Public Relations

The 2015 John R. Raymond fellowship was presented to Katherine Twombly, M.D., June 25 at Colcock Hall. Intended to provide financial support for a full-time faculty member to initiate a relationship with an expert mentor in the field of research, clinical practice or education, the fellowship is administered by the Advancement, Recruitment and Retention of Women (ARROW) Initiative, formerly known as the Women Scholars Initiative.

Darleen Shaw, associate provost for educational affairs and student life, presented the award on behalf of the initiative. “Over the course of the year,” she said, “ARROW provides a rich and comprehensive development program geared toward helping women advance their careers, be that through academic promotion or tenure or positioning themselves to be competitive for leadership positions.”

The fellowship was named in honor of John R. Raymond, MUSC’s provost and vice president for academic affairs from 2002-2010. “Dr. Raymond was personally dedicated to the advancement of women and was among the founders of the Women Scholars Initiative,” Shaw explained. “And he continues to provide us money every year to keep the fellowship alive, even after leaving MUSC.”

Shaw also recognized Mark Sothmann, Ph.D., vice president and provost for academic affairs, and Deborah Deas, M.D., interim dean of the College of Medicine, for their support for ARROW.

“Dr. Sothmann has been personally dedicated to the advancement of women,” Shaw said. “Under Dr. Sothmann’s tenure, we’ve been able to provide training against unconscious bias to high-level search committees. We couldn’t have moved forward on that without his support. Dr. Sothmann has also asked each of the deans who report to him to provide information about the status of women in their college on an annual basis.
“Dr. Deas has personally supported ARROW and fought to continue its funding. We’re grateful to them and to everyone that supports women scholars at MUSC.”

Twombley, a pediatric nephrologist, will be working with mentor Ruth McDonald, M.D., a pediatric nephrologist at Seattle Children’s Hospital, to establish a pediatric solid organ transplant program—which will combine the pediatric heart, liver and kidney transplant programs into one—at MUSC.

Three MUSC faculty members were recipients of the 2014 JRRR fellowship and all were present to share their experiences from the past year.

Jane Joseph, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Neurosciences, established a mentoring relationship with Joseph Piven, M.D., director of the Carolina
Dr. Katherine Twombly, left, receives the 2015 John R. Raymond Fellowship Award from Associate Provost Dr. Darlene Shaw on June 25.

Institute for Developmental Disabilities at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. “I had a really great experience over the past year,” she said. “I had two major goals. The first was to further my own professional development, bouncing research ideas off of my mentor and becoming more competitive with my grant submissions. The other goal was institutional, assessing MUSC’s strengths and to start working toward building a center for neurodevelopmental disorders.”

Joseph felt she met both goals. “It’s amazing how far $2,000 can go,” she said. “I’m very grateful.”

Annie Simpson, Ph.D., is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Care Leadership and Management in the College of Health Professions. Her mentor, Thomas Love, Ph.D., is the director of the biostatistics and evaluation unit at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

“This fellowship gave me an opportunity to cold email someone who didn’t know me,” Simpson said. “That is beyond what I’d be willing to do without the support of a formalized method. I spent this year getting to know Dr. Love, a preeminent professor and educator in statistical methods for use with observation data.”

Simpson hopes to improve the quality of research designs and research outcomes in medicine by expanding existing research methods to be more useable by more people. “Thank you so much for this opportunity,” she said.

Teresa Atz, Ph.D., R.N., is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing. Her mentor, Susan Kardong-Edgren, Ph.D., R.N., is the Joanna DeMeyer Endowed Chair in Nursing at Boise State University.

“I had an amazing year,” Atz said. “It was so amazing, I had to bring notes.”

Atz said her passion is simulation education. “Simulation allows students to practice high-stakes patient situations in a very safe environment. The John R. Raymond fellowship allowed me the confidence to reach out to Dr. Kardong-Edgren, who is an amazing leader in simulation education and research. The theme of my mentorship with her is summed up very well in a quote from John C. Maxwell that says: ‘The best way a mentor can prepare another leader is to expose him or her to other great people.’ And that’s exactly what she did for me.”