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Panel 1.4: Language, Literacy, and Education

Building an East Asian Program in an Unlikely Location

In 2005, the University of North Georgia offered no classes in East Asian languages. In August 2018, UNG will unveil a B.A. in East Asian Studies with three concentrations: Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. This presentation will explore the ways and means that UNG brought together faculty and administrators, in response to student interest, to develop, create, and implement individual language programs in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese, initially, and then how these programs combined with other disciplines like Anthropology, Art, Film, Geography, History, Literature, Philosophy, and Political Science to bring about a new undergraduate program in a region of the United States not usually associated with East Asian Studies. This presentation will consider the role of the faculty in developing the curriculum, the role of administrators in securing external and internal resources, and the role of staff in recruiting students and developing overseas partnerships.