

# Greetings to Ragnhild

## **Ragnhild Lund – a Dame of English didactics!**

Ragnhild is a much loved teacher and a highly productive researcher. On a more personal note, I am deeply grateful for her generous support for my own work and writings, and I have often admired the enthusiasm with which she welcomes other, younger colleagues into the field. As she herself said when we interviewed her for our chapter in this book, she has belonged to the generation that could freely develop their academic and professional career based on what they believed to be most important and most interesting. Ragnhild has a real eye for where the subject is going, and where our attention should be. Here's hoping she remains active in academia for many years to come, as a benchmark writer in intercultural language issues and as an inspiration and guide in the field of English didactics.

*Juliet (Munden)*

Dear Ragnhild,

I have two special fond memories. The first is driving with you from Newcastle airport to the first meeting in Durham which became the beginning of our friendship. The other is just a few years ago when we met at the conference in Trondheim and took a walk together up the hill to the ruins. On both occasions we talked about our families – a strong reminder that our academic lives are not the only ones. I wish you a wonderful retirement with your family and whatever else the future holds for you.

*Mike (Byram)*

Dear Ragnhild,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your invaluable contributions to the research field of English didactics over all these

years. On a more personal note, your PhD thesis on culture and context in English language textbooks served as a great inspiration to me when I embarked on my PhD studies in 2012. Some years later, you acted as an opponent during my dissertation defence, and due to your ability to balance positive feedback with critical and insightful questions, this became a very rewarding experience that I look back on with fond memories to this day. Thank you! Wishing you all the best in your retirement – it is well deserved.

Kind regards,  
*Hild (Elisabeth Hoff)*

Dear Ragnhild,  
As a newcomer to Norway, I greatly appreciated your warm welcome and friendly introduction to Nordic perspectives. Thank you for your spirit of collaboration and generous sharing of insights into Norwegian teacher education. I am looking forward to many more meetings.

*Janice (Bland)*

Dear Ragnhild  
As a colleague, you have always looked after us as a group, whether it be through providing excellent feedback on our research, showing interest in our welfare or baking cupcakes for our seminars. Thank you for being so open-minded, straightforward, quick-witted and inclusive. You have really set a high standard on how to be a unique combination of a compassionate academic and fellow human being! All the best for the future!

Warm regards,  
*Gro-Anita (Myklevold) and Heike (Speitz)*

Dear Ragnhild,  
No single person in Norway has had more impact on my research, teaching and supervision than you, Ragnhild. This influence stretches all the way back to your doctoral dissertation, which was both eye-opening and path-paving, and helped me to develop my own field in intercultural

learning and images. I have also been inspired by your style of scholarship and mentoring. In questioning or evaluating, you show genuine curiosity, and your rigor is blended with encouragement and a desire to lift up the work of others. In this you demonstrate the spirit of a true teacher.

With immense gratitude,  
*Jena (Habegger-Conti)*

Dear Ragnhild,

On behalf of the University of South-Eastern Norway library, I would like to thank you for your collaboration. We have had the great pleasure of working with you over many years. Active patrons influence and improve the library's collections and services. A university library does not operate alone; it needs good liaisons in faculties and departments to develop and flourish. In you we have had an interested and engaged partner. We pride ourselves on having you as a friend of our university library.

*Kristin Østerholt (head librarian, University of South-Eastern Norway library, campus Vestfold)*

Dear Ragnhild,

You were in fact part of the scientific committee when I applied to work at Høgskolen i Buskerud in 2007. Since then, our university colleges have merged, and we have been close colleagues the last 7–8 years. It has been a pleasure. You're easy to get in touch with, both for colleagues and students. I'd like to thank you for your sincerity, professionalism, and encouragement, Ragnhild! Wish you all the best with your future endeavors!

*Tony (Burner)*

Dear Ragnhild,

You have been a wonderfully generous colleague as well as friend to us since we first came to Vestfold. Whether popping by to ask for advice, vent frustration, or simply share a nice experience, you have always met us with a warm smile, genuine interest and lots and lots of good humour. We hope that you enjoy your retirement as much as you have enjoyed your

work, and that we keep seeing each other to share more good moments together.

All best,

*Maria (Casado Villanueva) and Christian (Carlsen)*

Dear Ragnhild,

You are a guiding force in English language teacher education in Norway, Ragnhild! You meet teachers with such honest respect, while encouraging them to learn and grow. Your mentorship and collaboration inspired me to believe that I had something worthy to contribute. Thank you for your genuine support and for your endless contributions to the field!

Most sincerely,

*Theresé (Tishakov)*

Dear Ragnhild,

Thank you for being such a wonderful colleague and section leader! I genuinely appreciate you. I've known you for about a year, but I feel like I've known you for ages. I'll always remember the snowdrops on 1 March, your encouraging smile and uplifting words, and the fact that you've called me a linguist! I hope you have a lovely retirement, and that we can keep collaborating in some shape or form.

*Delia (Schipor)*

Dear Ragnhild,

Thank you for your guidance and support during our first years at USN. Your straightforwardness is refreshing and guides us in the right direction. You are always interested in what we are up to, which makes us feel very welcome and appreciated.

- Thank you for trusting me with your KfK students; I've had a great time teaching that course.
- Thank you for giving honest feedback on my gaming article, I hope it's easier to read now!

We hope to one day possess the same kind of knowledge as yours.

All the best,

*Viktoria (Sjolie) and Sara (Barosen Liverød)*

Dear Ragnhild,

I feel happy and privileged to know you and work with you. You are truly inspirational. I wish you the best of everything in the future.

*Asli (Lidice Göktürk Saglam)*

Dear Ragnhild,

You are a role model and an inspiration to the entire academic community: knowledgeable, adept, creative, diligent, and always well-prepared. What really makes you stand out, however, is your love, care and support for fellow colleagues as well as your ability to build a great working environment. Seeing you retire now is like watching a parent leave: Who is going to fill your shoes?

*Henrik (Bøhn)*

Dear Ragnhild,

During the past decade you have been my colleague, my superior and my PhD advisor. The latter role is often referred to as a supervisor, but the term advisor is closer to how you conducted this role. I have learnt a lot from you on many levels. Whenever I have submitted a manuscript, you have been a true critical friend. Nine times out of ten, your feedback inspires me to once again have a go at those dreaded revisions. The tenth time, even if I am sure that you must have misunderstood my excellent writing, it turns out that you were right after all. “Keep it simple” is one of your mantras, and whenever I am writing, I can hear your voice in my head. As a writer you excel at making complex issues comprehensible to your readers, an ability which the rest of us can only seek to emulate.

I believe another mantra of yours may be “Keep calm and carry on”. As a first-year PhD student, you told me that I had to learn to live with chaos. Being a busy academic who willingly takes on responsibility when needed, in addition to being a mother of four, must have given you plenty of practice in this respect. You are aware that life does not always turn out as planned and

exercise your tolerance of ambiguity when required. Your calm demeanour and long experience are qualities I greatly appreciated as your PhD student. You are also very humble and repeatedly offered to step aside should I find a more suitable advisor. Luckily, this was a piece of advice I did not follow!

I secretly admire your career in a feminist band, and think you are one tough chick! Many a time, I have enjoyed your hospitality and excellent cooking, and, in the years to come, I hope we will still share the odd glass of wine and discuss the state of the world!

*Sissil (Lea Heggernes)*

Dear Ragnhild,

After slowly taking in that you are in fact retiring from your work as an English teacher educator at the end of this term, I happily accepted the invitation to contribute to a Festschrift in your honour. A while ago now, you and I decided to co-author a book for pre-service and in-service teachers, introducing them to the basics of English language structure. With chapters on vocabulary, grammar, phonology, and varieties of English, our book *English for Teachers and Learners* was the concrete result of our ambition. We shared the question, “What do they need to know?” as our guiding principle. Of course, the writing process was not entirely without challenges, and we did not always agree on different language phenomena, but we made it! And our editor said she really enjoyed listening to our arguments over content and wordings. Our textbook, now in its second edition, is used as a set text in many English courses in initial and further teacher education. I truly appreciated and took your insightful feedback to heart along the way. It was always to the point, helpful, and contributed to making our text accessible to our target readers.

It turned out we had some things in common in our private lives: four children, and mothers with careers as classical singers. The sad thing now is that the two of us never found the opportunity to sing that duet together. Be that as it may, please accept all my best and thankful wishes for the years to come, Ragnhild!

Musically yours,

*Mona (Flognfeldt)*