

**OLLI partners with UNC Asheville undergrads:
mentoring through life experiences (continued)**
by Jan Meriwether

OLLI Steering Council Chair Kirk Borland speaks of sharing his career experiences with a swimmer, a soccer player, and a basketball player: "I get a lot of satisfaction knowing I can help give students a better chance of landing their first job. Some OLLI members feel they have nothing to contribute because they have been out of the business world for too long. That's absolutely not true. Ask the students and they will tell you this is useful, practical, down-to-earth mentoring, and they appreciate it."

Dick Murray agrees wholeheartedly. "General experience in dealing with people in the workplace will always be relevant, and that is something OLLI members know a lot about. We've been there!" Dick adds, "I really think I've gotten more from the experience than I've given," revealing that he and his past mentees have stayed in touch. "We've become good friends. It's very rewarding."

Career educator/OLLI member Jacob Cohen became a mentor because he understood the value of guidance and mentoring and knew he had something worthwhile to contribute. "I understand the stresses of college, having gotten off to a rocky start myself," Jacob admits. "I enjoy being engaged, and my mentee Matt has an enthusiasm and curiosity that reminds me of myself at that age. He is super motivated. It's been magical – and fun!"

For potential mentors, Jacob suggests, "It's a fabulous program. Just be yourself. Be real and share what's important to you – the good, the bad, and the ugly. The wise student will take advantage of that."

For more information about mentoring, contact Dick Murray at dick.murray@icloud.com or Jim Lenburg at jlenburg@mhu.edu.

*The university's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) for Higher Education program focuses on students who represent the first generation in their families to attend college.