Cheyenne Oliver ’12 & ’15 Alumnus

MAJOR: History


CURRENT POSITION: Middle School/High School History Teacher, and Middle School History Department Coordinator at Donna Klein Jewish Academy

FIRST JOB: After graduating with my Masters Degree in May 2015, I was immediately hired on as a Middle School and High School History Teacher at Donna Klein Jewish Academy. I had an incredibly successful first year teaching, leading to a promotion as the Middle School History Department Coordinator for the 2016-2017 school year.

BIGGEST CHALLENGES: The biggest challenge I faced during my academic career at FAU was balancing a full schedule as a graduate student, my responsibilities as a teaching assistant, finding the time to pursue various outside research projects, and still maintaining a social life. In facing this challenge, however, I developed strong time management skills and the ability to prioritize. My time at FAU taught me how to “put first things first.”

BEST FAU MEMORY: I look back on my years at FAU with great fondness, but my best memories involve serving the History Department as a volunteer for the John O’Sullivan Memorial Lecture Series, the Alan B. Larkin Symposium on the American Presidency, and various historical conferences. Through these remarkable department events, I was able to meet and network with a number of best-selling authors, notable speakers, and distinguished historians and scholars. In 2015, I had the great pleasure of meeting one of my favorite authors, David McCullough. As he signed books, we chatted about his work with HBO on the production of the
miniseries John Adams, which was based on his award-winning biography. I will always cherish the personalized and autographed copy of John Adams that sits on my bookshelf as a memento of all my wonderful time serving FAU’s History Department.

ROLE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY PLAYED IN YOUR CAREER:
FAU’s Department of History trained me to be a historian and gave me the tools to succeed that I employ every day. My professors and peers at FAU helped me cultivate my passion for history, made me strive to reach my goals, and ultimately gave me the confidence to endeavor and achieve greatness.

GOAL: In all of my endeavors, I seek to share my infectious passion and dispel the common misconception that history is lifeless and tangible subject. Through education I will continue to breathe life into the past and invigorate the study of history for my students and the public.

FAVORITE BOOK: This is never a question I could answer. I can never just pick one. I have always loved stories, which is perhaps why I have always been drawn to history. I will always love Homer’s Odyssey, Aristophanes’ Lysistrata, Malory’s Death of King Arthur, anything by William Shakespeare, Grimm’s collection of Fairy Tales, L. Frank Baum’s The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, and Lewis Carroll’s Alice in Wonderland. I have always been a voracious reader, and I don’t see that changing anytime soon.

PERSONAL: “Well-behaved women seldom make history.” — Laurel Thatcher Ulrich