

# AROUND CA

## THE WIKI WAY

Thanks to Boston College senior Marie Pellissier, the online encyclopedia Wikipedia now has an entry on a pioneering woman of the American West, Susan LaFlesche Picotte.

For an assignment last semester in Professor of History Marilyn Johnson's course History of the American West, Pellissier introduced "Wiki" to Picotte (1865-1915), widely considered to be the first Native American woman to become a physician.

"I wanted to focus on a strong woman who was able to influence life in the West," Pellissier told the WikiEducation Foundation, which featured the history major, and noted her use of Boston College Libraries resources to write her article, available at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan\\_La\\_Flesche\\_Picotte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_La_Flesche_Picotte).

"I'm delighted that Marie's research has resulted in such a tangible and accessible contribution to historical knowledge on the web," said Johnson.

"Wikipedia is here to stay, so why not improve it? There are tons of entries on male explorers and military figures in the American West, but not nearly as many on women and Native Americans. Marie's article gives us both."

Pellissier hopes readers of the article "come away with a sense of just how extraordinary this woman was. I think one of the most interesting things about Picotte is the way she was able to have an impact on, and earn the respect of, both the Omaha nation and the community of whites living around their reservation in Walthill, Neb.

"Though she was at a double disadvantage, as a woman and as a Na-

Photo courtesy Marie Pellissier



**Marie Pellissier '15 and the subject of her research, Susan LaFlesche Picotte.**

tive American, she persisted in pursuing her education to become a doctor and in pushing for significant improvements to public health on the Omaha reservation," she added. "She earned respect at a time when women were expected to stay home and care for families instead of working in a public sphere."

Pellissier described Johnson's assignment as "extraordinary: It asked us as historians to think differently about how we write; it was a challenge to write in an encyclopedic style.

"Writing for a broad audience," she added, "really enhanced the experience in the class because instead of writing a research paper that only the professor would read, we were challenged to think about how to bring an interesting topic to a much broader group of people."

—Office of News & Public Affairs



Wikipedia



**A "topping-off" ceremony was held for Boston College's 245,000 square-foot residence hall. Once completed, the residence hall will feature modern style suites for BC students. The last beam (or its equivalent) is**

## SONG

Next Thursday, Feb. 26, Boston College will again display the musical talent of its students at the Sing to the Rhythm Partnership School, the re-

The event, which is open to all, will run from 7-9 p.m. in the Robsham

Now in its 11th year, "Sing to the Rhythm" is inspired by the popular Fox TV show. The event – features 10 BC students, selected through auditions held last month, performing for Jesuit judges. The winner is de-