

# 'Amistad' and kids' artwork are vital for Kelly Otte

Special to the Democrat

A few artful questions from COCA for Kelly Otte, executive director, PACE Center for Girls.

**Can you play a musical instrument?**

I play a mean (computer) keyboard.

**Do you own any original art?**

I have framed artwork from both of my children plastered all over my house. Even in the com-mode!

**What was the first concert you ever attended?**

My parents would have told you that it was the Marine Corp Band when I was 16. But it was really a Helen Reddy concert at the Kirkwood Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe when I was 15 and was supposed to be spending the night at a



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friend's house. Don't tell my kids.

**What book is on your nightstand right now?**

"The Marriage Plot" by Jeffrey Eugenides. Thank goodness you didn't ask me last week.

**When was the last time you danced?**

About eight months ago at my friends' wedding.



Otte

**What was the last live performance you saw?**

The Celebration of Women and Girls, benefitting PACE and Oasis in September of 2011.

**What movie has most affected you?**

"Amistad." I sat in the theater and sobbed. The movie did an extraordinary job of showing the incredible ugliness of slavery in a way that I had never seen. And will never forget.

**What was the last thing you made by hand?**

Earrings for several of my colleagues at PACE.

**When was the last time you were on a stage?**

Giving a speech in Tampa in October about the connection between child abuse and domestic violence.

**What artistic talent do you wish you had?**

I really wish I could play the guitar. But my mom started playing the banjo when she was 57, so I figure I still have time!

— Visit COCA's websites at [www.cocanet.org](http://www.cocanet.org) and [www.morethanyouthought.com](http://www.morethanyouthought.com). Send suggestions for artist profiles, news items, story ideas or fun facts to COCA at [cultural@cocanet.org](mailto:cultural@cocanet.org).

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