More Than 1,200 Attend Gala Event to Celebrate Sesquicentennial

On Saturday, April 16, more than 1,200 alumni, students, faculty and staff and community members honored 15 decades of history at The Spark, the gala event to celebrate Augustana’s Sesquicentennial. Held at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls, the event featured period-themed food, historic photo galleries, the premiere of ‘Skol! Augustana at 150,’ a documentary film, live music and dancing.

The College also presented the first-ever Spirit of Augustana Awards, honoring five area individuals for their efforts to advance humanitarianism, ministry, innovation, leadership and creativity.

“In honor of our Sesquicentennial, we believed it was fitting to introduce an award that honors individuals who really embody the principals that guide us. It’s a way for Augustana to recognize those in our community who are committed to making the world a better place – men and women who are leading the way, driving change and encouraging others to do all they can to ensure a brighter tomorrow,” said Rob Oliver, president.

The Spirit of Augustana Award for Advocacy and Humanitarianism was awarded to Kevin Kirby in recognition of his efforts to fight indifference, intolerance and injustice. This honor celebrates those who work tirelessly and without recognition or remuneration to improve the lives of others through selfless, courageous and compassionate acts.

The Spirit of Augustana Award for Ministry was awarded to Monsignor James Doyle in recognition of his service to the Church and society by nurturing the search for religious faith in others.

The Spirit of Augustana Award for Innovation and Discovery was awarded to Jeff Scherschligt in recognition of his courage, resilience and passionate spirit that is both tenacious and compassionate. This honor celebrates those who innovate and discover and, as importantly, who encourage innovation and discovery in others.

The Spirit of Augustana Award for Leadership and Philanthropy was awarded to Kelby Krabbenhoft in recognition of his contributions as a visionary leader and his efforts to advance progressive philanthropic ideals and vital communities, locally and at Augustana. This honor celebrates outstanding civic and charitable responsibility.

The Spirit of Augustana Award for the Arts was awarded to Charlotte Carver in celebration of her courage to share her artistic originality and God-given talents with others through words, from the stage and on a canvas, and in recognition of her fearless efforts to foster an understanding of history, culture and the unknown.