# **Executive Summary**

## Highlights

Highlights from the 2018-2019 academic year include:

1. Our Carolina Global Scholars program was awarded NASPA's 2018 Best Practices in International Education for International Programming

2. Dramatic increase of enrollees in our Carolina Global Scholars program with the addition of two service committees

3. Six students are expected to graduate in May 2019 as a Carolina Global Scholar

4. Record number of Maxcy residents who chose to return to live in our community after their first year

#### **Mission Statement**

The International House offers community-sponsored activities that engage students in international affairs, involve students in international dialog, encourage students' wellness and personal growth, and inspire students to explore new career possibilities. The International House also serves as one of the chief components of "Global Carolina," and as such comprises a vital hub for international activities across the USC campus.

Updated: 12/31/2069

### **Vision Statement**

The Carolina International House aspires to develop global citizens for an increasingly interconnected world through instruction in foreign-languages, world history, and contemporary global issues. The International House's integrated educational and social programming will challenge residents to overcome traditional limitations of nation, culture, and language. As such, the International House will nurture future global leaders from the campus, the region, and across the country.

Updated: 12/31/2069

#### Values

Curiosity Engagement Inclusivity

Updated: 12/31/2069

## Blueprint for Academic Excellence International House at Maxcy College AY2019-2020

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Goals for the International House at Maxcy College for the previous Academic Year.

Goal 1 - Connect with th	
Goal Statement	Enhance residents living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with the Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The Faculty Principal guides and communicates the mission and vision of the International House through direct interaction with residents, encourages student leadership, and supports intellectual pursuits in our community.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	
Achievements	Weekly Lunch with Dr. Snyder. Open office hours. Dr. Snyder leads many Maxcy Salons. Dr. Snyder connects residents with Faculty Fellows. Dr. Snyder initiates many campus and community partnerships and programming to support students growth.
Resources Utilized	Budget for lunches with Dr. Snyder.
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

#### **Goal 1 - Connect with the Faculty Principal**

#### Goal 2 - Support Academic Attainment

Goal Statement       Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.         Linkage to University       •Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow         Goal       •Spurring Knowledge and Creation         •Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities       •Encuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence         Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values       The International House provides a supportive environment by promoting cross-cultural understanding within the College and across campus.         Status       Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)         Action Plan		
Goal       Spurring Knowledge and Creation         Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities         Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence         Alignment with Mission,         Vision, and Values         The International House provides a supportive environment by promoting cross-cultural understanding within the College and across campus.         Status       Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)         Action Plan       Image: Status and Enguage Annex that placed students who spoke the same suite or in close proximity. Our Graduate Assistant successfully coordinated Language Tables and Language Cluster dinners for 8 different languages.         Continued Magellan and travel granting program.       24 USC faculty have accepted appointment as a Maxcy Faculty Fellow.         Resources Utilized       Hired Graduate Assistant from Languages Department to coordinate Language Annex.         Collaboration with Assignments to pair domestic and international students in Maxcy.       Collaboration with Assignments to pair domestic and international students together as roommates in Maxcy.         Goal Upcoming Plans       Esources Needed       Image: Status and Stat	Goal Statement	
Vision, and Values       cross-cultural understanding within the College and across campus.         Status       Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)         Action Plan       Image: College and Expected Students who spoke the same language in the same suite or in close proximity. Our Graduate Assistant successfully coordinated Language Tables and Language Cluster dinners for 8 different languages.         Continued Magellan and travel granting program.       24 USC faculty have accepted appointment as a Maxcy Faculty Fellow.         Resources Utilized       Hired Graduate Assistant from Languages Department to coordinate Language Annex.         Collaboration with Assignments to pair domestic and international students together as roommates in Maxcy.       Collaboration With Assignments to pair domestic and international students for Back and Cogether as roommates in Maxcy.         Goal Upcoming Plans       Image: Comparison of the same sum and travel granting Program.         Resources Needed       Image: Comparison of the same sum and travel granting program.	<b>C</b>	<ul><li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li><li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li></ul>
Action Plan         Achievements       Launched the Language Annex that placed students who spoke the same language in the same suite or in close proximity. Our Graduate Assistant successfully coordinated Language Tables and Language Cluster dinners for 8 different languages.         Continued Magellan and travel granting program.       24 USC faculty have accepted appointment as a Maxcy Faculty Fellow.         Resources Utilized       Hired Graduate Assistant from Languages Department to coordinate Language Annex.         Collaboration with Assignments to pair domestic and international students together as roommates in Maxcy.         Goal Upcoming Plans       Image: Ima	•	
Achievements       Launched the Language Annex that placed students who spoke the same language in the same suite or in close proximity. Our Graduate Assistant successfully coordinated Language Tables and Language Cluster dinners for 8 different languages.         Continued Magellan and travel granting program.       24 USC faculty have accepted appointment as a Maxcy Faculty Fellow.         Resources Utilized       Hired Graduate Assistant from Languages Department to coordinate Language Annex.         Collaboration with Assignments to pair domestic and international students together as roommates in Maxcy.       Collaboration With Coordinates in Maxcy.         Goal Upcoming Plans       [Internet as roommates in Maxcy.       Internet as roommates in Maxcy.	Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
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Annex.Collaboration with Assignments to pair domestic and international students together as roommates in Maxcy.Goal ContinuationGoal Upcoming PlansResources Needed	Achievements	<ul><li>language in the same suite or in close proximity. Our Graduate Assistant successfully coordinated Language Tables and Language Cluster dinners for 8 different languages.</li><li>Continued Magellan and travel granting program.</li></ul>
Goal Upcoming Plans       Resources Needed	Resources Utilized	Annex. Collaboration with Assignments to pair domestic and international students
Resources Needed	Goal Continuation	
	Goal Upcoming Plans	
Goal Notes	Resources Needed	
	Goal Notes	

#### Goal 3 - Connect Students to USC

Goal Statement	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living/learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the university.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The International House's integrated educational and social programming within USC and the local community challenges residents to overcome traditional limitations of nation, culture, and language.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	
Achievements	<ul> <li>Tea Time is held weekly to connect students with various faculty and staff at the university.</li> <li>Co-sponsorship of events with campus partners.</li> <li>Utilization by campus partners of Maxcy guest suites.</li> <li>Maxcy's faculty-led and University Housing staff continue to work together to intertwine the Residence Life curriculum and other co-curricular activities. Maxcy events are successful as a result of this increasingly strong partnership, and the lesson plans include components of the Residence Life curriculum, Hall government, Faculty Principal initiatives, CGS components, etc. to provide students a well-rounded experience.</li> </ul>
Resources Utilized	Budget for Maxcy events and residential programming.
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	

Goal Notes	

#### Goal 4 - A Global Community Destination

	Create a national destination community for students interested in global affairs,
Goal Statement	language acquisition, and cultural dialog.
Linkage to University	•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow
Goal	•Spurring Knowledge and Creation
	•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
	•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence
Alignment with Mission,	In its mission to develop global citizens for an increasingly interconnected world,
Vision, and Values	the Carolina International House aspires to become a national destination for
	instruction in foreign-languages, world history, and contemporary global issues.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	
Achievements	Maxcy residents have consistently shown great initiative and engagement, even beyond formal programming. The strength of Maxcy's group identity was evident in the one intramural sports team and extracurricular groups composed of Maxcy students (a soccer team, language tables, CGS committees), the number of international students who went home with American students during holidays and breaks, and the number of American students planning to visit international friends abroad. Maxcy and the Language Annex has received 104 applications from former
	residents hoping to return in 2019, further demonstrating a great sense of group identity and reaching our full capacity in the Language Annex.
	About a dozen Maxcy alumni visited the house throughout the semester, some of which made repeated return visits and participated in Maxcy programming regularly. Efforts to connect alumni via Facebook and LinkedIn are in progress.
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	

Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals for the International House at Maxcy College that are in progress for AY2019-2020.

Goal 1 - Connect with th	ne Faculty Principal
Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging
	interactions and connections with the Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University	•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow
Goal	•Spurring Knowledge and Creation
	•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
	<ul> <li>Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The Faculty Principal guides and communicates the mission and vision of the International House through direct interaction with residents, encourages student
	leadership, and supports intellectual pursuits in our community.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Maintain current initiatives which have been successful.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	Budget for lunches with Dr. Snyder
Goal Continuation	All of Dr. Snyder's activities will be continued in 2019-2020.
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

#### **Goal 1 - Connect with the Faculty Principal**

#### Goal 2 - Support Academic Attainment

Soal 2 - Support Acade	
Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The International House provides a supportive environment by promoting cross-cultural understanding within the College and across campus.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Maintain Language Tables for 8 languages.
	Host cluster dinners for each language table offered. Dinners are hosted by a professor from the prospective language to encourage small group interactions with students.
	Approximately \$6000 was awarded to students for Maxcy travel grants.
	Continued Magellan granting program.
	Over 32 USC faculty have accepted appointment as a Maxcy Faculty Fellow.
	Offer more career-oriented events and workshops for students that focus on resumes and professional development.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	Hired Graduate Assistant from Languages Department to coordinate Language Annex.
	Collaboration with Assignments to place roommates.
Goal Continuation	

Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

#### Goal 3 - Connect Students to USC

Goal Statement	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living/learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the university.
Linkage to University	•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow
Goal	•Spurring Knowledge and Creation
	•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
	<ul> <li>Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission,	The International House's integrated educational and social programming within
Vision, and Values	USC and the local community challenges residents to overcome traditional limitations of nation, culture, and language.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Encourage more students to take advantage of the mentorship of Maxcy Faculty Fellows.
	Continue Faculty Principal 1:1 recruiting of students into the Magellan program.
	Refer students as needed to academic support programs such as the Student Success Center and Writing Center.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	Budget for Maxcy events and residential programming.
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

#### Goal 4 - A Global Community Destination

Goal Statement	Create a national destination community for students interested in global affairs, language acquisition, and cultural dialog.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	In its mission to develop global citizens for an increasingly interconnected world, the Carolina International House aspires to become a national destination for instruction in foreign-languages, world history, and contemporary global issues.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	Continue to promote interest in our communities until we reach full subscription of both Maxcy and Thornwell. Further develop CGS and continue to recruit students. Further promote and develop the Language Annex and related language programming.
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	Aim for 100% of suites to have mix of international and domestic students.
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

Goals for the International House at Maxcy College that are slated for the upcoming year.

Goal 1 - Connect with the	ne Faculty Principal
Goal Statement	Enhance resident students' living and learning experience by encouraging interactions and connections with the Faculty Principal.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The Faculty Principal guides and communicates the mission and vision of the International House through direct interaction with residents, encourages student leadership, and supports intellectual pursuits in our community.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	Continue all previous programming initiatives. Increase engagement with Faculty Fellows. Host a Town Hall at the beginning of each semester to discuss expectations of each student, inform them of all the opportunities available in Maxcy, and get feedback on how things are going.
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

#### **Goal 1 - Connect with the Faculty Principal**

#### Goal 2 - Support Academic Attainment

Goal Statement	Provide supportive living and learning environments that promote academic attainment of resident students.
Linkage to University	•Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow
Goal	•Spurring Knowledge and Creation
	•Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities
	•Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence
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Alignment with Mission,	The International House provides a supportive environment by promoting
Vision, and Values	cross-cultural understanding within the College and across campus.
	closs cultural understanding within the conege and across campus.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	Further increase demand for Language Annex so that we can reach full
	subscription for next academic year.
	Add an additional language table so that we can maintain language tables for all 9
	languages offered at the university.
	Continue Maxcy travel grant and Magellan program.
	Desire a development comparing for Mayory in porticular to fund study, should trip
	Begin a development campaign for Maxcy, in particular to fund study abroad trips.
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

#### Goal 3 - Connect Students to USC

Goal Statement	Connect resident students to USC opportunities and activities both as part of the living/learning community and outside of the community to cultivate a sense of belonging with the university.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	The International House's integrated educational and social programming within USC and the local community challenges residents to overcome traditional limitations of nation, culture, and language.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	Strengthen Maxcy's residential programming and the Carolina Global Scholars program. Continue to co-sponsor events that will give our students exposure to events that they typically wouldn't know about.
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

#### Goal 4 - A Global Community Destination

Goal Statement	Create a national destination community for students interested in global affairs, language acquisition, and cultural dialog.
Linkage to University Goal	<ul> <li>Educating the Thinkers and Leaders of Tomorrow</li> <li>Spurring Knowledge and Creation</li> <li>Building Inclusive and Inspiring Communities</li> <li>Ensuring Institutional Strength, Longevity, and Excellence</li> </ul>
Alignment with Mission, Vision, and Values	In its mission to develop global citizens for an increasingly interconnected world, the Carolina International House aspires to become a national destination for instruction in foreign-languages, world history, and contemporary global issues.
Status	Progressing as expected (multi-year goal)
Action Plan	
Achievements	
Resources Utilized	
Goal Continuation	
Goal Upcoming Plans	Aim for 100% of suites to have mix of international and domestic students. Continue to maintain positive relationships with our alumni and increase their outreach within the building. Encourage all students to study abroad.
Resources Needed	
Goal Notes	

#### **Effective Programs or Initatives**

List your most effective programs/initiatives toward fulfillment of mission.

Maxcy Visiting Fellows Tea Time Culinary Quests Language Tables Maxcy Salons Maxcy Book Club Tastings

#### **Program Launches**

List any programs/initiatives that were newly launched during the Academic Year or any programs/initiatives you would like to launch in the coming year(s). Describe the program/initiatives, provide financial requirements (including additional staff), and Academic Year in which you would launch. What key performance indicators are you utilizing to track the success of this program?

Maxcy is hosting its first ever service trip this academic year. Residents of the International House will travel to Clarkston, GA known as the "Ellis Island of the South" for a day of service on March 30th. Students will work with refugee populations that have sought asylum in the US by volunteering with the City Hope Community organization that strives to mobilize individuals in taking up the care and cause of refugee families.

### **Program Rankings**

List any nationally ranked or external recognition during the Academic Year. For each, provide the formal name of the program followed by the name of the organization that issued the ranking, the date of notification, effective date range, and any other relevant information.

Our Carolina Global Scholars program was awarded NASPA's 2018 Best Practices in International Education for International Programming. Maxcy staff traveled to the NASPA International Symposium in Los Angeles, CA to accept the award and to gain more knowledge about best practices in international education.

# Community Engagement

## **Community Perceptions**

Describe how your unit assesses community perceptions of your engagement, and how the unit assesses the impact of community engagement on students, faculty, community and the institution. Provide specific findings.

Our unit has definitely increased our interactions with the community this academic year. We have partnered with several organizations in the Columbia area to co-sponsor an array of events and as a result have been able to connect our students with more opportunities in the community. Additionally, we have received greater exposure that has allowed us to get more people interested in our mission and the events that we host.

Outreach: Fall Visiting Fellow-Viet Max Spring Visiting Fellow-Thi Bui Passport Playlist Radio program Global Trotters:A Blog at the Carolina International House

Service Work: Maxcy Service Trip Carolina Global Scholars Columbia World Affairs Council committee Carolina Global Scholars Carolina Survivors Clinic committee Carolina Global Scholars Historic Columbia committee

#### **Internal Collaborations**

List your Unit's most significant collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are internal to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only. Fall & Spring Visiting Fellows (co-sponsorships from campus partners) Maxcy Language Tables (partner with Language Department program directors) Maxcy Faculty Fellows Program (many campus departments) Tea Time (with USC faculty guests) Maxcy Travel Grant (administered with OUR and Study Abroad) Global Scholars Program (partner with USC Connect and GLD Program) Carolina Global Scholars Rule of Law Collaborative Committee Carolina Global Scholars Passport Playlist Committee (partner with WUSC, USC Student Media) International Education Week Events in Maxcy (partner with ISS, Study Abroad, EPI) International Opportunity Fall Reception (partnered with the Walkr Institute, Global Studies department) Robert Smalls Lecture (partnered with the African American Studies department) Member of the #AllAboutUSC Diversity and Inclusion Week Advisory Committee Many departments across campus take advantage of Maxcy facilities, including our guest apartments that helps the university save money

#### **External Collaborations**

List your Unit's most significant collaborations and multidisciplinary efforts that are external to the University. Details should be omitted; list by name only.

Member of the Planning Committee for the 2020 Residential College Society Conference to be held at USC Carolina Global Scholars Columbia World Affairs Council Committee

Carolina Global Scholars Carolina Survivors Clinic Committee

Carolina Global Scholars Historic Columbia Committee

## **Campus Climate & Inclusion**

Activities the unit conducted that were designed to improve campus climate and inclusion.

International Education Week Events in Maxcy Fall Welcome event: Where in the World Are You From? Maxcy conversation: dialogue regarding race relations after a student opened up about personal incidents

# **Initiatives and Fees**

## Initatives

Describe any new initiatives your unit will need for the coming year.

#### Fees

List any new or changed fees that your unit has implemented or had to take on in the last academic year.

#### Weaknesses and Plans for Improvement

What is your unit struggling with? What plans do you have to overcome the weakness that you have faced in the next academic year.

One of our ongoing challenges is the lack of engagement from our international and exchange students. Although we feel that we offer comprehensive programs that are beneficial to all students, our international students seem to be the least involved. Next year, we are planning to host an additional orientation for international students so that they are aware of our expectations of them. We will also try to create programming that is more attractive to them considering that they typically differ from a first-year domestic student.

Another issue that we have had this year is recruitment of first-year students to live in our community. Without modern infrastructure and a specific academic focus, it has been hard to convince students of the educational benefits that students receive from living in Maxcy. With just a few moments with students at Admitted Students Day, we have to construct a recruitment plan that will allow us to reach more students. We have plans to make our website more welcoming and are creating better marketing handouts to distribute.

## **Key Issues**

Identify key issues or potential challenges your unit will encounter this coming year and the steps you plan on initiating.

A key issue for our community has been effectively communicating with our students. It has been difficult for us to disperse information to them and inform them of all of the wonderful opportunities available to them. Although we have a monthly newsletter, send weekly emails with event reminders, optimize our social media platforms, hang flyers around the building and post daily reminders on the white board, students still do not read our messages. We plan to meet with the Communications team to learn best practices and how to effectively communicate with students. We also hope to streamline communication by sending emails at the same time every week.

#### **Quantitative Outcomes**

Explain any surprises regarding data provided in the quantitative outcomes modules throughout this report.

169 events held during the Fall 2018 semester (to include weekly language tables and tea times)
96 events held during the Spring 2019 semester thus far
28 students enrolled in Maxcy U101 sections
34 students enrolled in Global Scholars
10 Global Scholars service committees
8 undergraduate students received travel grants
118 applications for students to return to Maxcy in 2019
101 members of resident Facebook page
164 members of alumni Facebook page
532 followers on Instagram
239 followers on Twitter

# **Cool Stuff**

Describe innovations, happy accidents, good news, etc. that occurred within your unit not noted elsewhere in your reporting.

A few students in our Carolina Global Scholars program are working to produce a Maxcy podcast that will highlight the global refugee crisis by sharing stories of refugees from across the world and in our local community.

All of the main stairwells in the building have been painted. Although led by our 2018 Visiting Fellow Viet Max, the painting of the stairwell was a student-centered event. The stairwell showcases the best of the state and university, including a portrait of President and First Lady Pastides. The third stairwell, led by a current Maxcy resident, resembles a deconstructed image of the globe surrounded by each country's national flower.

Qualitative data from our re-applications gives us a wealth of information about why students desire to return to Maxcy, as well as why they choose to apply when they have never lived here.

#### A few standout responses from returning students (Maxcy Alumni):

"I have lived at Maxcy for 1.5 years at USC (greetings from Paris!). It has been the best time of my life. Maxcy

has presented me with opportunities to be involved in ways that I've never been involved anywhere else on campus. Planning events for and living with people from all the world has broadened my horizons in so many ways. Now that I've studied abroad, I can't wait to bring my experiences and language acquisitions back to Maxcy. I couldn't imagine living anywhere else at USC."

"Even after only half of a semester, I have fallen in love with the Maxcy college community. Being able to live around so many unique people and gain a more cultured perspective on everything I do has been such an adventure. I may not be of a major or discipline that would typically relate to this global learning themed residence hall, but it has still taught me so much. I also have never travelled before and one of the reasons I chose USC was for the study abroad program, which I plan to take advantage of my junior year, but until I get to go abroad I can still immerse myself in other cultures just by having a conversation with someone who lives next door. And with the amazing events, such as tea time with the Greek ambassador, I just have overall had such a joy for living here. This led to me becoming a Maxcy Ambassador as I strongly encourage other people to apply and live at the International House and would love to continue to be a part of that program next year if I receive the honor of living here again next year."

"I am from Irvine, California. That is roughly 2,400 miles away from the University of South Carolina. Coming to the university was a big change, and presented me with a culture shock. I choose to live in Maxcy because it had similarities to my home town while still able to push me outside my comfort zone. Maxcy has provided me with a platform to learn, with people to learn from, and with opportunities to grow. Each semester Maxcy changes with the different groups of people that move in and out of its rooms, and I want to spend as much time living in the International House as I can. This way I can expose myself to as much as possible. Maxcy is unique, the environment here is one I have yet to find elsewhere on the campus. I love how I have already made connections with the students, resident mentors, and the staff. I feel a part of a community and I would be sad to not be a part of it again. And even though I am from the United States, I sometimes feel like I am also from a different country, and I enjoy connecting with people who have similar experiences."