

## The Ruth Wynn Woodward Chair

In late 1983, the Women's Program of the Federal Secretary of State announced a program to create five Canadian regional endowed chairs in Women's Studies. One region was British Columbia and the Yukon. The SFU Women's Studies Program submitted what turned into a successful application and received \$500,000 from the Secretary of State with the stipulation that an additional \$500,000 be raised for a million dollar endowment. By 1987 full funding for the endowment was secured by an active group of forty five women in the community. The largest part of these matching funds was donated by Mary Twigg White and Elizabeth Russ, daughters of Ruth Wynn Woodward. The Ruth Wynn Woodward Professorship became one of five Canadian regional chairs and the first fully funded chair at SFU.

As well as teaching, the roll of the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professorship includes public speaking engagements in Vancouver's lower mainland and throughout British Columbia and the Yukon. Since 1985, the women appointed to this position have given more than 200 public talks, radio and TV interviews. In addition, the Professorship has organized eleven major conferences:

- Women, Medicine and Psychoanalysis (1986)
- Women and Theatre Arts (1986)
- Occupational Health and Safety for Clerical Workers (1987)
- The Female Constituency (1988)
- Telling It: Women and Language Across Cultures (1988)
- Transforming Tomorrow: Women's Studies in the Secondary Schools (1989)
- Women, Work, and Unions (1989)
- Tapestry, A Celebration of Women of Colour and First Nations Women (1992)
- Are We Having Fun Yet? Building, Decorating, and Finding the Body (1993)
- Celebration of the Goddess (1994)
- Bridging the Race and Gender Gap (1995)

For the first five years, of the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professorship the goal was to appoint either scholars who had transcended disciplinary boundaries in their study of women or prominent figures who had contributed to an understanding of women in social policy or culture.

- Susan Penfold, psychiatrist (1985-1986)
- Rosemary Brown, politician (1987-1988)
- Daphne Marlatt, writer, literary critic (1988-1989)
- Marjorie Cohen, economist (1989-1990)
- Hilda Ching, scientist (1990-1991)
- Vanaja Dhruvarajan, sociologist, (1994-1995)

From 1991 to 1994 post-doctoral fellows were appointed. These positions offered an opportunity for research, teaching and fellowship to promising women just embarking on new Academic careers. The fellowships have been held by:

- Deborah Dunne (Philosophy)
- Marni Stanley (English)
- Margaret Little (Political Science)
- Margaret Malone (Sociology)