

The Society of Rogerian Scholars' Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund, Inc.:  
27 Years of Philanthropy

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### **Abstract**

The **purpose** is to provide background on The Fund and highlight a 2015 awardee. **Data Sources** include publications of the SRS, organizational and awardee documents. **Data Synthesis** is a description and story about The Fund and the awardee. **Conclusions** are the career journey of one past awardee speaks to the continued legacy of The Fund and gives meaning to the relevance and importance of its continued work. **Implications** include a better understanding of The Fund, eligibility for funding, and a call for all to participate in charitable giving to support works within the Science of Unitary Human Beings.

**Keywords:** Society of Rogerian Scholars Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund; Science of Unitary Human Beings; Funding, Dr. Lisa Heelan-Fancher, Charitable Giving

**The Society of Rogerian Scholars' Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund:  
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The Society of Rogerian Scholars' Martha E. Rogers' Scholars Fund, Inc. (The Fund) was incorporated in New York State in April 1994 by the Department of State, Division of Corporations. Bylaws were adopted in 1995 by the Society of Rogerian Scholars Founders and founding Board members. It is a Not-for-Profit Corporation with a 501 (c) (3) designation, which allows for contributions to be tax deductible.

**Background & Historical Perspective**

In 1994 following the death of Martha E. Rogers, a first notice appeared in the *Rogerian Nursing Science News* (Spring 1994, Number 4, p. 1) that the Society of Rogerian Scholars established the Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund as “a perpetual memorial”. Early publications including information about The Fund were found in 1995. Most notably, the *Rogerian Nursing Science News*, a newsletter of the Society of Rogerian Scholars (SRS), carried a news item written by Mary Madrid, the first President of The Fund in the Winter 1995 issue of the newsletter (Volume VII, No. 3, p. 5). Dr. Madrid (1995) shared that the establishment of the Fund was the fulfillment of one of Rogers' dreams for an organization with status to invite tax deductible contributions to further Rogers' vision of nursing. The newsletter entry recognized the work of Victoria Bjorklund, her staff, and their law firm for the pro bono work on behalf of the new corporation. Dr. Madrid identified the purposes of the corporation as charitable and educational and stated the purposes of the organization:

The purposes of the fund are to educate the public about the nursing community's roles in health care; promote the use of the Rogerian Science of Unitary Human Beings for the wellbeing of people; provide scholarships and fellowships; cooperate with local, national

or international not-for-profit organizations to inform the public about Rogerian nursing science; and conduct activities that are necessary, useful, or desirable in accomplishing the purposes of the fund (Madrid, 1995, p. 5).

The Board of Directors were Mary Madrid, John Phillips, Katherine Matas, Angela Racolin Okoskin, Elizabeth Barrett, Sarah Gueldner, Violet Malinski, Howard Butcher, and Therese Connell Meehan.

The Newsletter entry went on to identify the 501 (c) (3) status of the organization. Dr. Madrid clearly stated that the Fund would work in mutual process with the SRS. Information about The Fund and/or simply an invitation to contribute were included in two subsequent issues of the *Rogerian Nursing Science News* (Summer, 1995, Vol VIII, No. 1; Fall 1995, Vol. VIII, No. 2). *The Rogerian Nursing Science News* was last published in 1996. The 1995 issue (Volume 3, No. 1, p. 54) of *Visions: The Journal of Rogerian Nursing Science* contained a full page devoted to The Fund noting the establishment in 1994, stating the purposes, and conveying an invitation to contribute. Since the establishment of The Fund, the SRS membership application has provided a place to designate a donation to The Fund to support work within the Science of Unitary Human Beings (SUHB).

### **Current Work**

Currently, The Fund continues to operate 27 years later with the same purposes. We are blessed to have the wisdom and guidance of some of the SRS founders who were members of the founding Board of The Fund on the current Board of Directors (Dr. Elizabeth Barrett, Dr. Violet Malinski, and Dr. John R. Phillips). See Table 1 for the current Board. The Fund continues to work in mutual process with the SRS. The Fund President is a liaison for The Fund and the SRS

**Table 1***Society of Rogerian Scholars Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund, Inc. Board*

<b>Office</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Notes/Contacts</b>
President	Arlene T. Farren	arlene.farren@csi.cuny.edu
Secretary	Lisa Heelan-Fancher	
Treasurer	Tina Reinckens	7060 Bay Woods Lake Court #101 Fort Meyers, FL 33908
Co-Founder	Elizabeth A. M. Barrett	SRS and The Fund
Co-Founder	Violet Malinski	SRS and The Fund  Scholarship Contact <a href="mailto:viomalin@optimum.net">viomalin@optimum.net</a>
Co-Founder	John R. Phillips	SRS and The Fund
Director	Dorothy Jones	Immediate Past President
Director	Mary Joseph	
Director	Kathleen R. Shiekh	
Director	Barbara Wright	

Board. On the SRS website (<http://www.societyofrogerianscholars.org>), information about The Fund is currently available under the “Other” link. These data will be updated after work on the website progresses. The SRS is working with a website developer and we hope to see The Fund and scholarship link more prominently on the menu options in the future.

I will highlight just a few of The Fund’s activities. We support the Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund Lecture (previously known as the “Master Class”) as part of the SRS conferences. The Fund lecturers have included many Rogerian scholars including John Phillips, Elizabeth Barrett, Violet Malinski, Richard Cowling, Jacqui Fawcett, and others. In 2021 (October 1<sup>st</sup>

through 3rd) the SRS Conference will be held virtually and The Fund is pleased to have another well-known Rogerian scholar, Dr. Howard K. Butcher as the lecturer; this session will be held on Friday, October 1, 2021 in the early evening. See the SRS website for more information about the conference. Educational activities supported by The Fund included a series of visiting scholar presentations. Fran Reeder, Richard Cowling, Pamela Reed, and others provided stimulating presentations and discussion at these sessions.

Monies to support The Fund's activities must come from contributions and donations as well as other fundraising efforts. One, generally, annual fundraising effort is held at the SRS conferences. The fundraising activity is a silent auction, which stimulates a great deal of fun, historical interest, co-creation, and enthusiasm while accomplishing raising additional funds for scholarships. Co-Founders, long-time SRS members, and other friends donate original items associated with Martha E. Rogers, the SUHB, books, art work, jewelry, small clothing items (scarves etc.), and other historical and cultural artifacts for auction. Regrettably, during the pandemic and time of virtual conferences, we have missed this opportunity to raise funds for scholarships and other activities that we fund.

We also provide support from time to time to other nursing theory organizations and/or conferences. The Fund joined the SRS to contribute to the establishment of the Martha E. Rogers Group Study Room at the then new building for the New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing on First Avenue in New York City. In 2017, Dean Eileen Sullivan-Marx and the College of Nursing held a dedication and reception to publically acknowledge the gift and the named space at the College. Other educational activities are planned and are in the development stages. Of course, our most sustained work continues to be in the area of scholarships.

## **Society of Rogerian Scholars Martha E. Rogers Scholarship**

Annually, The Fund seeks proposal submissions for potential scholarship funding. Applicants planning research, capstone, or other clinical projects within the perspective of the Science of Unitary Human Beings (SUHB) are eligible to apply. Proposals are generally due April 1 and those selected for funding generally receive their award by the end of May. To assist potential applicants, a guide to provide some tips for thinking about and preparing the application and proposal was prepared and is available on the SRS website. Those with queries about the application or proposal guide can direct them to Dr. Violet Malinski (see Table 1). Awardees present their completed works at future SRS conferences. The Fund supports emerging nurse scientists, leaders, educators, and clinicians as well as those with established career paths in the completion of their research or projects within the SUHB with a minimum \$1,000 scholarship. One to four awardees have received scholarships in one year. In the funded five (5) years between 2015 and 2021 (no scholarship was awarded in 2020), The Fund awarded eight (8) scholarships. The awardees are from diverse geographic regions, with a variety of project foci, designs, and participants. Table 2 provides a listing of awardees from 2015-2021, their affiliations at the time of funding, project title, and the status of SRS conference presentation and publication.

### **Exemplar: 2015 Awardee Dr. Lisa Heelan-Fancher**

The Fund plans to highlight some of our past recipients over time. Currently, I would like to introduce you to just one of our awardees from 2015, Dr. Lisa Heelan-Fancher (see Figure 1). Dr. Heelan-Fancher is a registered nurse, certified Adult and Family Nurse Practitioner, and

**Table 2***SRS Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund, Inc. Awardees 2015-2021*

<b>Funding Year</b>	<b>Awardee</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Notes</b>
2021	Rudolf Cymorr Kirby P. Martinez	San Beada University, College of Nursing, Manilla, Philippines	<i>Traditional Filipino Healing Practices as Health Patterning Modality</i> Funded April 2021
2019	Shirley Conrad	Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Florida Atlantic University	<i>The Influence of Nurse Coaching on Power of Knowing Participation in Change (PKPC) in the Process of Health Patterning</i> Study in progress
2018	Phillip Gimber	City University of New York (CUNY), Graduate Center	<i>Relations amongst Power, Self-health Patterning, &amp; Quality of Life in Older Adults with Chronic Illnesses</i> Presented at SRS; Publication in Preparation
2017	Katie Post	Boston College	<i>Exploring Patient Engagement in Breast Cancer Survivorship through a Rogerian Science Lens</i> Presented at SRS; co-authored publication in <i>Cancer Nursing</i> 2020
2016	Mary Antonelli	Boston College	<i>Mutual Caregiving: Living Meaningfully as an Older Couple</i> Presented at SRS; Publication in <i>International Journal of Older People Nursing</i> 2020
2016	Annemarie B. Leveille-Tulce	CUNY Graduate Center	<i>A Quasi-experimental Study of Health Patterning Modality about childhood vaginitis &amp; Power in Haitian Primary Caregivers</i> Presented at SRS; Published in <a href="http://www.Academicswork.cuny.edu">www.Academicswork.cuny.edu</a>
2015	Kathleen R. Sheikh	Widener University	<i>Knowing Participation in Change, Engagement, &amp; Satisfaction with Healthcare Decision Making</i> Presented at SRS; Published in <i>Visions</i> 2019
2015	Lisa Heelan- Fancher	Seton Hall University	<i>Power &amp; Human Dignity in Childbirth</i> Presented at SRS; Published in <i>NSQ</i> 2016

certified nurse educator. Lisa was first introduced to the SRS in 2013 during her doctoral studies at Seton Hall University by Dr. Judy Lothian; Lisa joined the SRS that year. Dr. Lothian also

Figure 1

*Lisa Heelan-Fancher (used with permission)*



introduced Lisa to the work of Elizabeth Barrett and her power theory. Between 2013 and 2015 Lisa attended SRS conferences, which provided opportunities to meet others engaged in the SUHB. Lisa had an opportunity to connect with two SRS and The Fund co-founders. Dr. Violet Malinski served on Lisa's dissertation committee. She also met Dr. Barrett at conferences, Seton Hall University, and had other meetings with her in New York City. Dr. Heelan-Fancher applied for the scholarship in 2015; her scholarship proposal and dissertation work focused on power and human dignity in childbirth.

Since her award, she completed her doctoral study and accepted a tenure-track faculty position at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, where she teaches in graduate and undergraduate curricula. She published her doctoral work in *Nursing Science Quarterly* in 2016 and has seven publications since that time in a variety of journals with two currently under review. Lisa has made nine podium presentations at local, regional, national, and international



conferences. Dr. Heelan-Fancher's publications and presentations have been primarily in the area of women's health.

In 2020 she received two grants in her area of study. Her current major projects focus on birth equity and power. Dr. Heelan-Fancher discussed her current work briefly; here is an excerpt from an electronic interview with her:

Power from a causal perspective undergirds gendered racism and sustains it; however, power from an acausal lens is about every person knowingly participating in change. For example, in my study focused on advancing birth equity, power from an acausal lens is aligned with black women knowingly participating in change to address the maternal-child health inequities for themselves and their communities. Connected to power as knowing participation in change is listening to the voices of black women, and their perceptions of risk and protective factors which have implications for public policy and clinical care. With the many challenges faced by our patients and the constant change that is within and around all of us, it is important for nurses to knowingly participate in change by engaging with individuals and communities to come up with solutions to health inequities that will better ourselves, our communities, and our world.

Her work has been highlighted in the University of Massachusetts news. The links below provide further details:

[https://www.umb.edu/news/detail/understanding\\_racisms\\_effects\\_on\\_childbirth\\_outcomes](https://www.umb.edu/news/detail/understanding_racisms_effects_on_childbirth_outcomes)

[https://www.umb.edu/news/detail/cross\\_college\\_research\\_team\\_to\\_address\\_health\\_disparities\\_among\\_pregnant\\_black\\_women](https://www.umb.edu/news/detail/cross_college_research_team_to_address_health_disparities_among_pregnant_black_women)

Dr. Heelan-Fancher received the ANA Massachusetts Excellence in Nursing Research Award in 2020 and was one of the nurse scientists invited to an interdisciplinary maternal morbidity and mortality workshop sponsored by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development an institute within the National Institutes of Health.

Also of note is her service to the profession. She is a reviewer for several journals and holds a leadership position in the Association of Women's Health Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) state organization. It is especially pertinent to point out her service to The Fund. She has served as the Secretary and member of the board since 2016. One way The Fund can achieve its purposes is through those nurses who are working toward the wellbecoming of people, showing the value and pertinence of a SUHB perspective in their work and professional life. Sharing the accomplishments of Dr. Heelan-Fancher, a past recipient who continues to demonstrate the purposes of the SRS and The Fund, is especially gratifying. We want to show how the contributions to The Fund can support emerging and established scientists and leaders and support our mission and purposes. We are grateful to all those who supported The Fund in our charitable and philanthropic work in the past and those who will consider contributing in the future (See Appendix A).

### **Conclusions and Implications**

In conclusion, readers have been reminded of the historical background and work of The Fund, which continues to address its stated purpose and support of the SRS and the SUHB. The story of one of our past awardees and her career journey provides an exemplar of the continued legacy of The Fund and gives meaning to the relevance and importance of its continued work. We continue to be proud of all our past recipients. The history, current works, information about the scholarship, and the presentation highlighting Dr. Lisa Heelan-Fancher, have implications for

readers, students, emerging and established leaders and scholars, and for all members of the SRS. First, with a better understanding of The Fund's history and work a new found commitment to the work and importance of The Fund can be a possibility. Expanding upon the eligibility criteria for funding that might not have been recognized previously can provide opportunities for all nurses working within the SUHB an option for project funding. As with all charitable and philanthropic organizations, there is a need for donations. This is a call for all to participate in charitable giving to support works within the Science of Unitary Human Beings. Information about ways you can make tax-deductible contributions can be found in Appendix A.

### **Epilogue**

In just three short years, we look forward to a special celebration on our thirtieth year of charitable and educational work (2024). It will also coincide with the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Martha E. Rogers. What synchronicity! As you will recall, the first announcement of the establishment of The Fund (1994) described it as a perpetual memorial to Rogers and later (Madrid, 1995) as a fulfillment of Rogers' dream for an organization with status to invite tax deductible contributions to further her vision of nursing. I invite members and readers to provide ideas and suggestions to make the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Fund a testimony to Rogers' work and vision. You are also invited to provide suggestions for future charitable and educational activities. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and suggestions. You can find my contact email in Table 1. For those who have supported The Fund over the years, thank you! Your new or continued support through contributions to The Fund would be much appreciated.

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## Appendix A

### *Information for Making a Tax-Deductible Contribution to The Fund*

- **When joining or renewing membership on the SRS Membership Application**

**Donation to the Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund:** Please enclose a separate check payable to the Martha E. Rogers Scholars Fund, or if paying by credit card, note the amount to be billed for the Scholars Fund below. *Checks are appreciated to avoid bank charges for credit card transactions.*

\_\_\_\_\$5 \_\_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_\_Other (Amount \$\_\_\_\_)

Contributions are tax deductible. Tax ID Number for 501c (3): 113-3765918

Please be sure to note your contribution is for the MER Scholars Fund  
Amanda Bulette Coakley RN, PhD SRS  
Treasurer, Society of Rogerian Scholars  
c/o Dr. Amanda Bulette Coakley  
237 Newtown Road  
Acton, MA 01720

- **Direct contribution to the**

### **Society of Rogerian Scholars (SRS) Martha E. Rogers (MER) Scholars Fund**

All contributions accepted; this a tax-deductible contribution. Send your check or money order (Payable to the SRS MER Scholars Fund) to:

Tina Reinckens, Treasurer, SRS MER Scholars Fund,  
7060 Bay Woods Lake Court #101, Fort Meyers, FL 33908