

Distinguished Alumna 2002
Ruth Muskrat
Class of 1916

Ruth Muskrat was born in 1897 in Indian Territory and attended University Preparatory School from 1913-1916. She served as associate literary editor of the *Crimson Rambler* school magazine and posed for "The Spirit of the Indian" statue. She was the first Native American to graduate from Mount Holyoke College.

She represented American Indians at the 1922 International Student Volunteer Conference in Peking, China and served on the Committee of 100 reporting the state of Indian affairs to President Calvin Coolidge.

Married to John Bronson, she spent her life as an Indian activist, working to improve the education and health of Native Americans. Mrs. Bronson opened the Washington, D.C. office of the National Congress of the American Indian and later was Health Educator at the San Carlos Reservation where she founded a women's group to improve living conditions on the reservation. Her book *Indians Are People Too* was published in 1944. She died in 1987.