Our Own Survivor by Dr. Peter Brewitt

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, uncontrived part of nature. I’m sure that Chris would agree.
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

*These count toward your two required extracurricular events for the semester.

Roosevelt as a Conservationist*: Edmund Morris, Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer of TR Roosevelt will give a talk. He will be available to sign books afterward.

Tyson Family Lecture presents Ecology of a Cracker Childhood – Three Eco-Perspectives*: A panel discussion featuring Peter Brewitt (Wofford), Dorinda Dallmeyer (UGA, retired), and Tara Powell (USC). Reception to follow.


South Carolina Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society Scholarship: A $1000-scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate who is a South Carolina resident studying conservation/natural resources. See accompanied document attached to this email for application and requirements.

Summer 2019 Research Experience for Undergraduates: The University of Iowa will host a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (NSF-REU) in Geography and Spatial Sciences. A 10-week summer program (May20-July26) will explore human-environment interactions. Participants will receive a stipend and housing in UI residence halls.

The Goat Island Boat Club Merit Scholarship Program: The one-year scholarship will be awarded in the amount of $2000. Eligible student must be from South Carolina enrolled in an institution of higher learning in the state of South Carolina studying marine biology, forestry, fisheries, wildlife management, or other related field focused on environmental protection of the Santee Cooper lakes and river systems. Stop by Wofford Office of Financial Aid to pick up an application.

PROFILING 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.