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NEWS RELEASE

OTAC Unveils Inspirational Group of Float Riders for Its Centennial Rose Parade Float

Occupational therapy to kick off its year-long celebration with a floral salute to 100 years of service to society

Sacramento, CA (December 23, 2016) — The Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) announced the 12 riders for its float, Celebrating a Century of Occupational Therapy. This float will appear as entry number 62 in the Monday, January 2, 2017 Tournament of Roses® Parade in Pasadena, Calif.

“The Occupational Therapy Centennial Float represents a uniquely proud and momentous occasion in the 100 year history of occupational therapy and our service to society. The OTAC Board of Directors and our 2017 OT Centennial Float Committee embarked on the arduous responsibility of fundraising as well as selecting a float design symbolizing professional historical significance as well as modern day therapies and clients, and the profession. We are beyond excited to be sharing our profession with the world,” commented President Heather J. Kitching, OTD, OTR/L. “This centennial float embodies our vision of a world where all people participate in meaningful and enriching daily activities to optimize their life experience.”

The OT Centennial Float launches OTAC’s year-long public education campaign, 100 Stories of OT, in recognition and celebration of a century of service to society. In the coming months, OTAC will be sharing more stories of the impact that occupational therapy has had on the lives of OT clients and the individuals that serve OT clients and the profession. “I am so honored to have led this effort. The first 12 stories represented by the float riders are so important and inspiring,” stated the 2017 OT Centennial Float Committee Chair Sarah Bream, OTD, OTR/L. “And the opportunity to interact with the profession around the country has been an extremely rewarding experience; beyond what I could have imagined.”

Meet Our 12 OT Centennial Float Riders ([photos and short bios](#))

1. Heather J. Kitching, OTD, OTR/L – OTAC president and educator
2. Lela Llorens, PhD, OTR/L – occupational therapy pioneer and educator
3. Brandon Dodson – U. S. Marine seriously injured by an IED in the line of duty
4. Kaitlyn Dobrow – a 22 yr. old who lost all four limbs and is now a social media star and makeup artist
5. Lisa Deshaies, OTR/L, CHT – Kaitlyn Dobrow’s occupational therapy practitioner
6. Ada Boone Hoerl, COTA/L – educator and catalyst of the profession
7. Harrison Phelps – occupational therapy student at the University of St. Augustine in California
8. Stephanie Conway – occupational therapy student at the University of South Dakota
9. Florence Clark, PhD, OTR/L – occupational therapy pioneer and educator
10. Juan Carlos Medrano – Special Olympics athlete diagnosed with autism at the age of three
11. Jack Onufer – straight A high school student overcoming sensory integration dysfunction
12. Jesus David Vidana – U.S. Marine reservist who suffered a severe brain injury in the line of duty

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Interviews available with:

1. Float riders
2. OTAC President/float rider (Heather J. Kitching, OTD, OTR/L)
3. OTAC 2017 OT Centennial Float Committee Chair (Sarah Bream, OTD, OTR/L)

More information available at www.otaonline.org

1. [Float rider photos and bios](#), 2. [About Occupational Therapy Fact Sheet](#), 3. [OT and Hospital Readmission Rates](#), 4. [OT and Independent-Living Older Adults](#)

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