The late Alicia Parlette ’04 (journalism), photographed at a friend’s wedding.

Journalism endowment named for late Reynolds School alumna

A scholarship endowment has been established in honor of the late Alicia Parlette ’04 (journalism), a Reynolds School of Journalism alumna who wrote a 17-part series about her five-year battle with cancer for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The Alicia Parlette Endowed Scholarship for Aspiring Journalists was funded by memorial gifts from family, friends and supporters. The first award will be made this fall.

Parlette was an accomplished student who graduated summa cum laude from Nevada and was one of two national Hearst Fellowship recipients. That same year, while the 23-year-old was working at the *Chronicle* as a copy editor, she was diagnosed with alveolar soft part sarcoma. Parlette’s editor asked if she would write about her experiences for the newspaper. Readers followed Parlette through her cancer treatments, trials and triumphs. She ultimately passed away April 22, 2010.

“Alicia Parlette was the epitome of the dedicated journalism student who set her standards high not only in the classroom, but in putting what she learned to work in the student newspaper *Nevada Sagebrush,*” says Warren Lerude ’61 (journalism), Reynolds School of Journalism professor emeritus and 1977 Pulitzer Prize winner. “She aspired to a career as an editor, but after being stricken by cancer rose to extraordinary professionalism as a writer of her own story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The series, *Alicia’s Story*, went online and through multimedia around the globe as readers and viewers shared her courage in telling her story.”

Parlette, who had aspired to become a journalist since the fourth grade, was honored at the University’s 2005 Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writer Program and received a 2005 Outstanding Emerging Journalism award from the Society of Professional Journalists. She was honored posthumously as the University of Nevada, Reno Alumni Association’s Outstanding Young Alumna at the 2010 Homecoming Gala.

To read Parlette’s articles and blog about her journey, visit www.sfgate.com/alicia/.

—Roseann Keegan

To learn more about supporting the Reynolds School of Journalism, please contact Kristin Burgarello, director of development, (775) 784-4471 or kburgarello@unr.edu.