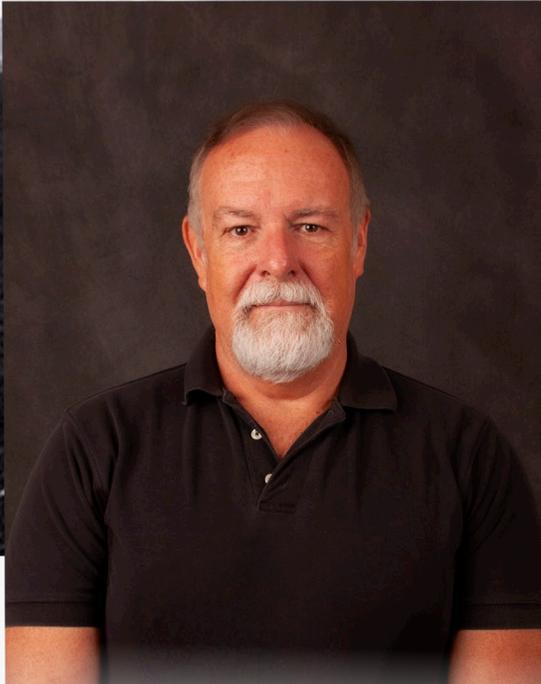


A GLOBAL REACH FOR GENERATIONS



How One Aggie CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTIRE POPULATIONS

Everyone has heard the proverb, “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you will feed him for a lifetime.” Imagine the possibilities if that theory was applied to an entire population of people versus one man. That’s exactly what Ed Huffine has set out to accomplish.

Huffine, who graduated from Cameron in 1983 with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry, currently serves as the chief executive officer of Huffine Global Solutions. The company’s mission statement is “transforming the natural resources of a nation into sustainable health and prosperity for its people.” It’s a motto truly representative of the type of humanitarian that Huffine strives to be.

A fourth generation Oklahoman, Huffine says everything he has achieved in life was built on the foundation from which he came. The development of Huffine Global Solutions (HGS) is no exception and is the result of unmet basic human needs Huffine witnessed during his work and travels around the globe.

“Everyone I’ve met all over the world knows I’m from Oklahoma. I’m proud of and appreciate my history and heritage. It made me who I am,” explained Huffine.

Both of Huffine’s parents were educators who instilled in him the power of learning and knowledge. He describes himself as a naturally curious child who was always striving to understand how and why things worked, especially in life and nature. Huffine credits his parents for nurturing this trait in him, allowing it to fully develop.

Most noteworthy is how his parents taught him to not judge a book by its cover. Instead, he learned a deep respect for other people, to base his opinion of them on their character and that their worth was more deeply tied to how they treated people.

This philosophy is one that would pay dividends for Huffine’s ability to connect with people from all walks of life in a wide variety of locations despite cultural differences others might see as insurmountable.

“While I’m working with and serving others, I do so with the utmost respect and understanding. I try to keep my emotions out of it and always refrain from allowing politics to interfere. Providing these things allows those you are assisting to accept your help with dignity,” stated Huffine.

Upon graduation from CU, Huffine had his sights on becoming a teacher and possibly a college professor. As is often the case, life had other, much bigger, plans for him. As chance would have it, Huffine accepted a position at Cameron teaching chemistry labs and overseeing the tutorial lab the day before Lawton Public Schools offered him a job at Lawton High. He spent four years at CU before leaving to pursue his doctorate in biochemistry with a focus on DNA testing.

Huffine then went on to work with the Federal Aviation Administration. He started out in the FAA's toxicology department but later took on the responsibility of setting up its DNA testing lab before accepting a position with the American Registry of Pathology for the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory in 1994. This new opportunity was as the chief of the mitochondrial DNA section overseeing the analysis of skeletal remains and associated family members from American conflicts. During this time, his cases included analyzing the bullet that allegedly killed John F. Kennedy and signing the report identifying Michael J. Blassie as the remains in the Tomb of the Unknown from Vietnam.

The announcement identifying Blassie occurred on national TV just moments after Huffine learned he would be front and center with the press. Huffine remembered, "My boss was gone, so it was up to me. Our director said, 'What you say will impact our agency forever. Don't mess this up.' How's that for pressure?"

The dogged and determined scientist was called to Bosnia in 1999. In a region where genocide had become the norm and 25,000 people had disappeared, he was sure his protocols and processes could answer questions that had defied many others for years. Huffine endured months of hurdles upon hurdles. "Some of these countries require a lot of patience," commented Huffine.

Just when he found himself ready to give up, fate stepped in again when Huffine was approached by a Muslim woman whose husband and son had been snatched from their home by Serbian soldiers. She pleaded with him that if he could return their bodies to her, she could forgive the atrocities. Huffine recalled, "I knew then that I had to stay the course and help. She gave me the determination I needed at that very instant."

Huffine still definitively recalls the day when the systems he developed in Bosnia found the first DNA match. The first match

was of a 17-year-old boy and the second was a 15-year-old boy. Huffine describes it as "one of those singular events that defines the future."

The system that made that historic match was the first of its kind – what Huffine calls a DNA led process. To make it work, Huffine and his associates took samples from family members of the missing and entered them into one database, created another separate database of DNA from bodies they found and then ran the two databases against one another. At that time, the best labs in the world were making 100 matches per year. Within six months, Huffine's system was making 200 matches per month and within a year it was 500 matches per month, more than the rest of the world combined. The system created by Huffine became the standard around the globe.

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Huffine credits his positive experiences at Cameron for the tenacity that allowed him to be successful with many things in his life, especially the Bosnia project.

"I was so well-prepared for the future. CU students are given an exemplary education by high-quality instructors and programs that set them up to take the next step. More importantly, when you have professors, like those at CU, who genuinely care for and



Ed Huffine during a two day workshop in Kampala, Uganda with representatives from all the nations of the International Commission on the Great Lakes Region (except Angola).

believe in you, it allows you to persevere against all obstacles,” acknowledged Huffine.

Two years into his work in Bosnia, the 9/11 tragedy occurred. The FBI came looking for Huffine and asked for his assistance in creating a system to identify the thousands of missing Americans. He willingly obliged before returning to Bosnia for a few more years.

“You can leave Cameron University, but CU never leaves you. And that’s the best thing, ever!”

In 2004 Huffine served as the vice president for International Development/Humanitarian Missions for Bode Technology group. For 11 years he helped dozens of nations create and upgrade their DNA testing capabilities until Bode was sold and ended its international work.

After all the suffering Huffine had witnessed around the world, his next professional goal came easily to him – bring together brilliant experts in various fields who possess a heart to do virtuous things for the betterment of mankind. Hence, Huffine Global Solutions was born.



On May 4, 2017 Huffine Global Solutions CEO Edwin Huffine was asked to join other faith leaders at the White House for a celebratory board dinner.

As Huffine described it, “the whole is greater than the sum of parts. Putting the right people with the best technologies into a country increases that region’s economic development. That leads to better futures for the residents and their families. Many atrocities that happen around the world start with desperation for basic survival.”

By creating HGS, Huffine’s objective is to provide citizens with a better economic life that is sustainable with their country’s natural resources, thereby complimenting and assisting the judicial systems in place to hold those who commit acts of violence accountable for their actions. Ultimately, he’s still using forensic systems but instead of matching DNA profiles, HGS is creating opportunities for entire populations.

Huffine has received awards for excellence from federal, state, professional and academic organizations. In 2020, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

When asked how he managed to make achievements that have impacted so many people around the world, Huffine was quick to credit his education at CU.

“Dr. Ann Nalley and all of the physical science professors I had left an imprint on me. Their energy and passion are contagious. Fingerprints from all of them are still with me and on everyone I have touched globally,” Huffine replied.

The global reach of Huffine includes identifying countless remains to reunite them with their families, testifying before Congress, advising the last four U.S. presidents, working in 84 countries, coordinating with heads of state for several nations, leading various research and development projects, consulting with for-profit companies, and managing large groups of scientists.

Even with his busy schedule, Huffine still finds time to give back to his community in Lawton. His most recent project involves using family property to create hunting, fishing, and archery experiences for military veterans, first responders, Boy Scouts and other youth groups. The goal is to provide a place for these organizations and individuals to gather for relaxation, fellowship, and to connect with nature. The enterprise is appropriately named Generations.

Huffine ended with this heartfelt sentiment, “You can leave Cameron University, but CU never leaves you. And that’s the best thing, ever!”

- Rhonda Young