

Auburn University Office of International Education
Experience in International Living
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Meeting the needs of the Auburn International community is at the heart of this discussion. For information on how to support this activity please contact the AU Office of International Education and the AU Development Office. In the history of these types of communities around the world one can find a common basis for their existence – donors and sponsors interested in strengthening the cultural experience of the students and communities in which they reside.

This discussion also addresses a range of needs from housing to administrative for the whole of the AU international community and therefore is entitled "Experience in International Living" because it is our belief that there is a strong need to develop an Auburn community infrastructure that reflects at its heart the housing, cultural and support needs of the entire international community across the breadth of the international scope of the university.

Currently Auburn University hosts over 800 international students, over 100 foreign scholars and short term international visitors and sponsors numerous study abroad efforts involving over 500 Auburn students each year. There is also considerable undeveloped potential for future student and faculty exchanges which are either directly or indirectly affected by the limitations in housing options on the campus.

What are the possibilities and challenges?

1. International Students and Scholars

A major component for new arrivals is the fact that they come from environments in which they have close family and friends support and move to an environment where they have little or know knowledge of the surrounding community, leasing systems, costs, access issues, etc... In general it is universally accepted that housing associated with a university offers a certain security, familiarity and group solidarity from the beginning. Students and accompanying families from around the world in essence "assume, perceive and trust" that universities provide a housing complex and support system that will provide for their minimal needs. Such assumptions revolve around personal/family security, cost, ability to form a close knit support infrastructure especially for families, closeness to campus, etc. Unfamiliarity with US housing systems, inability to secure transportation, a focus on the central nature of the campus/academic programs, and a lack of understanding of the needs of foreign students and their families further inhibits the use of off campus systems.

Areas for specific consideration:

- a. married housing for international families - where there could be a distinct infrastructure developed of programming for spouses, children and families.

- b. undergraduate housing - that is available year around and that provides for international students who typically do not leave the campus during breaks, summer, etc..
- c. housing options for the AU Intensive English Program which runs 8 week sessions year round. This program often can serve as a bridge program, recruiting students whose original intent is to learn English, for students who wish to secure higher degrees.
- d. exchange program options which allow for one or two semester housing - often partnered with foreign institutions who accept AU students on a 1:1 basis with the understanding that AU will provide on campus housing options.

2. Visitors, guests, transition

- a. Many institutions including Auburn have guests that range from research scholars to presidents of sister institutions. There exists a need for on campus "guest" units available for short term use from one week to several months to facilitate the relationships between institutions. Such unit are typically available for a nominal maintenance fee. These facilitate the transportation, support, and other issues that researchers and others have when attempting to foster such global exchanges.
- b. International students often arrive at "inconvenient" times due to the US immigration laws, vagaries of travel arrangements and any number of other complicating factors. Such arrivals often need a temporary location for days to weeks to get their bearings and make the appropriate arrangements.
- c. Emergency housing needs related to issues such as death of a student, family member or serious/catastrophic illness of an AU student or scholar. During such difficult times issues such as being with the campus community and family can minimize the stress on the families as well as reduce the logistical issues for the AU staff working with such events.

3. International House and IE Administrative complex

To foster a more global thinking in the overall student and academic community Auburn University should develop an International House concept. Under the traditional "I" house concept a ratio of 50:50 domestic to international students (including gender in addition to US: foreign) would be fostered and encouraged. Typically the domestic student population would be comprised of students who either intend to study abroad during their academic program at Auburn University. Such a concept linked with the overall housing issues could foster language learning, cross cultural events, the development of student led support programs, etc...

When envisioning an experience in international living on the AU campus one could envision a complex that addresses these many needs. Such a concept could form the nucleus of an International Cultural Complex from which related services could be easily addressed. Locating the normal International Student and Scholar Services, Auburn Abroad, Global Tigers, and other

related functions in the heart of a living/culture community would strengthen the gown/community relationship. Issues such as the inability of spouses or even students to secure transportation, holiday periods, immigration, day care, spousal and family support as well as the fostering of global thinking in the AU student body and campus community could be much more easily addressed by the development of an "International Living Community" on the AU campus. Such a community may not address all the needs however it could be envisioned as a focal point that resolves immediate housing options as well as other services and functions related to the concept. Such a concept could further foster a campus and Auburn community linkage incorporating minimal resources on the campus with facilitation of access to the broader Auburn and regional community resources.

Some examples of I Houses around the world:

University of Chicago - <http://ihouse.uchicago.edu/>

Chiba University - <http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/e/supports/house.html>

West Virginia University - <http://admissions.wvu.edu/undergraduate/housing/internationalhouse.asp>

San Jose State University - <http://www2.sjsu.edu/ihouse/>

Jacksonville State University - <http://www.jsu.edu/alumni/paris/history.html>

Washington State University - <http://www.wsu.edu/~ihouse/>

UAB International House - <http://students.uab.edu/services/show.asp?durki=32586>

Berkley University - <http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/>

James Cook University - <http://www.jcu.edu.au/office/accom/rotary/>

University of Tennessee - <http://web.utk.edu/~ihouse/welcome/>

Central Washington University - <http://www.cwu.edu/~intlprog/I-house.html>

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The Dream of an Auburn International House/Center

Auburn University, as a land-grant university in southeastern part of the United States, has attracted not only numerous American students but also a large number of students from various foreign countries since nineteenth century.¹ At the fall of 2000, there were 694 foreign students from 87 different countries, 3.2% of the total enrolled students in Auburn University.² Auburn University has boasted the largest enrollment of foreign students in the state of Alabama for a long time.

Efforts to facilitate communication and enhance mutual understanding between American and foreign students have been made by both Auburn University and Auburn community. Among the efforts are the attempts to establish an international house/center with the purpose of housing foreign students with American students and providing a physical nucleus for all international activities on campus. This paper examines the efforts toward this project, which mainly encompass two campaigns in 1960s and 1970s respectively. Both campaigns were initiated with enthusiasm and received some supports. However, both ended up with nothing because of inadequate support, funding, and other reasons such as bureaucracy. The dream of an Auburn international house/center has never come true.

¹ *Catalogue of the State Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama*, 1882-1883, 1886-1887. Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

² Enrollment information, www.panda.auburn.edu/enroll.htm

The Initial Proposal

From 1950s to early 1960s, the number of foreign students enrolled in Auburn University increased steadily.³ In 1962, there were totally 110 students from thirty-four foreign countries, surpassing one hundred for the first time.⁴ There was not, however, any formal campus office that was specifically in charge of all the services for foreign students. Such responsibilities were dispersed among the Office of Student Affairs, the Admissions and Housing Offices. Although one of the campus clubs, the International Relations Club, and the local community such as churches produced some activities to promote contacts between foreign students and Americans, a great hindrance to the foreign students' orientation and international contacts was the scattering of the foreign students' residences, which created a tendency of isolating foreign students into small groups.⁵

In 1961, a comprehensive self-study on all aspects of campus life was initiated in Auburn University, with the purpose of finding problems and giving recommendation for improvement.⁶ Under this self-study, an International Relations Committee was formed with Eugene Current-Garcia as its chairman and Ruth Brittin, Howard Broadhead, Oliver T. Ivey, William Monahan, Herman Pruett, Herb Reinhard, Cornelius Shih, and E. V. Smith as members. In their report to the steering committee of Auburn University institutional self-study dated October 30, 1962, they examined the difficulties the foreign students in Auburn University had in facing a new

³ Eugene Current-Garcia and others, *Preliminary Self Study Report on International Relations*, p. 5b. *Self-Study Records*, 1962, Vol. XVI, Box 3, Location 6-F-5,6, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

⁴ *The Bulletin of Auburn University*, 1963/1964 (Auburn, Ala.: the University, 1963).

⁵ Eugene Current-Garcia and others, 1962; International House Committee, *A Proposal for an International House at Auburn University*, 1964, Acc. # 533f, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

⁶ *Self-Study Records*, 1962, Vol. I, Box 1, Location 6-F-5,6, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

culture and the need of American students to learn from foreign cultures. To solve the problem, they recommended to build “an international house type of dormitory similar to the one currently being built on the campus of Jacksonville State College”.⁷ The International House was to offer a residence and social center to be shared by foreign and American students. They believed that by housing a newly arrived foreign student to live with an American roommate for at least one year, the International House would help the foreign students better oriented to the new culture; by offering facilities and places for international activities, the house would benefit all the students and faculty of Auburn University. They also argued the feasibility for such a building by pointing out that Auburn University could learn from Jacksonville State College, who was to build the International House largely with Federal funds since it was “classified as a self-amortizing college dormitory”.⁸

Clearly stating the need, purpose, and feasibility of an International House at Auburn University, the Current-Garcia’s committee gave the first formal proposal for such a facility and laid a foundation for subsequent campaigns. However, their recommendation, compared with those in the reports on other aspects of campus life, received much less attention from the university administration. No immediate action was taken by the university administration after this initial proposal was issued.

The First Campaign

The initial proposal for an International House in Auburn University, however, attracted the attention from one organization on campus, that is, International Relations Club. The club

⁷ Eugene Current-Garcia and others, 1962, p. 11.

⁸ Eugene Current-Garcia and others, 1962, p. 13.

was established around 1932.⁹ It aimed at promoting study and discussion of world affairs and encouraging international contacts at Auburn. The Club frequently organized such activities as international dinner, folk dance, volleyball games, foreign films watching, foreign cultural discussions and presentations. Both foreign and American students, faculties and local residents were invited to participate in these activities.¹⁰

International Relations Club (IRC) felt the same need as stated by the Current-Garcia's committee to have an International House for Auburn. In 1964, they set aside a sum of \$200.00 as a starting fund, and asked for Auburn University administrative to give supports to this intention.¹¹ Considering the financial burden and administrative inconvenience that may be caused to the university, instead of calling for establishing a new building, the club only suggested that an old temporary building on campus could be assigned and converted into an International House for recreational and social purpose, not for residence.

After receiving the letter containing such a petition from then IRC president Nitish K. Sanyal, Ralph B. Draughon, the president of Auburn University at that time, thought it was a worthwhile proposal and designated his administrative assistant, Floyd Vallery, to be his representative for consideration of this matter. Then an administrative committee composed of Folyd Vallery, Katherine Cater (Dean of Women), James E. Foy (Dean of Students Affair), and Donald F. Williams (Foreign Student Advisor) was organized to discuss the prospect and

⁹ *International Relations Club*, 1932, #19, in File "*Students Affairs. V. P.*", Box 3, Acc. # 97-096, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

¹⁰ *International Relations Club*, 1965-67, in File "*Presidential Papers, Philpott, Harry M.*", Box 33, Acc. # 533f, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

¹¹ Nitish K. Sanyal to Ralph B. Draughon, 4 August 1964, in File "*Presidential Papers, Philpott, Harry M.*", Box 33, Acc. # 533f, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

investigate the possibility of such an International House.¹² At a meeting on 12 August 1964, the committee members asked IRC to prepare a thorough proposal for the program including purposes and objectives, administrative organization, financial budget, hostess arrangements, and physical facilities of this International House. They expressed that the university administration would not take over the project but would be willing to support the efforts of IRC in this matter after examining the thorough proposal. However, they also pointed out that the International House of Auburn University should administratively fall under the supervision of the Office of Student Affairs and the Foreign Student Adviser. Finally, they suggested the IRC to consider the Graves Center Cottage, a campus building behind the Chemistry building, as a potential International House.

The IRC quickly established an International House Committee with Oliver T. Ivey of the Auburn University history department as chairman. The committee submitted a detailed proposal as requested to Floyd Vallery on 23 October 1964.¹³ In the proposal¹⁴, the committee requested the Graves Center Cottage to be assigned as the temporary International House. It was suggested that for operating the International House, a Board of Directors should be set up for policy-making, a hostess be procured serving as social director for the house, and an International House Council be established whose responsibilities were to plan and carry out the programs of social and recreational activities in the house. As estimated by the committee in this report, the

¹² Donald F. Williams to James E. Foy, 13 August 1964, in File "*Presidential Papers, Philpott, Harry M.*", Box 33, Acc. # 533f, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

¹³ Oliver T. Ivey to Floyd Vallery, 23 October 1964, in File "*Presidential Papers, Philpott, Harry M.*", Box 33, Acc. # 533f, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

¹⁴ International House Committee, "*A Proposal for an International House at Auburn University*", in File "*Presidential Papers, Philpott, Harry M.*", Box 33, Acc. # 533f, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

annual operating budget for the house was \$2,400.00 and the cost of physical facilities was \$1,500.00. As for the financing of the house, the committee figured out seven possible means of raising money including International house membership drive, a portion of student activity fees, gifts from civic clubs and churches, sale of unsecured bonds, state legislature, philanthropic agencies, and federal funds.

In November 1964, letters and questionnaires were distributed to all foreign students to get their reactions regarding such a proposal.¹⁵ No records can be found about the statistics of this survey and the responses from foreign students, so it is hard to say whether the foreign students were interested in it or not. But the administrative reaction to this proposal was very slow. It was about one year later that the requested Graves Center Cottage had been assigned by the Campus Planning Committee.¹⁶ By September 1965, the assigned cottage had still been occupied by another group and would not be available for an international house until 4 January 1966; the Board of Directors had still not been formed, let alone the hostess and council for the house. As for financing, no funding was found other than the previously mentioned \$200.00 set aside by the IRC. No record shows that efforts were made to raise money through the above-mentioned seven channels. For example, a overview of a 30 year history of the student activity fee (1945-1975) shows no portion of the student activity fee was allocated to the International House project during the 30 years.¹⁷ Though the IRC was active in initiating the campaign for

¹⁵ Donald F. Williams to all international students, 19 November 1964, in File "*Presidential Papers, Philpott, Harry M.*", Box 33, Acc. # 533f, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

¹⁶ Donald F. Williams to Floyd Vallery, 20 September 1965, in File "*Presidential Papers, Philpott, Harry M.*", Box 33, Acc. # 533f, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

¹⁷ In Folder "*SGA and Student Allocation*", Box 1, File "*Student Affairs, V. P.*", Acc. # 86-140, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

this project, it “clearly did not have the money to accumulate even a beginning sum toward such an undertaking”¹⁸ The transition of the president of Auburn University from Ralph B. Draughon to Harry M. Philpott in 1965¹⁹ may also affect the continuous administrative support from the university and contribute to the unsettlement of this campaign. Anyway, no record shows that the Grave Center Cottage was converted into an International House for any international activities. The efforts toward the establishment of an International House suspended.

The Second Campaign

Although in the mid-1960s, the efforts of the IRC were focused on converting an old campus building into an social and recreational center for international activities, the discussions and records of the aforementioned International House Committee clearly show that its ultimate objective was the establishment of an International House with living areas for foreign and American students (see Notes 13 & 14). In their aforementioned detailed proposal, they indicated that “a proposal of more lasting benefit will be submitted later for a living area International House, for which the present proposal is not a substitute.”²⁰ Actually, they did put forward a proposal for a residence type of International House later, though when and to whom this proposal was submitted remains unclear.²¹ In this proposal, it was suggested that the intended International House should be similar to a dormitory with additional areas and facilities for informal meetings and gatherings. Half of the residents should be foreign students, and the other

¹⁸ Anne W. Amacher, *Overview of Some of the History of the Effort to Get an International Residence and Social Center in Auburn*, 18 January 1988, p. 2. Folder “Auburn International Center, Inc.”, Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

¹⁹ File “*Presidential Papers: Philpott, Harry M.*”, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

²⁰ International House Committee, “*A Proposal for an International House at Auburn University*”, p. 1.

²¹ International House Committee, “*A Proposal for a Residence Type of International House*”, Folder “Auburn International Center, Inc.”, Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

half be American students. The estimated investment costs were \$12,000 + \$200 (n) where n is number of residents, and operating costs were \$2,100.00. This proposal, despite the lack of immediate attention to it, paved the way for a second campaign toward the establishment of an International House/Center in Auburn.

The second campaign began in 1974 with the incorporation of the International Center, Inc. on the basis of a group of people composed of faculty, staff, and students of Auburn University, and Auburn community citizens who were interested in the establishment of Auburn International Center.²² The group consulted an attorney, Yetta G. Samford, and, under his advice, selected a Board of Directors, drew up a Statement of Purpose, and made a decision concerning the disposal of any property that may be acquired. On 24 July 1974, the International Center, Inc. was established as a non-profit organization.²³ The purposes of this organization, as described in its Statement of Purpose, are as follows:

... to foster international understanding by providing and operating a program which will (1) enable foreign and American students to get to know one another better by living together in an international center having an atmosphere conducive to cultural exchange; (2) enrich the town and university community by encouraging insight into the customs, institutions, and problems of the people of all nations through the presentation of films, displays, lectures, discussions, entertainments, culinary experiences, etc.; and (3) offer an environment designed

²² Group for Establishment of Auburn International Center, Meeting Minutes, 9 May 1974. Folder "*Auburn International Center, Inc.*", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

²³ Yetta G. Samford, Opelika, to James E. Foy, Auburn, 24 July 1974. Folder "*Auburn International Center, Inc.*", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

to facilitate the study of English by foreign students and foreign languages by American students.²⁴

At the time of the incorporation, the president of the organization was Richard E. Amacher, the vice president was James E. Foy, the secretary was Willetta Hatcher, and the treasurer N. Krishnamurthy. Agreed by its members, the Articles of Incorporation stipulate that if the corporation dissolves, all the property shall revert to Auburn University.

Soon after its incorporation, the International Center, Inc. began making efforts to obtain a suitable building and raise funds. At first, the attempts were to secure an existing building suitable to be converted to an international center, but they failed like the first campaign initiated by the ICR.²⁵ Then attention was turned to secure a site for constructing a new building. Fortunately, in March 1976, the Auburn University Board of Trustee granted the property on the corner of South College Street and Miller Avenue to the International Center, Inc for building the intended Center (see Note 24).

Preliminary plans for the Auburn International Center building were drawn by Rajesh Sehgal, who was a registered architect in Montgomery and a native of India, and approved by the Campus Planning Committee.²⁶ According to the plans, the building could accommodate thirty-two students and provide facilities, such as language laboratories, meeting rooms, and cooking areas, for rich social, cultural, and academic programs. Students, both foreign and American,

²⁴ International Center, Inc., *Proposed Statement of Purpose: Auburn International Center*, Folder "Auburn International Center, Inc.", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

²⁵ The Auburn International Center Brochure. 1977 (?). Folder "Auburn International Center, Inc.", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

²⁶ Walter H. Porter to member of the Auburn international community. 5 April 1977. Folder "Auburn International Center, Inc.", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

were to live in the building only for a limited term of two or three quarters so that more students could benefit from this building. They were required to pay a reasonable rental, the income from which would go for the operation of the building and the programs. (see Note 24)

Though the site was secured and the plans approved, the challenge the International Center, Inc. was now facing was even bigger than the earlier stage. That was because the estimated costs for this project was \$355,333.00, including construction and furnishing costs of the building, and architect's fees.²⁷ For this sake, in 1976, the corporation set up a fund raising committee with Walter H. Porter as chairman, who enthusiastically led a financial drive for large pledges of contribution to the Auburn International Center project.²⁸ Letters, brochures, and pledge cards were distributed to the Auburn University students and faculty and to the local community. The applications were submitted to the Kresge Foundation and the Rockefeller and Ford foundation for grants. The undertaking received much attention and support not only from various departments and organizations in Auburn University, but also from local community.²⁹ For example, the local Rotary Club and then Auburn University president Harry M. Philpott (from his contingency fund) pledged \$3,000.00 respectively, though both of their pledges were not to be paid until the project was actually materialized (see Note 28). The Foreign Student Committee under the Campus Student Government Association was also searching for "a closer

²⁷ *Additional Information on the Auburn International Center, Inc.* (requested by the Kresge Foundation in letter of 7 February, 1977). Folder "Auburn International Center, Inc.", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

²⁸ *Addenda to Financial Records of the Auburn International Center, Inc.* (1974-1988). Folder "Auburn International Center, Inc.", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

²⁹ Anne W. Amacher, Minutes of the Meeting of April 22, 1987 of Auburn International Center, Inc. Folder "Auburn International Center, Inc.", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

working relationship" with the Auburn International Center, Inc.³⁰ Evidence for the attention received was also shown in the reports on this project by some of the campus and local newspapers, such as Opelia-Auburn, Birmingham Post Herald, and Auburn Plainsman.³¹ By 16 February 1977, the pledged amount of money to the corporation had culminated \$21,200.00 with a paid amount of \$1,725.00.³²

However, these pledges came mostly from the board members of the Auburn International Center, Inc. and several local citizens, in addition to those from the Rotary Club and President Philpott of Auburn University. Students of Auburn University gave little pledges (see Note 29 & 31). It also appeared that there was a lack of enthusiasm and support from foreign students based on the responses to the questionnaires distributed in 1977 (see Note 28). Moreover, neither the Kresge Foundation nor the Rockefeller and Ford Foundation made a grant to the corporation, the fact that may be the greatest deterrent to the actual carry-out of the construction of the Auburn International Center. Without a large foundation grant, the money was not enough for a new building. To make things even worse was that the vigorous chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, Walter H. Porter resigned in 1977 or 1978 "because of his change of employment and move away from Auburn."³³ All the above factors made the financial campaign slow down and even stop after 1977.

³⁰ Orlando S. Moron to Steve Scobio and Al Reed, 3 February 1976. In Folder "*Committee of Foreign Students*", Box 10, Acc. # 93-118, File "*Student Government Association*". Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

³¹ Judith Nunn, "Auburn to get International Center", Opelia-Auburn, 8 June 1976; Birmingham Post Herald, 23 June 1976; Debbie White, "International Center Planned, Realization of a 25 year dream", The Auburn Plainsman, 10 February 1977.

³² Schedule of Pledges Receivable, 16 February 1977. Folder "*Auburn International Center, Inc.*", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn.

³³ Anne W. Amacher, Minutes of the Meeting of April 22, 1987 of Auburn International Center, Inc., p. 3.

After October 1977, the corporation board again tried to search for the possibility of converting some existing building into an International Center. But there was no result. The campaign clearly cooled down. "After 1981, those who had made pledges to the fund ceased to make payments into the fund (of the corporation)." ³⁴

By 31 March 1987, the total amount of money in the account of Auburn International Center, Inc. was \$7,978.85. ³⁵ As the certificate of deposit for this amount would mature on 18 January 1988 (see Note 34), the "exhausted" board members held the last meeting on 22 April 1987 and decided to transfer this amount of money to Auburn University Foundation to be set up as emergency loans for foreign students (see Note 29). The corporation dissolved after disposing of the money in 1988. The second campaign toward an International Center in Auburn again ended up with no concrete result. But in a letter to those who made pledges or payments to the Auburn International Center fund, the former president of the corporation board, Richard E. Amacher, after informing the former contributors of the final disposal of the money, still called upon them for a continuous contribution to the fund now serving as emergency loans for foreign student in Auburn University. ³⁶

The dream of having an international residence and social center in Auburn has never been realized despite the efforts culminating in 1960s and 1970s made by people from the Auburn University and from local community. With almost seven hundred international students

³⁴ Anne W. Amacher, Minutes of the Meeting of April 22, 1987 of Auburn International Center, Inc., p. 2.

³⁵ Financial Report of Auburn International Center, Inc., 1987 (?). Folder "*Auburn International Center, Inc.*", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn

³⁶ Richard E. Amacher to contributor (of Auburn International Center fund), 22 July 1991. Folder "*Auburn International Center, Inc.*", Acc. # 84-84, Special Collections and Archives, Ralph Brown Draughon Library, Auburn University, Auburn

from more than eighty different countries, Auburn University now has more offices responsible for all kinds of services for foreign students (e.g. International Student Life and Admission, International Programs and Services). Some of the campus and local organizations (e.g. International Student Organization, local churches) continue to produce such activities as international dinners and gatherings to promote contacts between foreign students and Americans. But the housing of the foreign students still remain at random, and there is still a lack of a physical nucleus specially designed for international residence and activities, without which all the relevant activities appear haphazard. It is interesting to see if the dream of having an Auburn International Center will be re-evoked and efforts revived in the future.