The Department of Public Safety once again reminds you to exercise caution when travelling abroad for Spring Break. As we have noted the last couple of years in this space, violent crime in several Mexican cities is a serious concern and the U.S. State Department has continued to issue travel alerts advising Americans of the dangers in cities such as Tijuana, Ciudad de Juarez, and Nogales. While there are no specific advisories for popular tourist destinations such as Cancun, Cozumel, and the Mayan Riviera, alerts have been issued for Acapulco, Mazatlan, and many of the border towns. And the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa makes it precarious for anyone, especially Westerners, to travel to those regions as well. We urge students to think carefully and do diligent research before venturing out of the country. Following a few simple safety precautions can help make your Spring Break adventure a more enjoyable experience. (Check out the U.S. Department of State’s website listed below. You can find valuable information specifically directed to students travelling on Spring Break. You can also sign up to receive Travel Alerts via Facebook and Twitter).

**Before leaving:**
- Secure your dorm room or apartment.
- Unplug all appliances.
- Make sure all windows are closed and locked.
- Leave a copy of your travel itinerary with someone back home.

**Use the buddy system:**
There is safety in numbers and it is best to do things as a group. Try to have at least three members of your group with you at all times when leaving your hotel. Don’t leave a friend behind. If you go out together, come home together!

**Drinking:**
If you are of legal drinking age and you do decide to drink, do so responsibly. Reports indicate that 98% of spring breakers who suffered injuries were intoxicated at the time. Note also that drinking to intoxication leaves a person more susceptible to becoming the victim of a sexual assault or other serious crime. Keep your drink in sight at all times. If you must leave an unfinished drink to go to the bathroom or dance floor, discard it and purchase a new one when you return. Leaving a drink unattended gives anyone (including bar personnel) the opportunity to tamper with it.

**DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE.** Use a designated driver or choose public transportation. The most important spring break safety tip we can give you is to ask you to use common sense. Trust your instincts; if someone, or someplace, doesn’t feel right to you, chances are it isn’t. With these safety tips in mind, stay safe, and enjoy your sun-filled spring break! Please see short video on a special report from CNN on Spring Break- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UhzYX9ubZQ

**Traveling:**
- If travelling abroad, check the U.S. State Department’s Travel Alerts at: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
  Prepaid Travel money cards are best.
  For more info go to: [http://europeforvisitors.com/europe/articles/amex-travelfunds-visa-travelmoney-cards.htm](http://europeforvisitors.com/europe/articles/amex-travelfunds-visa-travelmoney-cards.htm)
- Leave credit cards & ATM cards locked in a secure place.
- Keep track of your baggage and personal belongings at all times.

Spring Break 2012: Have Fun & Be SAFE