

# 1973

## Dr. Edward J. Czerwinski

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*Class of 1951*



Dr. Edward Czerwinski was professor of Slavic languages and literatures and director of the Slavic Program at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Czerwinski's area of specialization was drama and theatre and comparative literature. He published widely on the literatures of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. In 1970, he founded and later directed the Slavic Center in Port Jefferson, the first cultural center in the United States devoted to all Slavic cultures. Since opening, the Center produced 15 American premieres of Slavic and Eastern European works. He edited the *The Slavic and East European Theatre and Drama Journal*.

Private foundations and inter-university travel grants gave him the opportunity to study in Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. His teaching experiences include Georgia Tech, McNeese State College, University of Pittsburgh, SUNY Buffalo, University of Kansas and SUNY Stony Brook. He wrote several plays, two of which were produced off Broadway. Translations of Slavic plays also were produced in theatres off Broadway. A later publication, *The Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia*, was published in 1972. He contributed a chapter to the book, *The Cry of Home*, titled "The Soviet Dream: Nationalism in Soviet Prose Fiction."

The award recipient chaired the SUNY Wide Committee on Academic Programs for Eastern Europe and organized an exchange program with Poland. He coordinated an overseas program for the SUNY faculty on Soviet and Eastern European programs.

Throughout the 1970s and 80s, Czerwinski brought Slavic and East European music to these shores. In the 1980s, Czerwinski formed SEEARTS Management to handle the recording of his musical artists; he also recorded albums for his SEEARTS Records label. In 1985, he was awarded "Man of the Year in Culture and Arts" by the American Council of Polish Cultural Clubs, and in 1986, was named "Man of the Year in Culture" by the American Council of Polish Arts Leagues of America. Czerwinski moved from Manhattan to Erie in September 2003.

He passed away Feb. 16, 2005.

*Additional degrees: Master's degree, Penn State University; Master's degree, University of Wisconsin; Ph.D., University of Wisconsin*

*Additional study: Emory University, Georgia; Indiana University*