

## Outstanding Young Alumni: Dr. Kenneth Luckie Vandervoort, Jr., '03



*August 31, 2015*

Dr. Kenneth Vandervoort Jr. is a 2003 graduate of The Donoho School and a 2007 magna cum laude graduate of The University of Alabama. During his collegiate years at UA, Kenneth was a walk-on linebacker (2003-2007) and later served as a graduate assistant for the football team. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Order Fraternity, Mortar Board Honor Society, and Blue Key Honor Society. Following college graduation, Kenneth entered The University of Alabama School of Dentistry and graduated in 2012 with completion of an Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency the following year.

Kenneth shares, "I would tell our students to have a dream and go after it. Don't let anybody tell you that you can't accomplish whatever goal you may have. 'To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift' (Steve Prefontaine)."

After graduating dental school and as a practicing dentist, Kenneth pursued a long-time goal and joined the United States Navy in 2014 with expected advancement within Naval Special Warfare in the fall of 2015.

Kenneth adds, "In thinking back on my years at The Donoho School, I realize the significance the student body, faculty, and administration had in my upbringing. Primarily, the friendships formed during those years that remain today. Also, I took for granted my high school education until attending college. I quickly realized that the habits I had formed at Donoho prepared me very well to be successful academically."

Kenneth is the son of Dr. Buddy Vandervoort and the late Mrs. Martha Vandervoort. He is the brother to Dr. Lucy Vandervoort Morris '01 and Dr. Will Vandervoort '06.

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**What advice would you give our students as they prepare for college and the challenges of our world today?** Never let the fear of failure prevent you from chasing your dreams. Hard work, discipline, commitment, and prayer will carry you a long way. Go out and make it happen!

**How did attending The Donoho School make a difference in your life or your education?** The Donoho School provided a foundation of learning and interaction that prepared me well for college and beyond. Friendships forged during those years have continued despite moving across the country and back again. I look back on my time at Donoho with very fond memories.

**Current position, past experience, special awards and honors:** United States Navy SEAL. Completed multiple combat tours to the Middle East as well as South America.

~ updated March 2019