Members of the Augustana Choir took to the streets to celebrate Viking Days 2010. Augustana’s first choir was formed in 1921.

From left to right, Seth Willes, ’14, Hartford, S.D.; Tate Grisell, ’14, Sioux Falls; Kyle Pearson, ’14, Hartford; John Evans, ’14, Hayfield, Minn.; and Jordan Peterson, ’14, Canton, S.D., got into the Viking Days spirit at the Homecoming game.

Alumni Achievement Award Winners Recognized

Douglas Anderson, ’09. As the inaugural holder of the Richard and Barbara Nelson Endowed Chair of Mathematics and Computer Science at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., Anderson has taught mathematics courses at every level over the past 12 years. He has also taught in Japan, China and Australia and is active in the lives of students as a faculty advisor for the Math Club and the Cycling Club. During his teaching career, Anderson has added more than 50 publications and 40 presentations to his credit, along with several collaborations with international scholars.

Linda Avey, ’82. As Founder and President of 23andMe, Inc., a personal genetics company enabling consumer access to customized, web-based health and ancestry information based on individual DNA profiling. In 2008, 23andMe won TIME Magazine’s Invention of the Year award and received the World Economic Forum’s Tech Pioneer award.

Doreen Geissler Frost, ’78. As Chair of  the Department of Nursing for Mayo Clinic, Frost heads Mayo’s largest department, which employs 6,100 nurses, allied staff support and administrators. She has worked in the field of Nursing for 40 years, and she says her current role is “to assure an environment where nurses can practice in a professional, caring and respectful way, where they can provide the best patient care in the world.” Nursing, she says, “gives us a purpose. It’s an opportunity to make a real difference.”

Dr. Mark Johnson, ’74. As a senior scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Center for Dairy Research, Johnson is widely considered an expert cheese technologist. His breakthrough research project eliminated the white unsavory residue known to accumulate on cheese after the aging process. This patent has provided a significant, positive economic impact to all areas of the industry. He also tells the history of cheese as a food for many generations.

David R. Nelson, ’73. As Minnehaha County St. Attorney from 1988 until 2010, Nelson’s reputation as a justice seeker is well earned. At the end of his term, Nelson and the 18 other lawyers in his office were prosecuting over 10,000 cases annually, with cases ranging from littering to premeditated murder. There are currently 28 inmates serving life sentences in South Dakota prisons as a result of prosecutions Nelson personally handled, many of which are included in the over 100 jury trials he conducted. In 2003, he received the South Dakota Prosecutor of the Year Award.

Dr. Daniel G. Petereit, ’85. A radiation oncologist at Rapid City Regional Hospital, Dr. Petereit has been the driving force in transforming a community-based cancer program into a comprehensive treatment facility with a nationally recognized research program. He has been the principal investigator on nearly a dozen grants investigating all aspects of cancer care. Most prominently, he has been recognized for his work with the Walking Program Forward. He received the Champion of Change Award from South Dakota Public Broadcasting in 2007 and the Chester R. McVay Award for faculty teaching and research from the University of South Dakota Medical School in 2008.

Jon Woodward, ’98. Horizon Award Recipient. As Executive Director of the Seven Hills Homeless Center in Fayetteville, Ark., Woodward used social media to transform the Center from one that provided showers, resources, case management and other resources for homeless people into the Walker Family Residential Community, an agency that provides transitional housing to singles and families and permanent housing for homeless veterans. He uses Twitter to share the needs of his constituents, from money for a car repair to the need for winter coats, and to recruit volunteers and obtain food donations.