

Fulbright experiences enrich faculty research

When UofL proudly notes the talented students awarded Fulbright scholarships to study and research around the globe, people might not realize that its professors also benefit from Fulbright opportunities.

Several faculty members spent part of 2018 abroad to further their own academic endeavors — from the history of Turkish baths to the study of Renaissance-era food — through that U.S. Department of State exchange program.

Karen Kayser, the Renato LaRocca chair of oncology social work, spent four months as a Fulbright-Nehru distinguished chair at a large South India cancer-care provider, Chennai Cancer Institute. She also taught a health disparities course at Stella Maris College including videoconferencing sessions with students in the Kent School of Social Work psychosocial

oncology specialization.

“The increasing rate of cancer incidence in India and the country’s limited resources in psycho-oncology have presented challenges and opportunities in addressing the psychosocial needs of persons affected by cancer,” Kayser said.

“I hope to encourage more people to do this. A lot of scientist don’t think about study abroad. It really broadens you.”

Meanwhile, anthropology professor Julie Peteet spent September-June in Ankara and Istanbul as a Fulbright senior research scholar examining the archaeology, history and ethnography of the Turkish bath custom.

Traditional Turkish hamams take bathers through a sequence of hot and cold rooms to cleanse through sweating, vigorous

scrubbing, washing and massage. Hamams now are being revived as a wellness experience for locals and tourists, said Peteet, director of Middle East and Islamic studies.

Wendy Pfeffer, a classical and modern languages professor on her second Fulbright, spent

was submitting articles for publication and also improving her French.

As they returned, A&S colleagues Rodger Payne and Gerry Williger were packing for fall Fulbright treks to Ottawa and Budapest, respectively.

Payne, a political science professor, received a Fulbright research chair in Canada-U.S. relations at Carleton University’s Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, looking at the bilateral relationships related to President Donald Trump’s foreign policy.

Williger, an associate professor of physics and astronomy, will visit the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to analyze telescope data on a small solar system.

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a half-year in Tours, France, researching Renaissance culinary history — specifically travel accounts from 16th century physician and food encyclopedia author Jean Bruyerin-Champier.

“Thanks to the Fulbright grant, I am able to devote all my energy to my research, working in two outstanding libraries,” Pfeffer said, adding that she