

Donor news

For Modesto grads, giving has become a family affair

By Steven K. Wagner

Ryan de la Motte and his wife, Heidi, are textbook examples that giving can be contagious. In fact, it runs in the family.



The Modesto couple, who graduated in 1993, come from a long line of satisfied Concordia graduates—many of whom

have given financially as a way to express that satisfaction. Even Ryan's grandfather, who did not attend Concordia, gave generously to the university before he died.

In addition to Ryan and Heidi, their "official" Concordia lineage includes his three brothers and both of hers. Heidi's parents and Ryan's mother attended Concordia University Nebraska.

The de la Mottes have supported Concordia for many years. They do so out of loyalty and gratitude.

"There's really no way I can repay Concordia for the indebtedness I feel," said Ryan, an account executive with

The Blue Book of Building and Construction, an online service designed to support commercial general contractors as they interact with subcontractors and suppliers. "I never would have met my wife if it weren't for the university. At the same time, I believe that every single day

our giving helps to lay a foundation of Christ for every student who attends Concordia and enters his or her chosen profession."

Ryan and Heidi thoroughly enjoyed their years at Concordia, and their hope is to enable others to experience that same Christian foundation—regardless of financial wherewithal.

"Our experience at Concordia was terrific, and we want to help others attend," Ryan said. "Our long-term goal is to especially help those attend Concordia who may not have considered that possible due to financial issues."

In addition to the general fund, the years the de la Mottes have given to the capital campaign supporting Robert Alan Grimm Hall, formerly the Education, Business & Technology Center, and have provided gifts to assist church workers. They hope to continue giving for years to come.

“Oh, absolutely,” Ryan said. “We could never give back enough.”