a minor in psychology at Tulane University.

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