

STEPPING OUT IN SPRING STYLE

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THE GAMECOCK

While the rest of the country stays cold and windy, students in South Carolina are gearing up for the warm weather that promises to be right around the corner and that magical time of the year for every college student — spring break.

Whether you're taking a road trip to California with five of your closest friends in a Ford Escort, mom and dad are springing for that cruise through the Bahamas, or you're planning on staying right here in Columbia, the Ugg boots, ponchos and cords you've been wearing all winter will not work.

Spring means it's time to put all the dark, heavy clothes back in your closet and treat yourself to light, airy and colorful attire.

Urban Outfitters is a great one-stop shop for everything. Specializing in vintage-inspired casual clothes for girls and guys, their T-shirts with cute sayings and logos, like "Everyone loves an Irish girl,"

are especially popular. Urban Outfitters is also great for light-weight T-shirts and tank tops for layering. Ben Sherman, Diesel, Free People, Lacoste, Lux, Triple 5 Soul, Puma and True Religion can be found at this clothing superstore. If you're not up for the drive to Charlotte, a full catalogue is online at www.urbn.com.

Skirts are always hot for spring, but instead of wearing the same blue-jean mini that everybody else has on, try a hot-pink or white denim mini. If you don't feel comfortable in a super-short skirt, most stores are carrying knee-length printed cotton skirts. These skirts' swirl or flowered patterns can be worn casual with a coordinating color tank top, or you can dress it up with a fun purse or some beaded necklaces and bracelets.

The key to stylish spring-break fashion without looking gaudy is to pick one piece of your outfit to emphasize. If you have on pink pants, pair it with a white tank, or vice versa. If you have a fun straw hat you're dying to wear on the beach, tone down the

rest of your outfit.

If you want some new spring-break clothes but your plane ticket, hotel room and beverage money has drained your bank account, there are tons of ways to spruce up last year's clothes. Check out Target and Old Navy for tons of fun accessories at low prices. Your old shorts and tank tops will look brand-new with a colorful scarf tied around your waist or in your hair.

The most important thing about spring-break fashion is to not worry about it. Spring is time for easy, light cotton clothes in fun colors. If you over-plan your wardrobe or spend hours on your make-up and hair, you will look out of place on the beach. After all, you will spend most of your time on the sand in a swimsuit and shorts, so why worry about stuffing your suitcase to the breaking point? Throw on your favorite flip-flops and have some fun.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu



BONNIE BING/KRT CAMPUS

Fluttering dresses of filmy, floral-printed fabrics look to be a strong trend for next spring. A certain free-spirit panache works wonders.

Check out these Web sites for hot spring break clothes:

www.ae.com

www.target.com

www.oldnavy.com

www.urbn.com

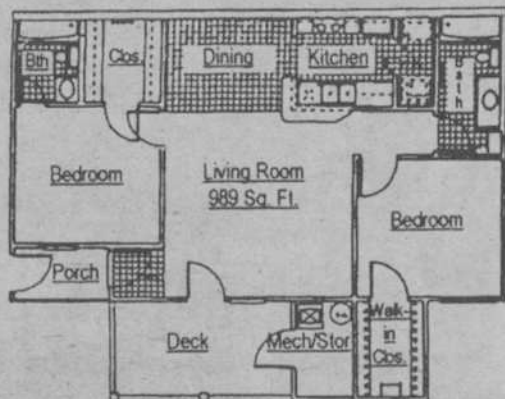
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