The University recently received a significant gift from the family of Ted Scripps to name the impressive welcoming area of the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism Building’s the Ted Scripps Atrium. This gift is part of the fund raising for the Fund for the Future of Journalism, which will support the technology and renovation that has been made possible by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation’s recent grant of $29 million.

Edward Willis Scripps II, known to everyone as “Ted,” graduated from the University of Nevada journalism program in 1952. He went on to distinguished service with the United Press and the Scripps Howard Newspapers, both of which were founded by his grandfather, E.W. Scripps.

Ted Scripps worked in the Reno bureau of UP, for the San Francisco News, the Rocky Mountain News in Denver and later for UPI’s Washington, D.C., bureau. In 1965, he became vice president and assistant secretary of Scripps Howard newspapers, headquartered in Cincinnati, and in 1974 became a director of the company.

Ted’s commitment to journalistic standards and ethics was unwavering, as was his commitment to his alma mater. Ted Scripps began the annual Scripps Dinner and Lecture at Nevada in 1964. He was a generous contributor to the University. Ted died in 1987 at the age of 57 while flying to Sydney, Australia, on a tour of the Pacific to gather information for Scripps Howard editors and publishers. The lecture continues in his honor and each year brings outstanding journalists to Nevada through the support of the Scripps family and the Scripps Howard Foundation.

The Ted Scripps Atrium is a fitting anchor for the Reynolds School of Journalism. Scripps family members made the recent contribution to the Fund for the Future of Journalism to name the atrium and perpetuate Ted’s ideals and the excellent work of the Reynolds School of Journalism. The journalism building will undergo an extensive renovation starting in January that will upgrade the school’s digital infrastructure and facilitate the school’s innovative goals. When it reopens in January 2012, the building will feature the latest in HD broadcast facilities and classrooms that will allow all students to engage in multi-platform journalism.

To learn more about the Reynolds School of Journalism and the Fund for the Future of Journalism, which ensures Nevada students have the best possible tools to chronicle the world, contact Kristin Burgarello ’97, director of development, (775) 784-4471 or kburgarello@unr.edu.