People become members of the Western Oklahoma State College Alumni Association for many reasons. The desire for connectivity and staying informed is usually at the forefront of the decision to join. Their connection to Altus Junior College or Western is most often linked to their years on campus as a student, but can also be tied to a friend or family member that was long associated with the college. People join because they feel a strong commitment to support the educational mission of Western and the students who currently walk the halls.

For Chad Royal, a 1990 graduate of Western, the decision to join, as well as make a Lifetime Membership contribution in memory of his parents, Coach Glenn Royal and Dorothy Royal, was one rooted in pride and nostalgia. His father, the late Coach Glenn Royal, was the coach of Western’s inaugural Pioneer baseball team. During his coaching career, 1971-1981, Coach Royal set many records and posted impressive statistics, earning him a place in the Jackson Country Athletic Hall of Fame. If on occasion one goes to the WOSC baseball games, often in the stands you can hear reminiscent whispers speaking of the great Coach Royal and his first team. No one had the range of a shortstop like John Schuman, no one had hands like 2”nd baseman, Bob Oakley, no one could pitch under adverse conditions like Chip Allen, no one could hit with power like Jay Argo, no one had the grace or could control the outfield like Eddie Diffendaffer, and no one could coach like Glenn Royal.

Chad, now a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio said, “It is touching to know that many at WOSC still appreciate my dad. I ran the halls of WOSC as a little kid, sat in the teacher lounge with Dad, Jim Holland, Larry Duffy, Thad Crosnoe, Richard Davis, Larry Hillis, Charlie Johnson and many, many others that I could go on and on about. I also worked with my dad as a kid on the baseball field that is north of the school. I pulled about ten million weeds in that infield, drug base paths and have great memories about the players that dad had on those teams. Later, I was a student and had a great experience being around the great people of WOSC. They have shaped me for a lifetime.”

Western shaped Chad Royal for a lifetime, his family has shaped the history of the college and Coach Royal’s legacy continues through the players that wear the Pioneer baseball uniform today. Haley Thompson, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, says “We thank the Royal family for their support of the WOSC Alumni Association. We welcome Chad and Tonya as our newest Lifetime Members, and celebrate the Lifetime Memberships established in memory of Coach Glenn and Dorothy Royal. It is an honor for us to place their names on our Lifetime Member Recognition Tree.”

For more information on becoming a member of the WOSC Alumni Association, please visit www.wosc.edu/alumni or contact Haley Thompson at alumni@wosc.edu.