

Traveling begins Christmas season

By Bailey VenJohn
Staff reporter

Imagine Christmas in New York, the lights and huge Christmas trees, snow glistening on the ground and the cold breeze in the evening. We've all seen it in the movies and know what I

am talking about.

An average college student's Christmas doesn't look anything like this. It starts out with all the packing you must do before you can head home. Who knew it was necessary to pack five bags full of clothes to go to your own house?

After you've picked out the

necessary attire and shoved them into bags, you can load up and hit the road. Now you're ready for one of the longest and most boring road trips you've ever taken.

Maybe you're so anxious to get home that time just drags. Or maybe it's the opposite, so you're just dreading the next month.

Some of us are the lucky ones who have only a few minutes or a couple hours to make it home. Others aren't so lucky and have a 10 or more hour trip home.

For Megan Walentynowicz, business administration junior, traveling for Christmas is something she is accustomed to.

Walentynowicz, who is from Cedar Park, Texas has about an eight-hour drive home. Once she reaches home, the real travelling begins.

Both Walentynowicz's mom and dad have family that live in New York. She visits there around the holidays almost every year.

"We try to go on holidays because that's the time to be with family. We go a couple years and then maybe take a year off or go in the summer instead. It depends a lot on my schedule and what I have going on," said Walentynowicz.

When they make the trip, they

usually stay for about two weeks because she has family from both her mom and dad's side that live there.

Walentynowicz loves Christmas time and the way it looks in New York. Her family doesn't experience all the holiday hustle and bustle of the most populated city in the States. Instead they stick to the countryside surrounding it.

"It's exactly like what you would picture Christmas time looking like in a rural area. Very much like a snow globe," said Walentynowicz.

Since both her mom and dad have family in New York, she makes visits to both sides. She said they spend Christmas day with her mom's side. Then they spend a couple days in Jamestown, a small town about an hour outside of Buffalo, with her dad's side.

Along with holiday trips, Walentynowicz and her family have made trips in the summer too, but her preference remains with the winter.

"Summer is fun but everybody has different things going on and when we go during the holidays they have more time to spend with us, be involved and get to know how we are. During the

summer it is just harder to link up with people and make schedules work."

This year Walentynowicz and her family won't be able to make the trip due to a visit this past summer. Instead she will be spending her Christmas at her home in Texas, a place that couldn't be much more opposite of New York.

Walentynowicz said, "In Texas there's no snow. There's no cold. It's just not Christmas. It's like everyone else is celebrating a holiday and we're just hanging out. We do gifts but it's boring because I'm an adult now and there's no magic."

As the youngest of her family, Walentynowicz doesn't have anyone to share the excitement of Santa and the little things about Christmas with.

In New York she has family who are 4-years-old, 2-years-old and a newborn.

"They're still excited about Santa and it is just fun to watch because you remember how it was when you were a kid."

She said the Christmas excitement of all her family members in New York is her favorite part about the trip.

"My grandparents get excited because we don't get to see them that much. They're still all into Christmas like baking cookies, getting a real tree and that," said Walentynowicz.

When finals are over and the time rolls around to pack up and head home, Walentynowicz will make her eight-hour drive home that will unfortunately not be followed by a flight to New York.

Walentynowicz made sure to mention that even when her family doesn't spend Christmas in Texas they still decorate the house and have a mini Christmas of their own.

"We have a little family Christmas before we leave and our parents give us some gifts," said Walentynowicz.

This time around they will get to enjoy their home through the holiday and amplify their mini Christmas to a more extensive one.

Bailey VenJohn is a junior majoring in communication. You may email her at bailey.venjohn@sckans.edu.

SC Christmas

Wednesday Dec. 3

Free Movie Night doors open at 9 p.m.,
movies start at 9:30 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 4

Wreath decorating
Java Jinx 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m.

Santa Claus is coming to Stewart Fieldhouse

Wear a santa hat to the basketball games
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Friday Dec. 5

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