I hope that all is well as everyone celebrated and enjoyed in his or her special way this Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday – and long weekend. I know that the Columbus weather is a bit “nippy” at single digits – but the sun is shining!

A couple items for update.

A. Travel plans - before/after Oxford program.

As I indicated last week, none of us can arrive at St. Anne’s before Sunday, June 30, 2019 and leave luggage at the College while engaging in “tourist travel” (or, for that matter, arrive before June 30, 2019 and stay at the College.)

What does this mean for your travel plans?

Some students have traveled to Europe in advance of the Oxford program to visit other sites; students previously have traveled in Ireland as well as continental Europe. If you hope to do that, you will have to figure out how to pack so that (a) you have all your things while traveling or (b) you arrange to send/store some of your personal belongings while you travel and then "pick up" your stored items as you arrive in Oxford.

At our first orientation program scheduled for Tuesday, February 12 at 12:15 p.m., we will try to have some students talk about "things someone needs at Oxford" and how some handled this "traveling" issue.

B. Air travel to/from Oxford.

If you are traveling directly from the United States to Oxford, the "closest" airports are the primary “London” airports - Heathrow or Gatwick. You can then take a bus from the airport to Oxford.
Some students in previous years have flown to/from Stansted Airport. You can check that out, too.

C. Travel plans during the June 30 – August 5 period.

Yes, some students in the past have traveled from Oxford to various spots during the 5-weeks of classes. This, obviously, brings in financial considerations as well as classroom study requirements.

Let me be quick to say, however, that a number of students in previous years have spent their entire 5-weeks at Oxford - and they have used the program events to visit Windsor Castle, see a Shakespeare play at Stratford, visit the House of Parliament and have lunch at Middle Temple in London (all being events that you will have already paid for in your program fee, unless you spend additional time in London) to be their primary "travel events" - and they have found it to be a wonderfully engaging, exciting and enriching time. They have obviously "taken advantage of" events in Oxford, too. Those of you who heard Rick Miller (Moritz ’10) speak last week at our Oxford “general information” session heard him say that he did not travel beyond the Oxford/London area and found it deeply rewarding.

So no one should have the impression that "everyone travels a lot" - or that you need to - in order to capitalize on this wonderful study-abroad experience.

But often some people want to do it, so in a subsequent Update, we will try to provide you information regarding places/travel modes (e.g. low cost airlines, etc.) people used when making such excursions.

C. Course materials.

Course materials are prepared/copied and distributed to you in Oxford. You will not need to buy - or carry - books in advance of the program.

D. Things to read or see.

If any of you come across various books, films, or other sources about England that you find engaging, fun and informative, please feel free to share with me – or others via our Facebook page.

A couple such items from times past that were fun and insightful included:

   -Bill Bryson, Notes from a Small Island – you will love it.

   - PBS produced a special entitled "The Windsor Family." It is a documentary about King George's rise to the throne during the 1930s and his role - and that of his wife and children (which includes the current Queen) - in the life of Britain during WWII. I think You-Tube makes this readily accessible!
Finally, just in case we all get caught up too much in our current political environment with how politicians talk with each other, here is an example – from the World War II era – of how one famous British politician talked about another:

Sir Winston Churchill commenting on Prime Minister Clement Attlee:

“Mr. Attlee is a very modest man. But then he has much to be modest about.”

Enough for now. Have a great week.

Professor Stulberg