Introduction to the Department of English, Aletheia University Tamsui Campus

In 1965, the former Tamsui Oxford College located on a scenic hillside above Tamsui port, opened as a three-year college with nine departments based on a western-curricula model. One of these departments, the Department of Business and Secretarial Sciences, offered both business-related and English language courses to students who were interested in studying English in preparation for careers in international trade and business. In addition to business English, students were required to take additional English courses such as Freshman English, English Translation, English Composition and Conversation, and English Grammar. Many students in the department demonstrated their proficiency in English and won numerous awards nationwide in English language speech contests.

After twenty-nine years, when the college was upgraded to a four-year institution, the Department of Business and Secretarial Sciences closed; however the "Committee for English Teaching and Research" continued to operate smoothly with fully qualified and experienced full-time English language instructors. As a result, one year later in 1995, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature with Japanese and English courses opened its doors to a new class of in-coming students.

During the following years, Tamsui College graduates who applied for English teaching jobs informed the college administration that they were often required to provide additional proof of their specialization in English. Consequently, the name of the department was revised. With the needs of Taiwan's developing international market and economy foremost in mind, the English and Japanese courses were divided into separate language departments; therefore the English division appeared under a new name, the Department of English Language and Literature. In 2006, while applying to the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the new department name, a clerical

error omitting a certain Chinese character caused the name to become the of English and American Literature." The mistake was corrected and the name today the Department of English.

The first department chairperson was appointed in 1973. Dr. Chuan-Chung Lin, a renowned linguist who earned his doctorate from the University of New Mexico, served from August 1, 1973 to July 31, 1976. Succeeding chairpersons are Dr. Ji-Gwei Loa who served from August 1, 1976 to July 31, 1977; Chang-Nien Wang who served from August 1, 1977 to July 31, 1982; Grace C. C. Hsu who served from August 1, 1982 to July 31, 1988; Dr. Tex Lin who served the longest term as chairman from August 1, 1988 to July 31, 2009 (21 years); and Dr. Jane Lee from August 1, 2009 to the present.

The Department of English offers 50 courses covering a wide variety of language areas and skills, of which 25 courses are taught in English. Students may enroll in eight courses related to spoken and oral English; eight courses related to grammar and composition; and select from eight courses related to literature; five courses related to culture; five courses related to translation; three courses related to tourism; or seven courses related to teaching; among others.

Students graduating from the Department of English look forward to many opportunities in higher education or prospects for career employment. Students who desire to study abroad may apply to master degree programs offered at sister universities of Aletheia University in the United States, United Kingdom, and Japan. Students wishing to enter a profession after graduation have an excellent opportunity to enter various fields including education, tourism, business, translation, and international trade. As a result of its diversity, the Department of English has maintained a consistent enrollment while at the same time preserving high standards.

Serious students with intellectual potential and academic promise feel challenged and excited to be an English major at Aletheia University.

The organization of the Department of English is student-centered. The department office is always open to accommodate student inquiries and needs. Devoted teachers keep regular office hours for advising and counseling students. Frequently, teachers communicate with students through email and Internet blogs. Teaching materials are targeted toward student interests in popular culture and media such as news, music, and movies. Department classrooms are equipped with e-podiums and other audio-visual equipment to support up-to-date teaching methods. Also teachers in the department are involved in academic research, conferences, and/or doctoral programs. Furthermore, the department encourages qualified teachers to devote additional time to student extracurricular activities such as field trips and play performances. The Department of English faculty takes an interest in the holistic development of students to encourage them to make healthy personal decisions as well as deepen their sense of social justice and the need for human compassion.

There are altogether twenty-one faculty members in the department, ten of whom hold a Ph.D. The department full-time faculty includes Dr. Jane Lee, Chair; Dr. Tex Lin; Emily H.H. Tsai; Dr. Ming-Rong He; Dr. Max Wu; Dr. Robert Lantin; Brenda Ya-Lin Chen, Dr. Yi-Ting Su; Dr. Ya-Ju Yeh, Dr. Shu-Mei Chiang; Dr. Stella Shu-Chin Su; and Dylan Black. The department part-time faculty includes Charles Zhu, Mao-Lin Chou, Yu-Ching Fu, Tsi-Ling Huang, Sing-An Lee, Jing-Hong Chen, Mei-Chen Su, Sam Pearson, and Dr. Llyn Scott.

The Department of English is a leader in foreign language teaching and cross-cultural studies. In July 2012, the Sixth Aletheia University International Conference on Foreign Language Teaching and Cross-Cultural Studies was organized and hosted by the Department of English in cooperation with the Department of

Japanese. Over twenty local and international scholars participate annually in these conferences, including scholars from Canada, China, Japan, Philippines, and the United States. Conference sessions are open to students and teachers. Research papers on innovative teaching methods, globalization, linguistic theories, as well as literary analysis are among the many topics presented. Currently, two Department of English faculty members are completing a doctorate in English language fields such as Interpretation and Translation. The Department of English emphasizes teaching excellence, up-to-date research, and continuing professional development among faculty members to provide the best learning environment for English majors. As a result, not only are Department of English students well-informed about the latest employment opportunities and fields for further study, but teachers with professional knowledge are ready to provide expert advice and career counseling.

Besides, the English Department offers the Service and Community Innovation program. Since 2009, special courses have initiated a Community Outreach Partnership with the Tamsui Public Library and the Tamsui Cultural Elementary School; therefore students enjoy a hands-on teaching service experience and at the same time develop a sense of responsibility and their leadership skills.

Department of English at Aletheia University
Academic Goals, Core Values, and Basic Competencies

Vision and Mission

The pursuit of “truth, love, and service” represents the core values of Aletheia University; therefore, the Department of English aims to cultivate English professionals equipped with the educational qualities of responsible intelligence and community consciousness through “humble, humane, and humorous” pedagogy and personal philosophy.

Goals and Objectives

1. To develop communication skills with a firm foundation in English language proficiency
2. To instill the appreciation and understanding of British and American literature
3. To provide specific preparation for English language employment opportunities
4. To cultivate international perspectives through the humanities and liberal arts
5. To promote enthusiasm for community service and teamwork through English language programs

Core Competencies/Expertise	Ability Indices
1.Basic English language skills and practical English language proficiency	1.Proficiency in spoken and written English communication
2.Knowledge and appreciation of British and American literature	2. Understanding of literature in English
3. Basic linguistic knowledge and English language pedagogy	3. Competency in English language teaching
4. Cross-cultural perspective and logical thinking	4.Application of global perspectives to cultural diversity
5. Attitudes of team work and service	5.Dedication to service and responsible leadership

Career Opportunities

Higher Education: Graduates are encouraged to apply to domestic and foreign research institutes or affiliated universities abroad for advanced studies in English language and other fields.

Employment Opportunities: Graduates are encouraged to apply their English communication proficiency to engage in careers such as:

(1) Education and cultural sectors: English language teachers, editors, reporters, language consultants, translators, arts and culture management, and creative industry personnel among many others.

(2) Trade and business management sectors: public relations, foreign secretaries, overseas purchasing, international customer service, corporation foreign personnel, and other leading fields.

(3) Tourism industry sectors: tour guides, interpreters, flight attendants, travel agents, international hotel reception staff, and other professions.

Many extracurricular department events are planned each year to give students more opportunities to make new friends and enjoy their university life. The Student Association (SA) organizes exciting activities throughout the year including the Freshman Fall Camp outing that features the Haunted House night, Singing Contest, and the English Playlet Contest. In Addition, every year the senior class performs a graduation play selected from well-know dramas and musicals and directed by an experienced faculty member. It's always a memorable evening of free dramatic entertainment all in English, and students and teachers attend the performances.

In keeping with the department curriculum design to integrate English language learning with other fields and student interests, the annual play performances offer various outlets in which students can practice their English language skills. The play production involves real-life qualities such as interpretation, language fluency, physical coordination, mental acuity, leadership, emotional maturity, cultural sensitivity, empathy, long-range planning, decision-making skills, management, creativity, arts appreciation, and numerous other interpersonal communication skills.

The list of past and upcoming department plays includes these famous titles:

1998 *Arms and the Man*, George Bernard Shaw

1999 *Salome*, Oscar Wilde

2000 *Deirdre,* J. M. Synge

2001 *Lysistrata,* Aristophanes

2002 *Some Like It Hot*, Tennessee Williams

2003 *Arsenic and Old* Lace, Joseph Kesselring

2005 *Bell, Book, and Candle*, John van Druten

2006 *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

2007 *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Tim Rice

2008 *Man of La Mancha*, Dale Wasserman

2009 *Sweeney Todd,* Stephen Sondheim

2010 *Skin of Our Teeth,* Thornton Wilder

2011 *Ann Frank and Me,* Cherie Bennett and Jeff Gottesfeld

2012 *Chicago,* John Kander, Fred Ebb, and Bob Fosse

2013 *Once Upon a Deserted Island,* Carlo Goldoni

2014 *Dream of Queen Esther,* Walter Ben Hare

The Department of English office is busy every day and owes a lot to faithful assistants who managed department affairs over the years including Joseph Li, Erica Wu, Monica Yang, Teresa Chen, Nova Lu, and Anina Chang, current department secretarial assistant. For further information, please see the department webpage: http://hl001.epage.au.edu.tw