

## ECONOMY WON'T RAIN ON PENN STATE STUDENTS SPRING BREAK PARADE

**By: Melissa Gundersen**

STATE COLLEGE – Despite increasing tuition and rising unemployment, students are still purchasing plane tickets and packing their bathing suits for a spring break get away.

In tough economic times, many Penn State students are determined to leave the school books behind and head to their spring break destination. Gina Russoniello (sophomore – business) is packing her sunscreen for a cruise to the Bahamas. “I honestly don’t know how much my spring break is going to cost because my parents are paying for it. I really don’t feel like money is an object though. Spring break is my one week to relax from school work – it’s worth every penny,” said Russoniello.

Some Penn State groups are pooling their money together in order to make their spring break dreams come true. Bryan Brown (sophomore- business), member of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji), is venturing up to Toronto, Canada with his fraternity brothers to go bar touring. “I just go where the party is,” said Brown. Their goal is to keep costs down by staying at the Fiji house in Toronto. “Regardless of cost, we’ll make it happen.”

Additionally, the Penn State Emergency Medical Service Company is going to the Jersey Shore for the week. Inspired by the hit MTV show, *The Jersey Shore*, Jessica Vogler (freshman – pre-med) said, “We’ll all drive down together, rent a beach house, and party it up!” Volger went on to say she didn’t feel the trip was that much money and the memories will be well worth it – they hope to have a fist pumping good time.

Other students seem to be sacrificing their dream destinations for a three star vacation. “I’m going to Virginia to visit my aunt with my parents. I originally wanted to be on the beach in California, but I just don’t have the money right now,” said Rebecca Grapsy (sophomore-communications). Even though Grapsy won’t be basking in the California sunshine, like many other Penn State students, she remains optimistic and plans to have a nice break.

With Florida being the most popular Spring Break location, it was no surprise that Sara Covert (sophomore – accounting) is planning on flying to Fort Meyers Beach, Fla. Covert and three of her closest friends will be staying with family. “The only reason why I’m going is because I have family down there and it’s cheap. If it wasn’t for my aunt’s condo I would be lounging in front of my television,” said Covert.

Some students are donating their week of fun to help others. Ashley Matz (freshman – psychology) is traveling to Florida to work with Habitat for Humanity. Matz will be building houses for the under privileged. “I think it’s important to help out our country; even though I don’t have the money to vacation at a five-star resort, I can afford to donate my time to people in need,” said Matz.

Students don’t need to go too far from campus to enjoy a nice get away for spring break. Arianna Simpson (sophomore – international politics) will be driving her car down Interstate 80 to spend three days in the city that never sleeps. “I’m going to New York City with my mom to visit my cousin who lives there,” said Simpson. Simpson is also keeping costs down by staying

with relatives. “Never let your economic state bring you down. Whether you are flying to Hawaii or driving to your neighboring state, spring break is a time to have some worry free fun!”