

MY SECOND UNIVERSITY: Anadolu University

Dr. Serpil ALPTEKIN

Anadolu University, Faculty of Open Education

Graduate of the Media and Communication Program

Reported by Res. Asst. Güzde YILMAZDOGAN

Translated by Harun SERPIL

Anadolu University

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We have just received a letter of appreciation from Dr. Serpil ALPTEKIN, who has just graduated from Anadolu University, Faculty of Open Education, Media and Communication Program. She expresses her great satisfaction with the Open Education system.

We would like to share it with our readers.

After working as a doctor for 24 years, retiring felt like being reborn. Being able to spend time on myself and on my hobbies such as sports, photography, reading, traveling felt like a second spring, especially after my stressful career, which was recently extra stressful due to my administrative responsibilities? Yet, you cannot get enough of it when you are full with the love of reading and learning. During one of my trips through Turkey, my dear

friend Göksel ALTINIŞIK excitedly told me about the "second university" opportunity offered by Anadolu University Faculty of Open Education. He himself is both a student in the OE and a professor, and as he knows me well, he knew how much I would enjoy being a student in this program.

Being able to get education again without having to intensively prepare for the central university exam was a tremendous opportunity for me. Browsing through the offered programs took me back in time and reminded me of my youth. I was an honor student at Bornova Anadolu High School. My mom and dad dreamed of me becoming a doctor. But I had always wanted to become a sports journalist during my secondary school years, and this was at a time when women used to be very rare in press, let alone sports journalism. It was caused a big stir when I told my dad in my senior year at high school that I wanted to major in literature instead of science because I wanted to study at the vocational school of journalism. My dad's high blood pressure was parallel to the high tension felt at home. But when I lost my dad in that year, I put my dreams aside and chose Medicine school over my dreams. This is how Anadolu University made those dreams that I had to leave behind a reality. I remembered a retired psychiatrist that I had met years ago in London. She was quite energetic for her age, and she had told me about her second

university that she was studying in at the time, and the social organizations that she was an active member of, which made me think about the situation in Turkey, the way people fall in a void and aimlessness after they retire. I remember how envious of her I felt listening to her. She told me about how she was a much more informed and mindful student in her second university. Of course, I did not know then that Anadolu University would open the door for this aspiration of mine. I now recall enrolling at the Media and Communication Program of AU and excitedly buying my textbooks when I went back to Izmir.

I experienced the same excitement before the beginning of each semester. The courses really interested me. Reading the textbooks, especially some chapters, was very enjoyable. The suggested books, internet sites, and the new knowledge paved the way for opening new windows in my thinking. Also, the books we had for the courses were worth saving and reading again, which is not normally the case for every textbook. Obviously, as a well-established institution, Anadolu University Faculty of Open Education offers a highly systematic and quality education.



However, regarding the personal transformation created by the university life, I believe distance education still has some negative aspects. Further, I think that especially for undergraduate studies, various face-to-face applications and online assignment presentations are definitely necessary. I was really honored to be invited to the commencement ceremony. It was a real reward for pulling all those nights of cramming before the exams. Visiting the campus and breathing its atmosphere has really impressed me as well. Anadolu University will always have a special place in my life. I am already excited about planning to enroll in a new program. But this time, I want to visit here more often and have a closer communication with the campus. After all, I have not studied all these communication courses for nothing, have I?

Dr. Serpil ALPTEKIN

Anadolu University, Faculty of Open Education

Graduate of the 2015 class in the Media and Communication Program