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# NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

## EASTERN GRADUATES TO BE HONORED AT DEDICATION

CHARLESTON, Ill. – Three Eastern Illinois University graduates will be honored Thursday, Oct. 23, as a result of gifts made by them, or in their memory, to the “Taking Care of Business” campaign.

Don and Mary (Hartke) Gher of Bellevue, Wash., and the late James Price will be honored at a dedication ceremony at 4 p.m. Thursday at the Lumpkin Hall Courtyard. Price’s family will be in attendance, as will alum Dwight Kensil of San Diego, Calif., who made the memorial for Price possible.

The ceremony was planned in anticipation of EIU’s Homecoming and Foundation weekend so that these alums could enjoy visiting with other former classmates and friends.

Donations to the campaign, which began when Eastern’s Lumpkin Hall was being constructed, generated financial support for instruction and programs needed for Eastern’s School of Business. Three faculty offices are being dedicated in honor of the Gher and in memory of Price as a result of donations.

“These alums wanted to dedicate a room to support the School of Business,” said Jacqueline Joines, director of development for the Lumpkin College of Business and Applied Sciences.

Price, a 1974 and 1977 graduate, was originally from Elmhurst, and held an undergraduate degree in business education and a graduate degree in education. He later earned a Ph.D. from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale.

Price served as the EIU Delta Chi chapter advisor for 17 years prior to his death in a car accident in 2000. He was the assistant superintendent of Mt. Zion schools at the time of his passing, and had previously served as mayor of Mt. Zion for two terms, becoming the youngest mayor to be elected in Illinois. He was a member of several professional organizations state-wide, including Phi Beta Lambda and the Illinois Business Education Association.

His memorial is being made possible through a gift from EIU Delta Chi alumnus Dwight Kensil, a 1981 finance major hailing from Decatur. Kensil is senior director of strategic partnerships for Ericsson, Inc., in San Diego.

Don Gher, a 1973 graduate, is originally from Allendale, Ill., and holds a degree in marketing. He is managing director and chief investment officer with Coldstream Capital Management, a comprehensive wealth management services company that caters to high net worth private clients and their families.

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He is a former member of the EIU Business Advisory Board, and is a current member of the EIU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Gher is a chartered financial analyst and was one of only 81 CFA's worldwide to be awarded the first Association for Investment Management and Research 15 Year Certificate.

Gher also will be receiving the 2003 EIU School of Business Distinguished Alumnus Award at a private dinner following the dedication ceremony.

Mary Hartke Gher, a 1973 EIU graduate, is originally from Dieterich, Ill., and holds a degree in special education. She taught special education and learning disabilities for several years before retiring in 1982. Mrs. Gher now enjoys her time as a gourmet cook, is an avid reader and volunteers for various school programs.

The Ghers have two daughters, Lindsay Meyer and Courtney Gher.