Our Environmental Studies graduates go on to do all sorts of creative things with their lives, but we have never had a reality TV star…until this week. Amongst the competitors sailing off to Fiji on Survivor: Edge of Extinction was our own Chris Underwood, class of 2015. It’s no surprise to any of his old friends or professors that a dynamic and adventurous guy like Chris would appear on Survivor. His capstone project involved a paddle from Glendale to the ocean. We had a watch party to cheer him on at RJ Rocker’s on Wednesday. Many thanks to Tyler Cable ’18 and Jeremy Smith ’18 for reserving our space and brewing our beer.

Chris emerged from the first round of Survivor unscathed. While he didn’t get a lot of screen time, he is clearly one of the most rugged and energetic members of the Manu “tribe.” We are sure that he will win the game.

In a broader sense, it was interesting for me, a person who had never watched Survivor, to see the famous show. Fiji looks gorgeous (just as the producers intend), and I hope that the competitors get some time to enjoy their paradisiacal surroundings in between silly obstacle courses and passive aggressive social engineering. Survivor has been on air since 2000 – my freshman year in college. Not many shows persist so long. Clearly there is something in our 21st-century society that yearns for a return to nature, with all its beauty and harshness. While the challenges the tribes encounter on CBS are entertaining enough, the real reward is to be found in your own explorations, in the untelevised, unconstrived part of nature. I’m sure that Chris would agree.
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**PROFILE OF THE WEEK:**

**Lenoir-Rhyne University – Sustainability Studies**

Lenoir-Rhyne’s sustainability studies is a fairly new program that is deeply connected to the Asheville and Western North Carolina communities and was established in part because of the university’s commitment to sustainability. The Master of Science in Sustainability Studies (MSSS) explores ideas that involve science, policy, business, communication, and community planning to advance sustainability and to solve current and future problems. It also recognizes the growing need for sustainability-related professions.

Many classes are available at night or on weekends and the program offers the flexibility to complete online courses at your own pace. All students have opportunities to collaborate with community partners in class projects and capstone projects that integrate learning and experiences related to sustainability.

**Lenoir-Rhyne – MS in Sustainability Studies**

*also see the ENVS departmental bulletin board for this program brochure and other program opportunities in sustainability.*