The best way a mentor can prepare another leader is to expose him or her to other great people. -- John C. Maxwell

As an assistant professor at the MUSC College of Nursing, I spend most of my time mentoring soon-to-be nurses. I love mentoring students. I feel it is my way of paying forward all that the nursing profession has done for me. The area where I feel the most passion for teaching is in the simulation lab. This is a place where students can practice high stakes, low volume patient care situations in a safe learning environment. My career goal is to continue to advance simulation in nursing education by developing, implementing and testing scenarios that will bridge the readiness to practice gap between the student nurse, the new graduate nurse and beyond. Unfortunately, with no nursing education researchers in my institution to mentor and assist me in my career trajectory, I was at a roadblock. I am grateful for the honor and opportunity that John R. Raymond Fellowship award provided me. It allowed me to pursue an external mentor to set new and achieve many career goals. I believe this fellowship and the ability to collaborate with experts in my field is making a significant impact in my career development.

Dr. Suzan Kardong-Edgren graciously agreed to mentor me in simulation education and research. Dr. Kardong-Edgren is an internationally known simulation leader and is currently a professor and director of the RISE Center at the School of nursing and Health Sciences at Robert Morris University. She serves as a consultant to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and National League of Nursing and is editor in chief of Clinical Simulation in Nursing. She has also participated many grant-funded research projects as PI most recently was a key member of the NCSBN’s national simulation study, one of the largest nursing education studies.

Soon after my first conversation with Dr Kardgon-Edgren, I realized that I had a lot to learn. I made goals that were a bit too lofty and Dr. Kardong-Edgren recognized that right away. The goals for the year’s fellowship were to:

- Write and publish an integrative literature review on the use of soft skills in nursing simulation education. To be completed by the end of August.
- Develop and complete a pilot study comparing soft skill competencies of new graduates who have participated in the newly developed simulation scenarios with embedded soft skills with those new graduates who have participated in standard simulations with no embedded soft skills. Secondary endpoints would be supervisor and new graduate nurse satisfaction with soft skill competency. To be completed by the end May, 2015.
- Disseminate results by publishing and presenting to a national conference on nursing simulation. To be completed by the end of May, 2015.

The first thing Dr. Kardong-Edgren appreciated was that I needed to network and become immersed in the field of simulation education research. Networking started the minute she agreed to mentor me. We first officially met at an INACSL meeting last June where she immediately connected me with simulation educators and researchers. I was able to
participate in the conference as a research poster judge as well. Since this time, Dr. Kardong-Edgren linked me with the INACSL Research Group. This group is an extremely dynamic collection of nursing simulation education scientists. Together we have developed and performed reliability testing on a rubric to evaluate manuscripts submitted to the Clinical Simulation in Nursing journal. In addition we developed, performed validity and reliability testing on, and are presently distributing a research survey to schools of nursing throughout the United States in order to quantify the percentage of simulation hours substituted for traditional clinical hours. I believe we will continue to do great things together.

With Dr. Kardong-Edgren’s encouragement and guidance, I am finalizing an integrative review on SBAR research in nursing simulation education. I am a reviewer for Clinical Simulation in Nursing, and I also submitted and ultimately had accepted poster and podium presentations for the June 2015 INACSL meeting in Atlanta, GA. I am excited to be able to meet with her again at this meeting along with my new colleagues in the simulation education research field. I also passed the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator exam.

The John R. Raymond Fellowship award and mentorship with Dr. Suzan Kardong-Edgren provided me with more benefits than I could have imagined. Regarding my original goals for this fellowship, I was able to work on my integrative review. I also participated in research, although it was not my own pilot study. However, the research I am participating in now will assist me in providing rigor to my future pilot studies, and connections with potential collaborators in the future. The networking alone that came from my fellowship is an invaluable benefit.

Teresa Atz, PhD, RN, CHSE  
John R. Raymond Fellow 2014-2015