

Citation for Heather Hill '08  
Houghton College Alumni Appreciation Award  
Homecoming Chapel, October 5, 2018

Heather Hill, a 2008 graduate, has long been known for her originality, her fierce dedication to causes she believes in, and her impressive ability to make connections with others. As a student at Houghton, Heather was active on campus, participating in the Intercultural Student Association, the Houghton STAR, The Lanthorn, and more.

Since graduating, Heather has continued to have a powerful impact on those around her. She spent more than five years overseeing the Phonathon callers, helping to redesign the Houghton Fund, which raises money for student scholarships. "She didn't want to be hedged or compartmentalized," recalls Ellen Woolley, one of Heather's former colleagues in the advancement office. "She's passionate, up for whatever cause she takes on."

Heather's upbringing in Slovakia and her travels through Western Europe and Africa helped foster a heightened sensitivity to the needs of others. In 2015 she began volunteering with the United Nations Association of the National Capitol Area in Washington, DC. As chair of its human rights committee, she tirelessly promotes the wellbeing of all people through education, advocacy, and action. In 2016 Heather and two fellow alumni interviewed 29 homeless individuals in DC, resulting in a multimedia project titled "29 Stories of February." Cherith Meeks, a 2005 graduate, remarks that "[Heather] always has a way of getting to the heart of a matter and drawing out things you might not have seen otherwise."

Heather has remained actively involved with her alma mater, connecting regularly with Houghton alumni in DC and around the country. She welcomes alumni and student visitors to Washington, and has acted as a host and promoter of the DC young alumni event for the past three years. Even during her personal travels across the US, Heather has organized informal gatherings of Houghton alumni in a number of US cities. She recently joined the college's Alumni Board, where she will play an even greater role in using her amazing networking skills to engage fellow alumni.

Heather, you have demonstrated time and again your dedication to improving the lives of individuals in the DC area, across the United States, and around the world. You share in our commitment to create and foster alumni who are scholar-servants in today's changing world, and for your work, we are proud to present you with the 2018 Alumni Appreciation award.