## Thummel's research aids transplant patients

oise State has produced its share of worldclass scientists. When seeking a classic example, look no further than University of Washington clinical pharmacologist Kenneth Thummel (BS, premed/biology 78, chemistry '81).



After his schooling

at Boise State, Thummel went on to earn a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science from UW in 1987. After he completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Connecticut Health Science Center, where he studied the structure and function of the drug metabolizer cytochrome P450, he returned to Washington in 1989 as a faculty member.

"When someone takes an Advil for a headache, for instance, P450 breaks it down to metabolites that can be excreted from the body," Thummel explains. Most of the time drug metabolism is beneficial, he says, but sometimes it is not.

When Thummel started his research, he was studying Tylenol toxicity. Working with colleagues at Washington, he discovered that alcohol ingestion could modify the activity of P450, converting the drug into a potentially livertoxic metabolite. Package labeling for Tylenol now warns against this combination.

Thummel has concentrated his research on the immune suppressors (IS) given to organ transplantation recipients. The correct dosage of the IS drugs is important so that the patient doesn't reject an implanted organ or suffer kidney damage. His research could have longstanding effects across the medical spectrum.

Thummel is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. and an associate editor for Drug Metabolism and Disposition.

Boise State pride runs deep in the Thummel household; Ken's wife Peggy (BBA, businesscomputer science '86), is also a graduate. The Thummels have a son and two daughters.

- Bob McDiarmid

lies by the Nevada Press Association in 1997. He was employed as a reporter for the Battle Mountain Bugle in Nevada at the time of the

PATTY LEE NEAVILL, BS, physical education/secondary education, '91, was recently named secondary school teacher of the year for the Nampa School District. Neavill, an eighthgrade science teacher, has taught at West Middle School for seven years.

VALERIE J. (MEAD) ROBERT-SON, BS, chemistry, '91, recently joined Micron as a technical editor. She resides in Boise.

THOMAS W. THOMSON, BBA, finance, '91, has joined Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center as chief operating officer. Thomson comes to EIRMC from Delta County Memorial Hospital in Delta, Colo. Before that, he was CEO at Colorado Plains Medical Center in Fort Morgan. He holds a master's in health administration from Washington University in St. Louis.

M. SEAN O'BRIEN, BS, physics, '92, has accepted a

position as associate research scientist and lecturer in the astronomy depart-



O'Brien

ment at Yale University, where he will teach and continue his research on the structure and physics of stars. After completing his Ph.D. in astrophysics at Iowa State in 1998, O'Brien spent a year as a visiting assistant professor at Grinnell College in Iowa and since had been a postdoctoral research fellow for the Hubble Space Telescope in Baltimore.

LOUIS JOHN PIFHER, BBA, finance, '92, was recently elected to the Meridian School Board. Pifher is a sales manager and retail representative for Rhodes International. He

UDGE SERGIO A. GUTIERREZ,

(BA, elementary education/bilingualmulticultural, '80) has been named one of the 100 Most Influential Hispanics by Hispanic Business magazine. Honorees were announced in the October 2002 issue

of the publication. Gutierrez was recently appointed to the Idaho Court of Appeals.

resides in Meridian.

KAREN GESELLE, BBA, marketing, '93, recently joined Idaho Properties GMAC Real Estate, as a real estate sales professional. Geselle's background includes sales experience in print advertising and the Internet.

WAYNE E. GILLAM, BA, advertising design, '93, is a graphic designer for the city of Redmond, Wash. Gillam previously worked for Boise State Printing and Graphics.

CHRISTINA (HALL) MARINEAU, BBA, accounting, '93, has been admitted as a partner with Deloitte and Touche in Ontario, Canada. She is responsible for leading the International Assignment Services group dealing with crossborder tax implications of employers and employees around the world, specializing in Canadian and U.S. taxation.

DANNY DEAN SCHOOL-CRAFT, TC, welding/metals fabrication, '93, has joined Idaho Testing and Inspection as a welding inspector at Gayle Manufacturing. He previously was a welding inspector for Materials Testing and Inspections, Inc. A Meridian resident, he also serves on the advisory board for Boise State's welding program.

TRAVIS DON JENSEN, BBA, accounting, '94, has been elected to a one-year term on the Boise State Alumni Association board of directors. The board coordinates events and activities that encourage alumni involvement, as well as offering scholarship support to students.

SHAUN DAVID MENCHACA, BS, health data manage-

ment, '94, was recognized by the Idaho Business Review as one of the "top 40 under 40" young leaders in Idaho. Menchaca is a Life Flight membership program manager in Boise. Prior, Menchaca was a financial manager for the Saint Alphonsus Foundation, a business manager for the Orthopedic Institute and vice president of development for Clearwater Mortgage. He was elected the 2002 national president of the Association of Air Medical Membership Programs.

KAREN ELIZABETH HODGE, BBA, general business management, '95, is director of Women's and Children's Services at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. She is currently working on a program geared toward teen parents.

KENNETH DALE KIRKLAND, BS, sociology, '95, is a licensed clinical social worker and has begun developing his own mental health counseling practice in Idaho City. After completing his degree at Boise State, Kirkland earned a master's degree in clinical social work at Walla Walla College. Kenneth's wife, CAROL ANN KIRKLAND, BS, nursing, '95, is studying to become a nurse practitioner. They live in Idaho City.

**CHANDLER LUIS LEGAR-**RETA, BBA, general business management, '95, has been promoted to vice president at SourceOne, a Boise-based provider of enterprise technology solutions. Legarreta has been with the firm for four years. He earned his MBA from Northwest Nazarene University.

LISA (FRANK) GRIGG, BS, health science studies, '96, and her husband, ROBERT