



Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni of University Studies,

Thank you for taking the time to open this Fall 2020 edition of the Integrative Edge. In this season, I am personally working on focusing on thanksgiving and gratitude. One thing I am grateful for is all of you. Whether you are faculty, staff, current student, or alumni, in one way or another, you have made a positive and lasting difference in my life. We could not do all that we do without you, students, alumni, parents, and friends of the program. Thank you for being a part of our program and giving back to us!

As I mentioned in the last edition, the Spring 2020 term ended much differently than any of us expected. While the world has been faced with the complex problem of COVID-19, there is no doubt that each of you have been affected in one way or another by this virus. Ozan Varol, in his book *Think Like a Rocket Scientist*, wrote "we all encounter complex and unfamiliar problems in our daily lives. Those who can tackle these problems – without clear guidelines and with the clock ticking – enjoy an extraordinary advantage." I am hopeful that one thing we have been successful at is helping each other think more critically and creatively not just about complex problems but everyday problems.

A few briefs:

We welcomed a new full-time Instructor, Sipra Eko. Her expertise is in problem solving and I believe she will be a terrific addition to our full-time faculty.

We are excited to announce our first Alumni recognition awards. Jessica Carrillo a 2012 graduate of the program is recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus and Daniel Rentie, a 2019 graduate of the program is recognized with the Outstanding Community or Public Service Award. We are so proud of these two outstanding alumni of the program and their accomplishments!

Learn more about our awards, nominate someone or yourself, visit our [website](#).

We continue rank in the top ten of all Texas Tech University undergraduate majors.

We launched our first crowdfunded initiative through a partnership with Campus Live.

I am continually grateful to our Student Services team. Recently they have been working with the Campus Live team to help promote the remarkable things students and alumni have been doing with their University Studies degree. If you would like to know more, make sure to follow us on all socials @ustudiesttu.

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