

Pioneer Hall of Fame Award

Monica L. Hesse

The University High School Alumni Association honors Monica L. Hesse, class of 1999, as a 2018 Hall of Fame Alumni Award Recipient for her contributions to her profession and civic service.

Hesse graduated from University High School in 1999, where she participated in a variety of school activities and earned numerous distinctions: National Honor Society, International Thespian Society, Student Senate Officer, Brome and Beyond Editor, Varsity Swim Team, and Madrigals.

After graduation, she attended Bryn Mawr College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, Summa Cum Laude, in 2003. During her time at Bryn Mawr, she also earned the Andrew Keen Journalism Award and the Harris Wofford Fellow. Hesse later went on to earn her Master's Degree in Nonfiction Writing, as an Outstanding Graduate, from John Hopkins University in 2008.

Hesse prides herself on hard work and dedication, and has accomplished a great deal throughout her young career. She is currently a Columnist at the Washington Post. In this role, Hesse has written narrative stories on topics from gender and class to politics and popular culture. In addition, she has covered events ranging from White House State Dinners and political campaigns to Academy Awards. Hesse is also an accomplished Author, and has written five books, two of which were National Best Sellers – “Girl in the Blue Coat” and “American Fire”.

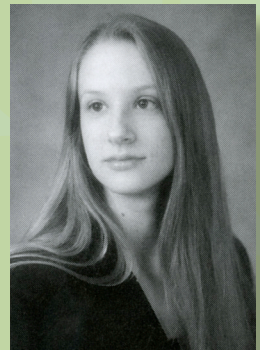
Along her career path as a Columnist and Author, Hesse has earned numerous professional awards and distinctions:

- Edgar Award, Best Young Adult Mystery
- Society of Feature Journalists, Best Narrative Storytelling
- Washington Post Publishers Award
- James Beard Award, Finalist
- Livingston Award, Finalist
- Society of Feature Journalists, Best General Feature, Finalist
- GLAAD Media Award, Finalist
- Indies Choice Award for Best Young Adult Fiction, Finalist
- Top Book of the Year: New York Times, NPR, Entertainment Weekly

In her free time, Hesse enjoys spending time with her husband, Robert. Hesse has also demonstrated great leadership and service in her community by regularly speaking at schools and libraries to encourage others to pursue their interest in the field of writing and journalism.

“Participating in U-High theater gave me, a naturally shy person, the confidence to talk to lots of people, which I use daily in my job as a journalist at the Washington Post. My love of writing – I’m the author of five books – was honed in my U-High english classes”

– Monica L. Hesse



University High School
