



**2021 will be a transformational year for our 110-year old Club. Times are changing and so must we.**

Yet, we possess the same values of camaraderie, goodwill and social growth that have always characterized our Club.

Our Foundation continues to do great work supporting local young people as they pursue education and careers.

And we have a committed Membership and Board as we pursue a new, exciting move which we are confident will bring new energy, purpose and Membership to our Club.

**Welcome — 2021!**

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member

# SPOTLIGHT

## Eric McLaughlin



Eric McLaughlin was born in Minnesota but his family moved to a home on Old Stage Road in time for him to attend South Medford High School in the grand old building on Oakdale Avenue. "I was a 'band nerd' in high school," he said. "I was in the marching band, the concert band, and the jazz band. I played the trumpet." He said he took Honors classes and was an Eagle Scout.

He remembered his prom both junior and senior year. He ate dinner at the Jacksonville Inn for the first time his senior year. The prom took place in a building on North Central Avenue that was temporarily in use as a youth nightclub—a building that is now used by Heritage Motors. "Then, after the dance, my double-date friend and I were treated to dessert cooked by our dates. It was a picnic, which the four of us planned to eat on Roxy Ann." Eric said that didn't actually work out. "About the time we got there the police showed up and told us Prescott Park was closed for the night and they shoed us out."

He took his time getting through Southern Oregon University, taking classes he enjoyed, and then adding a year's study in England. He took time to travel around Europe, staying in youth hostels. It kick-started a passion for traveling. "I've been in all 50 states, every Canadian province, and 38 different countries, so far."

He studied business management and computer science at SOU and graduated in 1999, entering the job market just as the computer industry bubble burst. But, in time, it all worked out.

He works for Take2 Information Technology, a company doing electronic healthcare record-keeping in a major project updating the legacy records system of the Veterans Administration, the one used by the Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Clinic and Center (formerly known as the Dom) in White City. He tried to explain his role as a technical liaison. It sounded complicated and we couldn't follow him. The important takeaway is that he used to travel a lot for his work, but now that he is married he is happy to be traveling much less. Since his work accommodates being done remotely from home, he is managing the world of COVID quite well.

We asked him for some travel stories. He said he spent his honeymoon on Bora Bora in one of those cabanas on the water, and that it was glorious. When we asked if there were any exciting problems or misadventures, he said he was nearly robbed in Italy where pickpockets target people with packs. "But I felt something, saw a strange hand on my camera, and slapped his hand and kept my camera."

"My real problem is that I miss things. I am way too optimistic about how much I can squeeze in before a travel departure time. I am a get-there-at-the-last-second kind of traveler. There isn't a boat, plane, train or any other form of transportation that I haven't missed."

Eric is a new member of the Club's Board of Trustees. "I was a charter member of the Rogue Valley After Five Rotary Club, and in fact was the charter president of the club. And this past year, on its tenth anniversary, I came back to be president for another year."

We are most happy to have Eric in the Club and welcome him to our Board.

## Notes on our New Club House from Eric McLaughlin

2021 brings a new chapter in our Club's 110-year history. The Rogue River Valley University Club has had multiple locations over the years each selected to suit the Club's changing needs, and now the time has come to relocate to another Medford downtown historic building, the Elks Lodge Building, to better suit the needs of our current and future Members. Our new home on the corner of Central Avenue and Fifth Street is yet another prominent historic building and one Medford's architectural crown jewels. I've always been impressed by the designs of Medford Architect Frank C. Clark and I'm passionate about preservation of historic buildings.

This is a bit of what JPR's 'The Way It Was' says about the building:

*The Benevolent Order of Elks Lodge facing the corner of Central Avenue and Fifth Street in downtown Medford, Ore., is a good example of Beaux Arts architecture. The three-story, white-brick building, built by R. I. Stuart in 1913, was designed by Frank C. Clark, a charter member of the Elks and the first professionally trained architect to live in the Rogue Valley.*

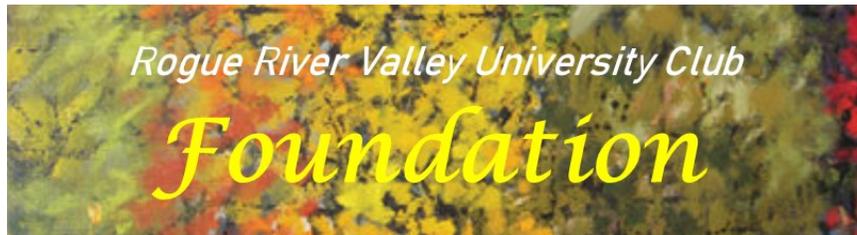
*Completed in 1915, the design included classic columns, curved steps, a clock tower crowned by a wreath-frame clock, a lodge room, ladies' parlor, billiard rooms with acoustic ceilings and maple floors, a fireplace, and a large basement. The club added a dining room addition in 1921 and other improvements over the next 100 years.*

*The building represented a time when architecture, citizen organizations and gathering places were valued community assets, and it was considered the best-planned building of its kind on the coast. The National Register of Historic Places added the building to its list in 1981.*

My interest in preserving historic buildings extends into preserving the culture of social organizations such as our Club. Our new Club House will support preserving our Founders' vision and building on their legacy. Jason Reno has already taken several "focus groups" on tour of the new building to gather input on what features and amenities would attract the next generation of University Club Members that will carry this special legacy into coming decades. And it's an ideal location for all our Club regular Club activities. As added-value for our Members it will also provide new opportunities for live music fans, "foodies," and happy hours with friends and associates -all within a centrally located and Nationally Historic Registered building with a stylish modern aesthetic. The Developers that currently own the building have been very supportive of our needs and wants, and as a (surprise) bonus, their family has expressed interest in joining the University Club. Currently, our Board's is working selling our existing Club, planning/designing interior spaces in our new home and finalizing lease terms with the new Club House.

I'm excited for this new chapter in our Club's history and hopeful for our future!





**Thanks to all of you who have donated to the RRVUC Foundation's Scholarship Funds! We especially appreciate your remembering the Foundation at year's end with tax-deductible contributions!**

Currently, the Foundation is supporting the education of more than a dozen Jackson County students' college education who are attending Southern Oregon University, Rogue Community College, the University of Oregon and Western Oregon University. We are happy to share a few comments Foundation scholarship recipients have recently shared with us.



*I am taking a practicum, history, and music, an education technology class, and in education for children with disabilities class. Unfortunately because of Covid we are doing all of our classes online but I'm still giving it my all to learn at my best capability. And once again I would not like to look past the fact that I am very thankful that you guys helped with my opportunity to come to such a great school to strive for my degree to be a great teacher and football coach. \_*

I am entering my junior year/third year at Southern Oregon University and continue to major in Spanish Language and Culture and minor in Latin American Studies. It has definitely been a different experience to be in school since spring of last year. Virtual school has been difficult, but like always, your help has been beyond important for my success. Although it was hard to get used to virtual classes and overall having a new schedule, I have been able to prosper in said environment. In fact, I like being able to do most of my work from home; I understand that it's a privilege to be able to do so. I'm currently taking three classes. My favorite one is SOAN 319: Cultures of Mexico. In this class we have been able to explore Mexico and its political, environment, and social aspects.

I am truly blessed to be able to receive this money because it has helped me my three years of attending college. Especially during these hard times during Covid. Also, I had a baby 4 months ago and wasn't working at all so it was also difficult to pay for all medical bills. Thank you guys so much I have no words to express my gratitude.

## *Letters from 2020 Scholarship Recipients—[continued]*

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*I want to start off by thanking you all once again for investing in my education. Words truly cannot express the amount of gratitude I have. I am in my second year at the University of Oregon, pursuing a career in psychology and business administration. It has been a year we will never forget and in terms of college, not being able to attend in person lectures. Not being able to be in person and living with the fear of coming down with Coronavirus is nerve wracking. Navigating throughout this school year with uncertainty hasn't been easy but I'm hopeful that we will be able to rise and take control soon. Once again, thank you for believing in me and supporting my academic goals and dreams.*

I am in my second year at Western Oregon University. As we still continue to live in a pandemic, I have realized that I, as a person, have not really appreciated many things in life. In some way, this pandemic has helped me be more self loved and appreciate more my education, family, and friends. Even though many of my classes have been switched to online, I have been able to be more flexible with my schedule. At this moment, one of my favorite classes is my HE 257, which is a health class. We are talking about how to be more-healthy while eating, as well as how, are mental health is being affected by this pandemic. I still continue to major in Business and maybe more into the marketing side. Without your generosity, I would not be here today and accomplishing many of my goals in college. Again, thank you for your award and I hope one day to help others, as you are helping me.

*This is an update on my college adventure. College is way different than high school but in a good way. The classes are similar, but the workload is so much especially for the classes I am taking. At Southern Oregon University I am currently taking STEM classes to be on the path for grad school to become a veterinarian and am currently in a chemistry class as well as a chem lab. While all of my other classes are online such as Bio211 and math, my lab is not. I am so happy our lab is in person. It is so much easier to understand the topics when you get a hands-on interaction with all of the materials. While wearing masks and being 6 feet away of course. I've met some really nice people through zoom as well as in person who have helped me tremendously in my studying habits! I've learned that surrounding yourself with people who have the same values as you is very important in succeeding in life.*



*“Let us remember that the University Club has been here since 1910. The culture of the Club may need to change with the times but the tradition and fellowship needs to carry on for future generations.”*

— President Jack Salter

Many Members have previously provided for the Club’s future in their estate plans and their generosity has helped create the experience you’ve enjoyed here.

Please consider helping to strengthen the Club’s future by securing a bequest invitation form from [Jerry Jacobson](#) at 541-773-2727. **Your bequest can be made to either the Club or the RRVUC Foundation.**

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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# MEMBERSHIP

**Do You Know Someone Who Would Like to Join the Club?**

A Personal Membership Application can be

downloaded at:

[Personal Member Application](#)

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