The annual competition is named in honor of the mother of Joel Connelly, columnist at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Connelly provided a $20,000 gift to the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Foundation and the P-I contributed $5,000 to produce a $25,000 corpus.

Dolly Connelly worked as a freelance journalist and correspondent for Time-Life in the Northwest for about 40 of her 50 years as a photojournalist.

As a stringer for Sports Illustrated, she fought for environmental coverage that is now a staple of major news, sports and outdoor magazines. She reported on the first fierce environmental battles in Washington, fought during the 1960s. These included the campaigns that culminated in creation of a North Cascades National Park and Glacier Peak Wilderness Area, and Guemes Island residents’ successful struggle against location of a giant aluminum smelter on their island north of Anacortes.

In 1966, for Sports Illustrated, she covered the first ascent of Mount Kennedy in the Yukon by a party led by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Connelly was the only journalist on the Kennedy family’s raft trip down the Yampa and Green Rivers of Colorado and Utah. In the mid-1960s, she accompanied then-Gov. Dan Evans on a horseback trip along the route of the proposed North Cascades Highway.

When Time magazine did a cover story on the rock group Jefferson Airplane, Connelly interviewed lead singer Grace Slick in the Leopold Hotel in Bellingham. She took the picture of pulp-mill pollution in Bellingham Bay that graced a Life magazine year-end special section on the environment in 1960.

She was on the first Trans-Pacific airplane flight from the United States to Siberia and wrote a guidebook to Vancouver Island. And, she took the picture of a smiling, bundled-up Eskimo whose visage appears on the tails of Alaska Airlines’ jets.

She died in 1995 at the age of 82. This award was established in 1998 by endowment gifts from Joel Connelly and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer to the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Foundation.

For Excellence in Environmental Journalism

Dolly Connelly Award

Eligibility:
The Dolly Connelly Award is open to all members of the Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association (PNNA). The Seattle Times and The Oregonian are not eligible in this contest.

Criteria:
Entries may be a single story or a series of stories about environmental issues and controversies in the Pacific Northwest.

Publication Period:
June 1, 2016, through May 31, 2017

Entry Deadline:
Friday, July 7, 2017

Entry Submission:
Enteries must be uploaded by 5 p.m. to the PNNA Contest site. See Entry Instructions on the front fold.

Award:
First place award: $500
A second place award of $250 may be given at the judges’ discretion. If an entry is the work of two or more writers their award will be divided accordingly.

Circulation Classifications:
There are no circulation divisions in this competition. Those at medium- and small-size dailies will be encouraged by the rule that PNNA’s largest dailies, The Seattle Times and The Oregonian, are ineligible.

Winner Announcements:
Winners will be announced in the fall.