

Knut Sydsæter

Until he passed away on the 29th of September, Knut Sydsæter, in his 75th year, was vigorously active with book projects and other activities. He was employed at the Department of Economics from 1965 until he retired and became a professor emeritus in 2007.

Not only was he an outstanding lecturer in mathematics, he also had great consideration for his students and an enormous enthusiasm for his subject. He was always available to those who needed help, and he gave extra instruction in class and in his office when he felt it was necessary.

Through his textbooks Knut reached far beyond the University of Oslo. The books have repeatedly appeared in new editions and have been translated into more than ten languages.

Knut was also involved in the teaching at other academic institutions, especially in Africa and other parts of the third world. He contributed methods and materials of instruction, and he also took part in the teaching. A colleague from Zimbabwe writes "I think that he contributed more than any other person to developing a generation of well-educated Zimbabwean economists". Now, in the middle of October, he was going to be in Mexico to hold a seminar about teaching mathematics for economists.

Knut made strict demands on himself in everything he did; he never made compromises about quality. He was very conscientious in everything, from grading – or making – exam papers to writing books. And he had an enormous capacity for work, which was exploited throughout long working days. He followed the economics students at the Department of Economics closely, and invested a lot of effort in ensuring that the teaching they received was optimally adapted to them. To reach this goal he was constantly concerned with trying out changes in the methods of instruction.

We, his colleagues, will miss a professional support and an unusually pleasant and companionable person, with standards that motivated all the rest of us.

Our thoughts today go to his family.

*Atle Seierstad,
Arne Strøm*