SPRING BREAK: MIAMI STYLE
Students share plans for the break

“I am going home – I live on an island called Curacao and I am going to spend time with my family. [We’ll] go to the beach, have barbecues, watch movies.”

Zoe Daswani
Computer Science Major

“I’m planning on spending some time with my son, who is nine months, and doing some work for school. [Also] taking some time off with my husband because work and school is stressful, we need some time off from all that.”

Ivan Melgar
Political Science Major

“For spring break, I’m going home to Jacksonville, I’ll probably catch up on some work, work out and do anything to better myself.”

Xavier Jones
Psychology Major

“For spring break, I’ll probably go to the beach, Dania Beach. I’ll also catch up on homework.”

Ludnie Leger
Social Work Major

“I’m going to try to go to the beach because I haven’t been there in a couple years.”

Isabelle Dawson
International Relations major

“Hop on a plane and land in any city, [any] one that has empty flights. [I’m going to] see what’s interesting to do there, just any city in the USA for two or three days.”

Gretchen Joanne
International Relations Major

FIUPD wants students ‘as safe as they can be’

Spr ing Break is right around the corner and the FIU Police Department’s main priority is ensuring everyone’s safety.

“Some problem areas that we see with students – and this is typically during spring break – is excessive drinking,” said Chief Alexander Casas of the FIUPD. “Students, pent up from semester’s worth of work, let loose a little bit [and] sometimes, drink a little bit too much, and find themselves in situations … that may compromise their safety.”

During spring break, where there is usually a spike in crime, and on campus, the FIUPD focuses on the dormitories. “We bring in extra officers during those times, particularly in those areas that we need to patrol, which in the evenings, will be the dorms,” Casas said. “That’s where the parties are at, the frats and the dorms.”

While on patrol, officers look for signs of distress or excessive intoxication that might indicate something is not right.

“When we get there … we want to make sure no one is having any medical episodes [like] dehydration, excessive intoxication, those types of things,” said Casas. “So it’s not only keeping the peace but also maintaining their health and their safety.”

Those interactions, he says, determine whether they will let an individual, who may appear intoxicated, operate a vehicle or leave the location with someone.

“We ask questions like ‘do you know where you are,’ ‘what’s your name’ … to try to get an understanding of the person’s state of mind … and if they’re in a position to make rational decisions,” said Casas.

Casas urges students to form pacts with their friends to nominate one person who will “step up and calm everyone down,” if anything gets out of hand. He also says it’s important for groups to stick together when they go out and always leave the location with the same people they came.

I’m sprung over spring break. I know, technically it starts next week. But, for many students, we’ve just been passively attending classes with our minds elsewhere.

But, before we all travel to new, and in the case of Gretchen Joanne, unknown places we’ve got a small guide for you. Staying on campus or in town and want to know what’s open on campus? Check out our short and sweet infographic page four and our story about planning a nice staycation.

Alexander Casas, chief of FIU Police Department, shares helpful tips for staying safe over the break on pages two and three, while our editorial board calls for students to “see something, say something.”

We did a small poll of students on both campuses, and found that most students would like to do water-related activities over the break. We also learned that the baseball team would prefer to play games over being on the beach.

I can identify with this preference, which I note in my column on page five. Other columns in this issue focus on tourism in Cuba, keeping the beaches clean and using the break to travel and find new adventures.

However you’re spending the break, the Student Media staff hopes you enjoy it and be safe and responsible. As always, we’ll keep you updated online at PantherNOW.com and over-the-air on The Roar, FIU Student Radio.

Have fun!

EDITOR’S NOTE

Break into spring and have fun

CAPLA BUSH
Editor in Chief

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Have fun!
Students share plans for spring break on campus

Cristina Rodriguez Contributing Writer

With midterms already underway, the next thing all students are looking forward to is spring break. Now, while the majority of students live off-campus, there are those who live on-campus and have decided to stay in their dorms for spring break.

Ralph Valentín, senior, says it’s a great opportunity to be on campus because “it’s going to be quieter and calmer and not many people are going to be on campus,” so he plans on working on his senior project.

Sebastian Pérez, junior computer science major, echoes this sentiment.

“[During spring break … no one’s here, it’s completely vacant and I have FIU to myself],” said Pérez.

Pérez says he’s able to do homework whenever he feels like it.

Meanwhile, on-campus because his friends from up north come down to visit Miami.

“Usually, people from [up north come down to] Miami. I don’t usually go out [but] I have friends that come over,” said Pérez.

On the other hand, there are some students who still don’t know what their plans are for spring break. Catalina Muñoz, junior, communication arts major, feels that spring break is easy to plan.

“It’s something you don’t really plan ahead of time. My friend and I were talking about looking for cheap flights to do something somewhere up north,” said Muñoz.

Muñoz hopes she gets to do something different for spring break that doesn’t involve going to the beach.

While Pérez sees several benefits to an empty campus, he also feels the downfall of staying on campus is that there’s not much to do.

“[Spring Break] is not something I look forward to but there’s enough things off-campus to do that it’s not a big deal,” he said. “If I had the money, I would love to go somewhere else to travel.”

Pérez also isn’t satisfied with the University’s restaurant hours for students who stay on-campus during spring break.

“There’s always Breezeway,” he says but with their overpriced food, it doesn’t feel fair to him.

Panther Dining Services has not yet released their hours during the break but Pérez feels housing students are neglected in that area.

“Campus Dining Room is really bad with housing students. The food hours are horrible. It’s a community school and they don’t think about housing students,” said Pérez. “The only thing that’s kinda nice is Vicky’s but that’s pretty much it.”

There might not be much to do on campus but there are always events going on and nearby hotspots to use like Miami, he adds.

“I don’t stay here for FIU. I stay here for Miami,” said Pérez.

TIPS FROM CHIEF CASAS OF THE FIUPD

• Whatever you do, don’t do it in excess.
• Designate one person who will step up and calm everyone down, if needed.
• Leave with the same people you arrived.
• Have fun but be responsible.

Tips from FIUPD

POLICE, PAGE 2

“IF they [a student] go out with two or three friends, to the beach or a nightclub, and they stay behind by themselves, that is not the safest situation … You put yourself in a situation where someone could take advantage of you, or you could find yourself lost or stranded,” said Casas.

Casas also notes that there’s a difference between having a good time and being disruptive.

“When your behavior gets to the point that it disrupts those around you, it becomes, what we call, disorderly intoxication — being excessively rowdy, being verbally abusive, engaging in disputes or arguments with others up to and including physical altercations,” he said.

In addition to the legal ramifications of alcohol-related charges, which include suspended licenses and arrests, it can affect students’ collegiate careers.

“Those issues have legal consequences that you now have to deal with but in addition to that, as a student, you could be in violation of the code of student conduct and it could really impact your ability to get into grad school and different types of careers in the future,” Casas said.

Family members and friends can play a role in protecting their loved ones as well, Casas says.

“Let them know where you’re going to be traveling to so if a significant amount of time passes and they haven’t heard from you, in a day or so, they’ll have an idea of the last place you were supposed to be.”

Ceylin Arias Staff Writer

Spring break is less than a week away and Panthers are getting ready to spend the week-long break with family and friends.

For students already living on campus, however, the Office of Residential Life is more than happy to offer Panthers a place to stay during the break.

Andrew Naylor, associate director for housing at the Office of Residential Life, assures that their office is comprehensive when it comes to students needing to spend breaks on campus for any particular reason.

“One thing to understand is that we, as a whole, take into serious consideration that many students often time need to stay in the Miami area to work or for whatever reason. That is why we make sure students have a place to live during the break period,” said Naylor.

Naylor prioritizes students’ housing accommodations in case they find themselves having nowhere else to go.

“The Office of Housing and Residential Life doesn’t believe in kicking students out just because the university is out for breaks,” said Naylor. “We make sure to be open and accessible throughout all breaks, not counting summer vacation.”

No program activities are scheduled during spring break, Naylor says, because students either decide to go back home or take the opportunity to travel elsewhere, this will not affect housing.

However, throughout the rest of March, Naylor shares that the Office of Residential Life offers a variety of program activities with the goal of helping students engage with others in order to learn about time management and other social issues.

The Dean’s List Gala is one of the many events that usually take place on March, but according to Kristen Smith, associate brand manager of the Office of Housing and Residential Life, the event came earlier this year.

“We actually had our Dean’s List Gala in February this year. It honors any undergraduate degree-seeking residential student who earns an FIU cumulative GPA of 3.5 or more on the basis of nine or more credit hours earned during any semester,” said Smith.

Program activities such as RHA Royals Pageant, on March 23, and the Drag Ball, on March 30, will take place during its usual schedule in March.

Formally known as the Mr. & Ms. Res. Life, the RHA Royals Pageant, allows residential students to compete for the Title of Mr. & Ms. Res. Life, said Smith.

The program contains five sections including: Introduction, FIU trivia questions, talent portion, FIU Spirit and the famous question: “Why do you deserve to be the next Mr./Ms. Res. Life?”

For more information on events, visit housing.fiu.edu.
Spring Break:
For students interested in studying on campus over the break, here is what’s open the week of March 12

**What’s Open on MMC**

- **Library Hours**
  - Sat. March 11 from 8 AM - 8 PM
  - Sun. March 12 CLOSED
  - Mon. March 13 - Th. March 16 8 AM - 9 PM
  - Fri. March 17 from 8 AM - 6 PM
  - Sat. March 18 CLOSED

- **Wellness & Rec Center Hours**
  - Monday - Thursday from 6:15 AM to 9 PM
  - Friday from 6:15 AM to 2 PM
  - Saturday from 12 PM to 6 PM

- **Student Health Center Hours**
  - Monday - 8 PM to 5 PM

**What’s Open on BBC**

- **Library Hours**
  - Sat. March 11 from 8 AM - 8 PM
  - Sun. March 12 CLOSED
  - Mon. March 13 - Th. March 16 8 AM - 9 PM
  - Fri. March 17 from 8 AM - 6 PM
  - Sat. March 18 CLOSED

- **Fitness Center Hours**
  - Monday - Sunday from 8 AM to 6 PM

- **Aquatic Center Hours**
  - Monday - Sunday from 8 AM to 6 PM

- **Student Health Center Hours**
  - Monday - 8 PM to 5 PM

*Panther Dining Services was unable to provide their spring break hours at the time of publication*

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**Alternative Breaks offers ‘first shot at leadership’**

**NIA YOUNG**  
Entertainment Director

Alternative Breaks offers the opportunity for students to break free of the usual routine of spring break with their student lead service programs. “Alternative Breaks is a service oriented, student lead program at FIU, focused on volunteer work,” says Yunova Delgadillo, a senior interdisciplinary studies major. Delgadillo is a site leader for an upcoming trip to Costa Rica, where she will be working hand in hand with La Tortuga Feliz, an animal welfare project that will help sea turtles survive in their environment.

Delgadillo says she was an integral part of planning this trip. “Site Leader is the most intense position in Alternative Breaks. The site leader keeps in contact with the community partner, plans fundraising dates, sets goals, selects participants for the trip, keeps in contact with the committee board and handles logistics,” Delgadillo said.

Nashira Williams, advisor for Alternative Breaks and assistant director of the Center for Leadership and Service explains, Alternative Break’s Steering Committee is responsible for creating service experiences for the winter, spring, and summer vacations. These students choose sites from the parent company, Break Away, and develop relationships with the site to ensure the travelling team will be safe and have a successful time there.

“We are not choosing groups that are going to go and do administrative work. The committee is looking for projects that will offer strong direct service pertaining to that site’s social issue,” Williams explained. Site selection caters to students’ needs and interests.

**ALTERNATIVE BREAKS, PAGE 5**

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**# MiamiStaycation: Tips for a budget spring break in Miami**

**HAUTE COFFEE**  
**Stephanie Castro**

Spring break. Those two glorious words that mean midterms are over and it is officially time to relax and unwind. Miami is known for spending their spring break out on the town, becoming an Airbnb host is a great way to make use of your space and make a little extra cash on the side. These are just a few ways to spend spring break without breaking the bank.

**Miami is known for its beaches.**

Miami is known for being beach. It’s relaxing and I grew up going to the beach with my family,” said Colina. “I also enjoy riding my bike there because I can squeeze in some exercise too.”

Senior recreation & sport management student Jordan Bleicher is in agreement with Colina when it comes to beach vacations. “I like hitting either Fort Lauderdale Beach or off South Beach to go paddle boarding or just go on the boat,” said Bleicher.

Miami is known for its beaches and El Farito and Virginia Key Beach and Oleta River State Park Beach which is popular for its water activities such as kayaking. For students who will be spending their spring break out of town, becoming an Airbnb host is a great way to make use of your space and make a little extra cash on the side.

“Another great art spot for graffiti lovers is Wynwood Walls. Open Monday through Sunday, the trendy Wynwood Walls feature colorful street art murals by artists from around the world, and the entire Wynwood area is ideal for college students who love a creative atmosphere. For Junior, education student Anais Colina, her Spring Break tradition includes family time at the beach. “I like going to El Farito beach, it’s relaxing and I grew up going to the beach with my family.”
STUDENTS BREAK EARLY

Panther Magazine – Monday, March 9, 2017

Student visits Costa Rica with Alternative Breaks

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS, PAGE 4

interest in their major but Williams stresses it shouldn’t stop students from applying to work out of their major.

“If you’re a bio major who wants to go read to kids, by all means we want you to get out and read to kids,” she said.

While on site Delgadillo says students will spend a week with an organization whose goal is to develop their social issue and better their community. The issues addressed in Alternative breaks span a variety of social issues, from homelessness to the environment.

Delgadillo says eager students for Alternative Breaks carry on stressing that simple living, is the way to travelling:

DELDADILLO’S TOP FIVE

• Bug Spray
• (Disposable) Film Camera
• List of Participants names and emergency contact numbers
• Pair of boots
• Map of Costa Rica

WILLIAMS TOP FIVE

• Alternative Breaks Tee-Shirt
• Comb/brush combo
• Cash
• Phone
• Thank you cards

to bring in an Alternative Breaks carry on stressing that “Simple Living”, is the way to travelling:

We’ll say we hate not being able to try out the new restaurant that opened in Coral Gables this week but know we won’t miss the headache of parking and then having small talk when all we want is to get a nice wine buzz and go to bed.

My friends will spend their days on the beach and nights in Wynwood, while I’ll be spending my days in a room that has air conditioning and office supplies.

Rather than pretend that the girl who says every sentence as if it’s a question isn’t grating the last nerve I have, I’ll be able to organize my desk and color-code all the paperwork I use, two of my top five favorite things. The beach and Wynwood, however, are two of my least favorite.

Don’t cringe at the life I’ve chosen, it suits me well. I thrive off the pressure that a crippling fear of failure and the disappointment of others brings.

I also feel most at home far away from the health benefits of sunlight and outdoor activity. But above all, the freedom to spend my money as I’d like because I worked hard to earn it. One of the greatest motivators in life is green faces.

I’m not a loser who has no life. I have great friends that I appreciate much my only lifestyle choice.

As a self-proclaimed workaholic, I am not ashamed to admit that I will be working through spring break.

Yes, while my friends are posting Snapchat stories and Boomerangs on Instagram of them fake-laughing for false candid, I will be in an office lit by fluorescent lights that smells of old newspapers and slight sadness.

No, I’m not bitter. In fact, because I work on campus, I’m glad parking will be a breeze, traffic will be lighter and I’ll have fewer forced interactions with classmates.

I’ll be able to rejoice in knowing that I can finally get some work done. Instead of wondering why my group mate wants me to split the cost of the memory card he bought, I’ll be able to focus on editing my videos projects and calculating how many public speaking assignments I can forget due to senioritis without risking failing the class.

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I’ll be able to forget due to senioritis that and be your first shot at a resume…We want to honor student will come with a lofty terms of experience.

For applicants looking to become a site leader Williams says registration is open and will meet you where you are in terms of experience.

“We understand that not all student will come with a lofty resume…We want to honor that and be your first shot at a leadership position,” Williams said.

Delgadillo and Williams share their top five items

• Phone
• Cash
• Comb/brush combo
• Bug Spray
• Disposable] Film Camera

Simple Living”, is the way to travelling:

From left to right: Junior marketing major Nadia Rami, junior psychology major Vanessa Cesar and junior public administration major Akilah Davis attend SPC Spring Break Bash, in collaboration with Fraternity and Sorority Life, on March 7, 2017 at Housing Quad Pool.

HOOT’S THERE

Nia Young/Panther Press

THE SHADE LOCKER

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FORBIDDEN FRUIT

Tourism is not considered a ‘valid reason’ to enter Cuba

Cuba has been the forbidden fruit on my list of places I have to see before I die. I had an aunt who, out of the 22 countries she visited in her lifetime, said Cuba was her favorite, and it was devastated when relations turned sour enough to prevent her from returning.

During Barack Obama’s administration, U.S.-Cuban relations did improve, but this improvement only impacted the now legal importation of Cuban cigars and rum; and more importantly, the addition of an American embassy in Havana and a Cuban embassy in D.C. for the first time since 1961. It’s challenging, though not impossible, as many Miamians know, to enter Cuba with an American passport.

Your entry, according to the U.S. embassy in Cuba, must be approved for one of 12 reasons, which include family visits, official business of the U.S. or foreign governments, journalistic activity, professional or educational research, authorized exporting or importing of goods, to name a few.

But, tourism is not considered a valid reason to enter Cuba. Yet, this minor change in the embargo has opened the door just enough for plant more firmly the idea of Cuba as a tourist destination into the minds of many Americans, which, although an exciting notion, could have negative costs.

Elaine Dovale, a junior majoring in marketing and a native Cuban, does “not believe the economic relations (between Cuba and the U.S.) are beneficial for the Cuban people,” because if Cuba’s tourism increases, it could lead to meager wages and low pollution levels: qualities that would undoubtedly be tainted by the infiltration of factories and tourists who treat the island as an amusement park or resort instead of a country to be respected.

The Cuban government, Dovale said, is one “that denies” and operates under a “regime of terror,” uncompromising on many issues, perhaps because it fears the start of a “revolution of thought” led by the Cuban-Americans who have experienced both countries and are the liaison between them.

Dovale describes those who have lived in Cuba their entire lives as people who look out at the world as if through a window and “live under the fear of a government.” She said that “if the Cuban people become more aware that the world is paying attention…they would rebel,” much to the government’s chagrin – a red flag that signals to Dovale that negotiations with the U.S. “aren’t going anywhere if the [Cuban] government doesn’t compromise.”

“I wish that all of these negotiations would translate into ignoring the Cuban economy, empowering the Cuban people, funding education and infrastructure…more trade while respecting the resources,” Dovale said. “I hope to see Cuba in the future as a country [with] ideals that are not oppressing its people.”

While Dovale doesn’t have an answer to the problem, she doesn’t believe American intervention is it.

“It’s a far-off place, [Cuba] is frozen in time,” Dovale said. “At the same time, we have these little glimpses of the present… almost like a glimpse of the future.”

This is exactly why, at least for some of us, Cuba has always seemed like this far away, untouchable, magical time-machine of a country, filled with interesting people and incredible food.

But, it’s also a country with a corrupt government, and for American passport holders, an immigration process at the airport that seems like it’s only navigable for seasoned travelers with legitimate motives to enter the country.

So, if you’re looking for a holiday at a beach resort during spring break, perhaps contemporary Cuba isn’t the place for you.

One day, though, it would be wonderful to see relations restored, with a less shady Cuban government and more consideration on America’s behalf for the Cuban people and their beautiful ecosystem.

Aubrey Carr is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, The Leveler, covers global social justice and political commentary.
Panther NOW.com Panther Magazine – Thursday, March 9, 2017

EDITORIAL

Spring break: a time for adventure and traveling

On far too many occasions I’ve written about uncontroversial topics like race relations, Donald Trump, or the civil war in Syria. I think it’s about time that I tackle a truly difficult question: what are the best things to do during spring break?

Proud party-animal that I am not, I will not seem to make much of a difference! Opposed to someone from another city does when we go off on adventures.

And it seems being a Miamian as opposed to someone from another city does not seem to make much of a difference! Opposed to someone from another city does when we go off on adventures.

So as for her ideal spring break get-away, Rezakhani said, “Ideally, I’d go to Maui every year before that I went to Gainesville to visit my friend who studied at UF. I like to get out of Miami for spring break.”

Keep Florida beaches clean

There is a word that describes the common trend of the answers I received: wanderlust. I had often seen the word on Instagram pages, but only recently did I look up its meaning. As per Merriam-Webster, wanderlust is “a strong desire to travel.”

Of course, we college students do have a strong desire to travel. We get to have fun, experience, and enjoy some more freedom when we go off on adventures. And it seems being a Miamian as opposed to someone from another city does not seem to make much of a difference!

So as for her ideal spring break get-away, Rezakhani said, “Ideally, I’d go to Maui every year before that I went to Gainesville to visit my friend who studied at UF. I like to get out of Miami for spring break.”

Many students may leap towards the nearest beach for spring break, making Florida a popular destination for students nationwide. Vacations spent in Florida means happy vacationers and a fatter wallet for the Florida economy, with Miami ranking in the top 10 for spring break destinations.

But beaches and its inhabitants suffer the consequences. So, on the behalf of the beautiful beaches, please quit bringing your trash with you.

Regardless of whether or not these are recyclable materials, these spring breakers are not picking up after themselves. And where exactly does this debris end up? It’s not in the trash!

It ends up in our oceans, in the stomachs of our sea creatures, and potentially in our stomachs. Considering the fact that most of these materials are not biodegradable, animals may consume them, be caught for food, and end up in our systems through the simple food cycle.

If you are going to visit our beautiful Florida beaches and are going to bask underneath our sun, please pick up after yourself. If you don’t clean up after yourself, someone else might. However, the chances of you polluting the environment are higher than the chances of someone picking up after you.

Therefore, enjoy the weather, enjoy the beaches and enjoy the company of your friends. Just don’t bring your trash with you.

Daniela Perez is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, Pulitzer’s Phenomena, is a commentary on human interest.
Baseball players prefer competing during break

BRET SHWEKY
Staff Writer

Spring Break is what I love to do, so I wouldn’t want to have it any other way.”

Starting pitcher Dominic LoBrutto believes that playing collegiate baseball is far more enjoyable than having a week off for Spring Break.

“I’m playing college baseball, that’s honestly one of the most fun things you can do,” said the junior. “I’d rather play five to six games over the week here, over being at any beach or any place in the world to be quite honest.”

The Panthers will host the (7-2) Charleston Southern University Buccaneers in a three-game series spanning from Thursday, March 9 to Saturday, March 11.

“I’d rather play five of six games over the week here, over being at any beach of any place in the world to be quite honest,” said the freshman.

“For me personally, just playing the game I love, being on the field during Spring Break is what I love to do, so I wouldn’t want to have it any other way.”

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