The MUSC Initiative for the Advancement, Recruitment and Retention of Women (ARROW) recently held an awards ceremony to honor the recipients for the 2014-2015 John R Raymond (JRR) fellowship. The JRR fellowship was established to honor Dr. John R. Raymond who served as Provost and President of Academic Affairs at MUSC from 2002-2010. Dr. Raymond was a strong advocate for women faculty and was integral in establishing the Women Scholars Initiative, which has now been renamed ARROW. This year ARROW awarded the fellowship to three outstanding women; Teresa Atz Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing, Jane Joseph Assistant Professor in the College of Medicine and Annie Simpson Assistant Professor in the College of Health Professions. At the ceremony, the 2013-2014 recipient Elizabeth Crabtree spoke about her fellowship experience. Ms. Crabtree works with the Center for Evidence-based Practice, and its purpose is to support clinicians in providing high quality, evidence-based care. Nurses are a critical link in integrating research into practice, but experience preparing nurses to engage in evidence-based practice (EBP) is quite limited. Last spring, Ms. Crabtree partnered with Emily Brennan, a medical librarian to offer a project-based course on evidence-based practice for nurses at MUSC. The John R Raymond fellowship allowed Ms. Crabtree to begin working with Dr. Susan Stillwell, a professor at the University of Portland School of Nursing who is an expert in developing EBP nursing curriculum and mentoring programs for nurses. Together, they worked on reformatting and improving the MUSC EBP Nurse Scholars course, emphasizing implementing practice changes, and evaluating results. They invited the Performance Improvement team within the hospital to work with them and are now linking nurses’ projects to quality improvement work in the hospital so they can see real, measurable improvements in patient care and outcomes. Ms. Crabtree met with Dr. Stillwell in Portland at the end of last month to develop a follow-up program for nurses completing the EBP Nurse Scholars course with a focus on dissemination and publication, and equipping nurses with the skills needed to transition their projects into scholarly products. When asked about her fellowship experience, Ms. Crabtree stated

“I’m really grateful for the experiences I’ve had over the last year as a John R. Raymond fellow, and am so thankful to the Women’s Scholars Initiative, and to my department chair, Dr. Tom Basler, and especially to Dr. Raymond for making this opportunity possible. It’s really fun to come to work every day when you’re in an environment where innovative ideas are not only encouraged, but also supported. The Women’s Scholars Initiative, through this program and others, does a great deal toward fostering that kind of environment at MUSC. The fellowship and my relationship with Dr. Stillwell enhanced the quality of our EBP nurse mentor program at MUSC. The structure of the fellowship was really helpful in that it cemented our relationship and my mentor felt committed to helping me succeed. As a result of how responsive she was to my initial request to work with her, I’ve since felt more comfortable reaching out to others, and have formed a number of really helpful, positive professional relationships.”