It is with a great deal of pleasure that The Society for Historical Archaeology confers the John L. Cotter Award in Historical Archaeology for 2004 on Annalies Corbin, one of those rare individuals who has distinguished herself at an early stage in her career. Not only has she been an active participant in The Society for Historical Archaeology, conducted a wide variety of underwater field investigations, and published extensively in academic venues, but she also has been innovative in taking archaeology out of the academic environment by involving school children in hands-on learning experiences.

Annalies, in the academic setting, has had her master’s thesis published (The Material Culture of Steamboat Passengers: Archaeological Evidence from the Missouri River) by Plenum Press in 2000. Her dissertation (Merchants, Mounties, and Shipwrecks: The Life and Times of the Steamboat Red Cloud) is in the final publication stages as a book to be released through Texas A & M University Press. Author or coauthor of eight book chapters or articles since 1998, Annalies has also authored several reports and is the recipient of more than 10 grants. Currently in a tenure-track position as an associate professor of maritime history at East Carolina University, she directs the department’s underwater field schools that have featured investigations in the Great Lakes, on the Missouri River, in North Carolina, and in the Virgin Islands.
Annalies is also the president of the PAST (Partnering Archaeology with Science and Technology) Foundation, a nonprofit group dedicated to bringing archaeological science and technology to school-age children. She has partnered with several groups and been awarded various grants to involve children in field investigations and in live internet/video feeds with archaeologists who were actively conducting fieldwork. Perhaps the success of the PAST program is best expressed by the fact that she and PAST are the 2003 co-recipients of the National Park Service’s John L. Cotter Award for Excellence in Archaeology for the Marshall Hotel underwater archaeology project in Yellowstone National Park.

Very active in The Society for Historical Archaeology, Annalies currently serves on the Advisory Council of Underwater Archaeology and is SHA book review editor. For several years she assisted Lawrence Babits in organizing and setting up the bookroom at the annual meeting, and she served as the bookroom organizer after Larry stepped down until 2003, when the society’s business office assumed the function. Annalies Corbin’s incredible reserve of energy has served her and the society well in the last few years. Her accomplishments are truly amazing and very deserving of The Society for Historical Archaeology’s John L. Cotter Award in Historical Archaeology.

DOUGLAS D. SCOTT