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## William S. Marras Earns Honorary Doctorate for Back Injury Research

WATERLOO, ONTARIO - Professor William Marras, the Honda Chair in Ergonomics and Co-Director of Ohio State's Institute for Ergonomics, was presented with a Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) at the University of Waterloo's fall 2004 convocation.

Dr. Marras's research, whose work most recently has linked design with the causes and prevention of work-related low back injuries, has found that certain types of people are more apt to incur injuries than others, even though they are performing identical tasks. His research has led to safer workplaces and improved the health of workers.

Marras gave the convocation address to graduates during the convocation. The University of Waterloo is one Canada's premier academic institutions and is known for research in spine biomechanics. In his address, Dr. Marras advised Waterloo graduates on how to pursue greatness in their new careers. He stated that most new advances are coming at the intersections of traditional fields, so forming interdisciplinary partnerships is essential.

**William S. Marras, PhD, CPE** earned his PhD from Wayne State University in 1982. He is a professor in Ohio State's Industrial, Welding & Systems Engineering Department and also Director of the OSU Biodynamics Laboratory. His research focuses on understanding and correcting the causes of occupational stress on the human body. Dr. Marras has not only uncovered new physical and psychological factors that lead to back injury, he has advanced the field with his invention of the Lumbar Motion Monitor (LMM), the first and only device that measures in 3D back motions at the work site that are associated with greater risk of occupationally related low back disorders. Researchers around the world use the LMM to quantify exactly how back injuries happen.



Pictured (L to R): **Mike Lazaridis** (co-CEO of Research In Motion and "father of the Blackberry"); **William Marras** (The Ohio State University); **Stuart McGill** (University of Waterloo Professor and Kinesiology Department Chair); and **David Johnston** (President of the University of Waterloo).