Development of Korean Studies at Indiana University

1961 Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL) is created.

1965 EALL begins offering instruction in Korean.

1970 East Asian Studies Program (EASP) is established to work with EALL to develop curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students.

1975 EASP and EALL merge to become the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC), which expands area studies and language instruction and provides for interdisciplinary hires with other departments.

Roger Janelli is hired by Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology and EALC; specializes in Korean culture and social organization, East Asian ethnography, and Korean religion and identity.

1979 East Asian Studies Center (EASC) opens as a federally-funded Title VI National Resource Center for East Asian studies.

1981 EASC becomes independent of EALC.

EASC director Philip West sets in motion the Korean initiative at IU, with EASC providing financial support for Korean language instruction.

1983 Society of Friends of Korean Studies (SOFOKS) is created, under leadership of Heun Y. Yune, Professor of Radiology at the IU School of Medicine; first fundraising campaign generates $6,875 in support of Korean studies.

1984 IU establishes undergraduate exchange program with Yonsei University.

1985 East Asian Summer Language Institute (EASLI) is established with instruction in Korean, Chinese, and Japanese; held every summer until 1999; SOFOKS provides scholarships to Korean language students.

1986 Kenneth Wells is hired by EALC as IU’s first historian of Korea; also teaches Korean language courses; serves as the new associate director for Korean studies at EASC.

1987 George Wilson becomes director of EASC.

Korea Research Foundation awards EASC $16,000; used to expand collection of Korean library materials.
1989  “Korea’s Minjung Movement: A Conference on the Development of Populist Nationalism in Modern Korea” is held at IU; draws participants from around the world.

Partial academic-year SOFOKS Graduate Fellowship for Korean Studies is established; awarded annually.

1993  Hyo Sang Lee is hired as assistant professor and Korean language coordinator in EALC; specializes in Korean linguistics, pedagogy, and comparative study of East Asian languages.

1994  Full academic-year SOFOKS Graduate Fellowship for Korean Studies is established; awarded annually.

Kenneth Wells accepts position at Australian National University.

1995  Michael Robinson is hired as associate professor of Korean history in EALC; specializes in cultural and political history of 20th-century Korea.

1999  Hyo Sang Lee is promoted to associate professor.

2002  Jeffrey Wasserstrom becomes director of EASC.

Michael Robinson is promoted to full professor.

2003  College of Arts and Sciences begins providing full fee remission to SOFOKS Graduate Fellowship recipients.

2006  Indiana University becomes part of five-member consortium including Columbia University, George Washington University, Stanford University, and the University of British Columbia that hosts Korean NGO leaders for year-long sabbaticals through the POSCO TJ Park Foundation NGO Fellowship Program.

Heidi Ross becomes director of EASC.

2007  Roger Janelli retires.

2008  The position seeded by a Title VI grant, EALC assistant professor Heon Joo Jung hired; specializes in Korean and East Asian political economy, politics of economic and financial reform, and comparative politics.

SOFOKS celebrates its 25th anniversary, with more than $190,000 contributed by members since 1983.

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Korean Studies Faculty Publications


