Physician and inventor Jeff Deal will be presented with the Alumni Achievement Award on Wednesday, as part of the Anderson University Founders Day celebration.

The event is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in Henderson Auditorium at the Rainey Fine Arts Center.

Deal has helped battle disease in impoverished nations around the world with his invention of a robotic disinfection machine, called the TRU-D (Total-Room Ultraviolet Disinfector).

The device uses ultraviolet light to kill bacteria in hospital rooms.

In addition to his invention, Deal worked for 17 years as a board-certified otolaryngologist in Charleston.

When a retinal disease led to a vision problem that left him unable to continue performing microsurgery, Deal shifted his focus to mission work and the study of anthropology.

“It worked out for the best,” Deal said.

Today, he serves as the director of health research for Water Missions International — a nonprofit, Christian engineering organization that provides clean water to developing countries.

Deal and his wife, Hart, live in Charleston and have four children.

The Rev. Sinclair Lewis, a retired United Methodist minister and longtime Palmetto Boys State supporter, is scheduled to deliver the Founders Day address.
Lewis served as a Boys State officer for 43 years. Four years ago, he helped establish a partnership between Anderson University and Palmetto Boys State that made AU the host of the annual June event.

Lewis, a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and Duke Divinity School. He was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree by Wofford College in 1992.

Founders Day was created to honor visionary leaders.

AU is a comprehensive university offering bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees on campus and online.