



EVOLUTION OF AI: THROUGH THE YEARS

ARTICLE BY:
WHAT'S UP, DALLAS!

The Evolution of AI: From Sci-Fi Dream to Everyday Reality

By: Rachel Cardenas, Local Writer

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has come a long way since its inception, transforming from a concept found in science fiction to a technology embedded in nearly every aspect of modern life. From virtual assistants and self-driving cars to advanced medical diagnostics, AI is reshaping the way we live and work, marking an extraordinary journey over the past several decades.

The Early Days: From Dream to Theory

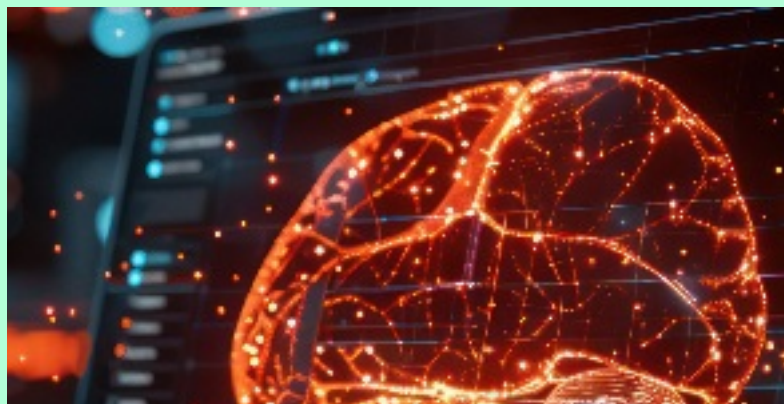
AI as an idea was born in the mid-20th century, with visionaries like Alan Turing and John McCarthy leading the charge. In 1956, McCarthy officially coined the term "Artificial Intelligence" at a conference that marked the birth of AI as a serious academic field. Early research focused on symbolic reasoning—machines solving problems using pre-programmed rules.

This era was filled with optimism, but progress was slow, and limitations in computing power hindered significant advancements.

By the 1970s and 1980s, many researchers grew frustrated with the slow pace of progress, leading to the so-called "AI winters," when funding and interest dwindled. During this time, AI's potential was evident but remained largely untapped.

Machine Learning: AI's Big Break

In the 1990s, AI received a major boost with the emergence of machine learning, which allowed computers to learn from data rather than relying on rigid rules. IBM's Deep Blue made headlines in 1997 by defeating world chess champion Garry Kasparov, a moment that highlighted AI's growing ability to outperform humans in specific tasks.



However, the real explosion came in the 2000s, as advances in machine learning, fueled by big data and improvements in computational power, began to unlock AI's true potential. Neural networks and deep learning algorithms—systems designed to mimic the way the human brain works—became the driving force behind breakthroughs in image recognition, language processing, and predictive analytics.

AI in the 21st Century: Deep Learning and Big Data

The rise of big data, combined with improvements in hardware like graphics processing units (GPUs), enabled AI to handle vast amounts of information. Deep learning techniques powered some of AI's biggest successes in the 2010s, including Google DeepMind's AlphaGo, which defeated the world champion of the complex board game Go in 2016. The win was a milestone that demonstrated AI's capability to tackle highly complex, real-world challenges.

AI also became a household name during this time. Virtual assistants like Apple's Siri, Amazon's Alexa, and Google Assistant became ubiquitous, while facial recognition, speech-to-text, and predictive algorithms started making their way into smartphones, apps, and services used daily by billions worldwide.

Everyday AI: From Homes to Hospitals

Today, AI is seamlessly integrated into our lives. It powers recommendation algorithms on platforms like Netflix and YouTube, helps doctors make more accurate diagnoses, and even assists in climate research. The creative potential of AI has expanded with the rise of generative models like GPT and DALL-E, capable of producing text, art, and music that rivals human creation.



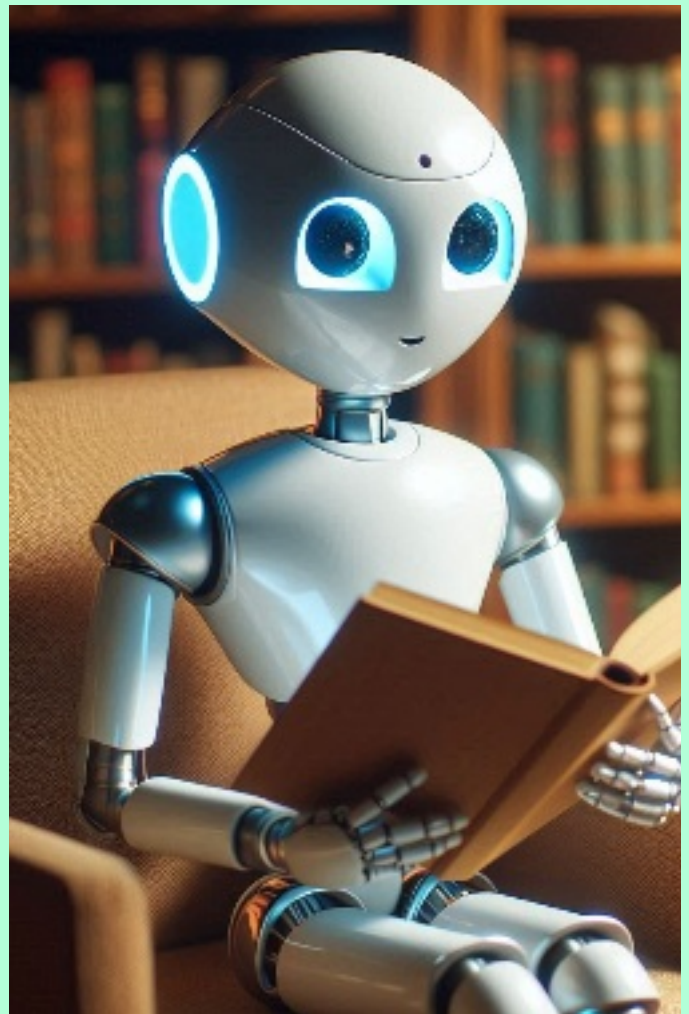
Looking ahead, the future of AI appears limitless. With potential applications in everything from space exploration to solving the global climate crisis, the next few decades promise even more groundbreaking innovations.

What began as a theoretical concept has now become a transformative force shaping the future of industries, governments, and societies. AI has not only arrived but is here to stay, constantly learning and evolving alongside us. As we move forward, AI's integration into everyday life will likely continue at an even faster pace, offering new possibilities and challenges in the years to come.

AI's influence has extended far beyond consumer technology. In industries ranging from healthcare to finance, AI is automating tasks, analyzing complex data, and offering solutions to problems once thought insurmountable. In agriculture, AI is optimizing crop yields; in transportation, it's driving the development of autonomous vehicles; and in education, it's offering personalized learning experiences.

The Road Ahead: A Future Powered by AI

As AI continues to evolve, its impact will only grow. Autonomous systems, like drones and robots, are expected to become a common sight in industries like logistics and manufacturing. AI-driven healthcare could revolutionize personalized medicine, enabling treatments tailored to individual patients' needs. But the rise of AI also brings challenges. Ethical concerns around privacy, algorithmic bias, and job displacement have spurred important conversations about how to harness AI responsibly. Policymakers and technologists are now working together to navigate these issues as AI's role in society expands.



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Lifestyle & World Culture

Living a lifestyle of expressing the Bold side in a very detailed and unique way.

Katrina Marable

Have you ever looked at someone and thought, "Wow, now there's an individual who has learned to embrace the bold side of life while maintaining their uniqueness"? In a world where conformity often seems like the easiest path, there are those rare souls who stand out not just because they dare to be different, but because they embody a blend of boldness and authenticity that is truly captivating.

Being bold isn't just about wearing bright colors or speaking loudly; it's about having the courage to be true to yourself in a society that often pressures us to fit in. This kind of boldness is reflected in the choices we make, from our careers to our personal style, and even in our interactions with others. It's about taking risks and embracing the unknown with confidence. Take, for example, individuals who follow unconventional career paths. They might leave a stable job to start a passion-driven business, or they might choose to travel the world, gathering experiences rather than possessions. These people show us that boldness can lead to a richer, more fulfilling life, even if it means stepping away from the expected.

Uniqueness is another crucial element. It's what differentiates us from one another and makes the world an interesting place. Embracing your uniqueness means understanding and valuing what makes you different. It's about recognizing that your quirks and individual traits are not flaws, but strengths.

Consider fashion as a form of self-expression. Someone who dresses boldly might mix vintage and contemporary styles, creating a look that's entirely their own. It's not about following trends but setting them, showing confidence in personal choices, and inspiring others to find and flaunt their own unique styles.

Balancing boldness and authenticity is an art. It requires self-awareness and a willingness to explore who you really are. It's about making choices that reflect your true self rather than what's popular or expected. This balance is evident in how we live our lives, approach challenges, and interact with others.

Think of social interactions. A person who is both bold and unique is often charismatic and engaging. They listen actively, speak their mind, and connect with others on a genuine level. Their authenticity shines through, making their boldness inspiring rather than intimidating.

So how can you cultivate this blend of boldness and uniqueness in your own life? Start by embracing your passions, no matter how unconventional they may seem. Surround yourself with people who celebrate your individuality and challenge you to grow. Take risks, even if they scare you. Most importantly, stay true to yourself.

In the end, living boldly while maintaining your uniqueness is about celebrating who you are and sharing that with the world. It's about understanding that your differences are what make you special and that true success comes from being authentically, unapologetically you. So next time you see someone who stands out for their bold uniqueness, let them inspire you to embrace your own.

Bold & Unique Lifestyle

GOT SOMETHING POSITIVE TO TALK ABOUT?

NEW MODEL OR
ACTOR?

Organizations

**WHAT'S
NEW IN DFW?**

LOCAL EVENTS

**LET'S
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Whatsupdallas magazine@gmail.com

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The Well Recovery Center in Dallas, Texas

This month's non-profit spotlight falls on The Well Recovery Center in Dallas, Texas. I had the pleasure to speak with the one of the founding pastors of this outreach and fell in love with their purpose to help those that many leave behind on the streets.

This organization is not only a necessity, but has a purpose to restore families that have broken through addiction and the loss of a leader in the homes; by restoring men to the way Christ wants them to live their lives with their family and lifestyle.

In addition to this program, they allow these men to live and rebuild their lives in the program for up to a year, and also allow families to visit with them on Sundays at The Well Community Church in Dallas off of Lake June Rd.

We had a chance to speak with The Well Recovery Center's Stephanie who answered our interview questions for many more to understand their purpose in the DFW area.

How did this outreach get started? Our founding pastors Billy and Helena Island opened the doors to the well recovery center in 2011 all because of a desire to reach the drug addict and to save the lost through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What do you do for those in the program? First and foremost we preach the gospel and show the love of God through spiritual parenting and discipleship. We also take care of material needs such as clothing, food, hygiene, housing all free of charge so that our residents can focus on establishing and strengthening a relationship with Jesus Christ.

What goals do you instill in the men's recovery program to help them through life? We instill in the men a lifestyle of prayer and integrity coupled with structure and discipline.

Does any of your services cost anything to the families? All services are entirely free of charge.

What makes this program so unique in the community? We are a program that places God above all. We have pastors and leaders that walk through life everyday with our residents and actually live in the facility with the men to show them an in person example of what a relationship with Jesus Christ looks like.

How can someone get a hold of your program? Our telephone number is 214-565-5005 and our address is 4419 Hamilton ave. Dallas TX 75210. We are available 24/7 and we never close.

How can the community support your purpose? The community can support our purpose by letting others know what we do and by donating as we are a non-profit organization and are run solely on donations.

Also, if you have someone or know someone that needs help with free food, prayer, bible study, or transportation to the church, there is also a rescue center in South Dallas located at:

*Frances Place Apartments
2121 52nd St
Dallas, Texas 75216*

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We exist to **help people** who
are far from God come into
a **passionate relationship** with
Jesus Christ!

**IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW
WANTS TO BREAK AN ADDICTION
CALL 214-565-5005**

[4419 HAMILTON AVENUE, DALLAS TX]



@THEWELLRCDFW



thewelldfw.org

Generation Zen Frisco, Texas



Mental health can be stigmatized in academic settings, as not all educational settings provide an avenue for students to express concerns about mental health or gain access to effective resources for emotional support. Yet, most students face intense pressure to perform in all areas of life such as school, extracurricular activities, and social environments, and are therefore subject to experiencing heightened levels of stress. If not thoroughly addressed, disregarding emotional well-being can lead to chronic negative patterns of anxiety, depression, and burnout.

As students themselves and the children of Indian immigrants, the founders recognized that these challenges are especially exacerbated in communities like theirs where cultural expectations surrounding success reinforce damaging mental health patterns. As a result, they have made it their goal to normalize this conversation among their demographics by connecting with students on a personal level.

To accomplish this, the organization's team has been dedicated to encouraging mindfulness among the youth by providing understandable resources, promoting art therapy, and donating Zen Kits to those in need. They truly believe that by taking a bold step within the community and curating a lesson plan as students would like to see, and have created a unique, simple solution that other students can actually apply and not feel intimidated by.

First, providing resources digestible to the youth is crucial: the organization's "Zen Ed" program, received by over 300 grade-school students internationally, is designed to approach mental health from a relatable standpoint. The unique 3-part lesson provides understandable insight into the nature of anxiety disorders prevalent among students, while also imparting young people with resources for more urgent help.



To start, their short video, available on Youtube, proves to be a quick stand-alone lesson/informational segment that can be easily played in the classroom and easily understood by young students; they have been able to reach hundreds of kids through the video alone in various public schools in India, where academic pressure has been known to reach its heights.

The second part of this lesson employs the spiritually-drawn principles of transcendentalism by encouraging students to connect with nature and explore their personal mental state. A moment of creative expression and an opportunity to reflect is crucial in becoming more mindful about potentially negative thought patterns and anxious feelings, allowing for students to address this directly.

The last part of the lesson leaves the student with a take-home summary of the lesson along with effective resources to reach out for further information, insight, and help. Overall, their unique student-curated lesson aims to approach students in a novel way: by portraying personal struggles in an understanding and narrative way through speakers that represent the audience themselves, and they have contributed one more resource for students to comfortably utilize.



Additionally, through the creation of their book "A Generation Zen Coloring Book: Rainbow Reef", they strive to promote art therapy as a healthy coping mechanism for stress among youth in their community. In fact, Generation Zen's next project is to host an event at their community library that brings kids and teenagers together to learn and experience the stress-relieving power of art therapy.

Lastly, as one of the most notable endeavors, "Zen Kits" prove to be a resource that, subtly yet assuredly, raises awareness about simple mindfulness techniques for day-to-day implementation. By distributing over 1500 small, physical reminders of mindfulness and relaxation, these tools provide students with practical knowledge of how to deal with stressful situations or overwhelming feelings in the moment. Learning this skill is incredibly important so students can develop sustainable stress-managing habits that they can apply to future situations in their adult lives, as well as experience a greater degree of comfort and reassurance in the present.

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Generative AI for the Rest Of Us

*A course offered by
Yeshwant Muthusamy,
Ph.D.*

In today's fast-paced business world, the quest for efficiency is relentless. Many business owners find themselves overwhelmed by the sheer volume of tasks and responsibilities. Have you ever wondered if there's a way to make these tasks easier? Discover the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

It's natural to feel skeptical about integrating AI into your business operations. Change often brings resistance. However, Dr. Yeshwant Muthusamy offers a beacon of hope with his comprehensive course designed specifically for business owners. This course demystifies AI and demonstrates how it can be a powerful tool to streamline your business processes, making them more effective and efficient.

By embracing AI, you can transform your business, reduce workload, and focus on what truly matters—growing and innovating. Dr. Muthusamy's course is your gateway to understanding and leveraging AI to its fullest potential. Don't let skepticism hold you back; take the leap and discover how AI can revolutionize your business.

I had some time to talk with Dr. Muthusamy and ask questions that even I wanted to ask about this amazing program he offers for business owners in the DFW. Please check out the interview:



Dr. Muthusamy, Can you please provide the readers with a description of your AI Class?

"Generative AI for the Rest of Us" is a live, in-person course, designed specifically for business leaders, sales/marketing professionals, and other non-technical audiences. It provides a broad-based, high-level understanding of both traditional AI and Generative AI, starting with a brief history of AI. No technical background or programming expertise is required. Students will get hands-on experience with selected AI tools during the course. Students will walk away with a solid understanding of what these powerful technologies can do, including their use cases and application areas. They will also get an appreciation of the caveats and limitations of these technologies. Understanding what you CANNOT do with AI is just as important as understanding what you CAN do with AI. The course also includes a session on what it means to practice responsible and ethical AI - a topic that is becoming increasingly important as we embrace this technology in every aspect of our lives.

A total of 36 students, across three cohorts, have found this course to provide insightful, practical, and actionable information, as evidenced by their video testimonials and written feedback, available on my course website. The fourth cohort begins Oct 5th and runs through Oct 26th. It is a 12-hour program, spanning 4 classes, with 3 hours/class, held on Saturday afternoons, 1:30 - 4:30 pm. Students who complete the course will get a non-expiring digital course completion certificate that can be shared on social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.).

This course is being offered in partnership with Divergence Academy, a data science and cybersecurity training company, located in Addison, TX. The in-person classes will be held at their facility at 14665 Midway Road, Suite 220, Addison, TX 75001.

In your experience, how has AI benefited you in your career?

I have been working with AI, long before it was considered cool to be working in AI. My PhD major was Computer Science and Engineering, with a specialization in AI. I have worked in several areas of AI throughout my professional career, including automatic language identification, speech recognition, speech synthesis, natural language processing (NLP), AI chatbots, and more recently in developing applications using Generative AI and large language models (LLMs). It has been personally gratifying for me to see the technology evolve over the years to the point where it has hit the *"prime time"* with the general public and media, thanks to the advent of ChatGPT. But AI is a lot more than just ChatGPT and that is one of the key takeaways from this course.

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Dr. Muthusamy, many business owners are scared to accept AI as a part of their business. What can you tell them that will ease their minds?

It is understandable to be afraid of a technology as powerful as Generative AI, as the consequences of misuse can be expensive and devastating, depending on the application area. But AI is not a passing fad, it is here to stay. AI is also just a set of tools, at the end of the day. Just like you need to learn or get trained on using powerful tools like chainsaws and drills to use them safely and effectively, so too with AI. With proper training and understanding, AI can be leveraged by businesses of ANY size to increase productivity, reduce costs, and increase revenue. I hear a lot of misinformation and hype surrounding AI. This course is my attempt at dispelling all those myths and providing my students with actionable knowledge that will help them get the most out of AI.

The key point to remember: AI itself will not take away your job, but the individual who learns how to use AI effectively, most certainly will take away your job!

In what way with this program and training best benefit their businesses?

Judicious use of AI (both traditional and generative AI) will help businesses increase employee productivity (free them from grunt, repetitive work), reduce costs (get things done faster), and increase revenue. AI tools will help spark new ideas, but it is still up to the businesses to make sure that the output of AI makes sense for them. It is not a silver bullet, but a powerful set of tools or digital assistants that can help their businesses to grow.

How can they sign up and attend?

Enrollment is easy. Go to <https://www.yeshvik.com/genai-rest-of-us> and click on the "Enroll Online" link. All credit cards are accepted. The regular price is \$600, a bargain for 12 hours of in-person, live, and interactive instruction.

As a special, exclusive incentive, readers of What's Up Dallas magazine can get 10% off by using the discount code **WUD10** at checkout. This discount offer is valid through September 30th!

As a bonus question, what drives your passion for AI education and helping business owners of all kinds?

Having worked at the intersection of technology and business throughout my professional career, I understand that the true value of technology comes from the real-world problems it can solve. Technology for technology's sake is not very useful. Generative AI is a transformational technology that is akin to the internet and mobile phones in its impact and reach into our professional and personal lives. I am driven by the desire to ensure that everyone can get the most out of AI. I see a lot of hype, misunderstanding, and misinformation regarding AI's capabilities. I hope to cut through all that fog with this course.

Special Thanks to Yeshwant Muthusamy, Ph.D. for taking time to interview with What's Up, Dallas! Magazine!



*Sign up via the QR Code or <https://www.yeshvik.com/genai-rest-of-us>.
Class begins October 5th*

“A Day in the Life of a Photographer”

Written By:

*David Hardin, Freelance Writer
and Photographer*

Leticia Duarte is a woman of many skills and has quite a few responsibilities in life. A mother of three grown men, a wife to her husband of thirty years, and business owner of a telecommunications company that she runs with her husband. She also has another career and thriving business that she is very passionate about, photography.

Mrs. Duarte fell in love with photography when she was in middle school; she got her first 35 mm Kodak camera and started taking pictures of anything and everything. When she was in high school, she took pictures, and also wrote articles for her school newspaper and was Editor in Chief of her High school's yearbook.

The San Antonio native has been running her photography business for about the past ten years and has enjoyed every minute of it. She works her photography business out of her Deep Ellum Studio which is located in the downtown Dallas Arts district.

Duarte uses her Cannon r6 camera to help families make memories that will last a lifetime. She has done family portraits, weddings, Quinceanera's, and other important events in people's lives, she has also photographed models. When Leticia is done with her photo sessions, she goes back to her studio and edit's the photographs using Photo Shop, and Adobe Light room.

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According to Duarte, her photographic style is live, candid, and natural, she wants the person that she is photographing to not look at the camera, and candid shots are her favorite. She enjoys shooting outside, and loves taking pictures of animals, lakes, sunsets, and trees. She is a natural photographer.

Duarte says that one of her main difficulties running a photography business is marketing and advertising. *"It is a struggle for me especially being able to use social media platforms to get my name out there, but not having to spend a lot of money to do so; I rely heavily on having word of mouth from my clients."*

Leticia believes that the most important part of running a photography business is to have an open communication with the client. Find out what the client's needs are, do they want a family portrait at the park on a sunny day wearing nice clothes or do they want to be in a studio sitting on a nice couch wearing casual clothes with a blue-sky background behind them and flowers to each side of them.

Duarte shares some advice for photographers who are just starting out: *"Find what you love to shoot, whether it is taking personal portraits or family portraits. Life events like weddings, anniversaries, reunions, birthday parties and more. Find out what you are good at, and then make that your niche. Once you have decided what types of pictures you like taking then Practice, Practice, Practice, learn your camera settings and Exposure Triangle. When you are comfortable with your photography and want to try to run your own photography business get yourself a good mentor, mirror other photographers and then just be yourself and work with your clients to give them respectful, courteous and quality service. Don't compete with other photography businesses, just be happy and focus on your own business."*

One of the things Mrs. Duarte uses her camera for is good. She volunteers for organizations by taking pictures at their events. She has done photos for her church, the Mayor of Mesquite, and other organizations. She also done photos for young women to help them build their self-confidence and self-esteem and help make them feel beautiful in front of the camera.

When asked what she thinks makes a photographer good at their job, she says, *"Get to know your client's vision, and start with a good conversation."*

Duarte has always wanted to travel, and if she had the opportunity to photograph Alaska, she would go in a heartbeat. She would love to take pictures of the glaciers, animals, whales, and the snow-covered mountains.

She says, *"in Five years I will be married to my wonderful husband, and still running our business and of course will still be taking pictures because that is what I love doing."*

If you are interested in Letty Duarte Photography services, you can message Leticia on her Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/lettyduartephotography> and you can also visit her Instagram page <https://www.instagram.com/lettyduartephotography/>





FUN FACTS OF *SEPTEMBER*

*An Article by What's Up,
Dallas!*

September isn't just about pumpkin spice and the start of fall—it's packed with incredible historical moments that changed the world in surprising ways. Let's dive into some of the coolest and most fun facts about September, with a twist of history thrown in!

The Mayflower Sets Sail (1620)

In September 1620, a group of daring souls known as the Pilgrims set sail on the Mayflower from England to the New World. They didn't know it at the time, but they were about to become a key part of American history. Their journey led to the establishment of one of the first successful colonies in America, giving birth to the Thanksgiving tradition we celebrate today.

The Founding of Google (1998)

Believe it or not, the world as we know it changed in September 1998 when two Stanford PhD students, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, officially founded Google. From a humble search engine, Google has grown into a global tech giant that pretty much rules the internet. It's hard to imagine life without it today—thanks, September!

Star-Spangled Banner Is Born (1814)

On the night of September 13-14, 1814, during the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem that would become the U.S. national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." While watching the British attack Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Key saw the American flag still flying after the battle and penned the iconic words that millions sing today.

First Modern Olympic Games Announced (1894)

In September 1894, the International Olympic Committee was formed in Paris, signaling the start of the modern Olympic Games. Though the first official Games wouldn't take place until 1896 in Athens, this September moment marked the revival of an ancient tradition and the birth of one of the most celebrated sporting events in the world.

Ford's Model T Rolls Out (1908)

September 1908 marked a revolution in the way we get around, with the introduction of the Ford Model T—the first car that was affordable for the average person. Henry Ford's assembly line production not only made cars more accessible but also forever changed industrial manufacturing. Thanks to the Model T, we've got modern road trips and bumper-to-bumper traffic—September's gift to humanity!

The Signing of the U.S. Constitution (1787)

On September 17, 1787, the U.S. Constitution was signed by 39 delegates at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. This pivotal document laid the foundation for American government and has influenced democracies worldwide. Every year, Constitution Day is celebrated in the U.S. to mark this September milestone.

Television's First Broadcast (1928)

While it might seem hard to believe now, television was once a brand-new technology. In September 1928, the BBC made its first television broadcast in London. It was an experimental transmission, but it kicked off a revolution in entertainment that would eventually lead to our current obsession with binge-watching TV shows and viral videos.

JFK's Famous Moon Speech (1962)

In September 1962, President John F. Kennedy delivered his famous "We choose to go to the Moon" speech at Rice University. His words inspired a nation to dream big and led to the Apollo missions that eventually landed humans on the moon in 1969. That September speech is still quoted today as a symbol of human ambition and scientific progress.

First Comic Book Published (1934)

Superheroes owe their origins to September! In September 1934, Famous Funnies No. 1 hit the stands as the first true comic book. It sparked a craze that would bring us iconic characters like Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman, creating an entire industry that thrives to this day. Thanks, September, for giving us comic books!

The Internet Goes Live (1969)

On September 2, 1969, the first-ever data transmission was sent over ARPANET, the precursor to the modern internet. It might not have been a full-fledged web page, but it was the first step toward creating the world's digital highway. Now we can stream movies, share memes, and chat with friends across the globe—all thanks to a historic moment in September.

September is far from a quiet, transitional month—it's been a launchpad for historic achievements and game-changing events that still influence our lives today. Whether it's the birth of the U.S. Constitution, the invention of the Model T, or the start of the internet, this month holds some truly remarkable moments in history. So, the next time you think of September, remember, it's more than just a month—it's a time of monumental change!



**PICKLEBALL IS
TAKING OVER
NORTH TEXAS!**

Total Pickleball Takeover: How Pickleball has become a staple in the lives of North Texas residents.

-Sophia Wall

Pickleball has completely conquered the media and made way for itself as a professional sport. The game, which was created almost 60 years ago, has turned from a leisurely activity into a full-blown competitive sport with competitions held all over the country. Oasis Pickleball is the largest recreational Pickleball center in Texas and the third largest Pickleball center in the United States. Though Oasis Pickleball has become an important part of the North Texas community, Pickleball itself was not always the talk of the town.

Gene Click, the owner of Oasis Pickleball, had no idea what this sport was until 2015, when moving to Oklahoma City with his wife in search of a community church. After going to church one day, some of the members invited Gene along to play Pickleball with them, and Gene politely declined as he believed Pickleball was just some sport for the elderly and retired, little did he know the sport would soon change the trajectory of his life once he gave it a chance.

Soon after, Click began working at Oasis, which was then just a Tennis facility, but he was able to see how Pickleball would completely take over.

"There were only four pickleball courts to start, and there would be 50 people waiting over there to play on four courts. Then you have all these other Tennis courts and there would be eight people playing," Click added.

Since then, all the Tennis courts within the facility have been converted into Pickleball courts. Click says the game itself has such an inviting nature, and no matter age or ability, anyone can become great at Pickleball.

"I can put an eight-year-old and an 80-year-old on the same court and tell them both to play as hard as they can, I couldn't do that with football," Click explained.

Pickleball is a four-player game contrary to Tennis which is driven by singles. This contributes to the social aspect of the game especially since partners are not needed, allowing people to make new friends throughout each match.

Despite being an extremely social sport, Pickleball reached an all time high in popularity during the pandemic. As a non-contact sport,

it allows people to play with one another at a distance while still enjoying the competition. Oasis gained over 2,000 members during the pandemic, many of them families looking for a way to spend time together without sacrificing their health.



Oasis Pickleball Indoor Courts - Photo by Sophie Wall

Oasis has its own Amature Athletic Union team with 20 kids who are playing at a professional level. However you do not need to be seasoned to get along at Oasis, as they have a class for beginners every Tuesday night. This mix of professional and amature players gives Oasis a unique flare that you would not find anywhere else.

Although it has its own competitive edge, in Pickleball good sportsmanship is key.

"Pickleball is the only sport I have ever played, and I have played them all, that I have told someone "you almost had me", or "good shot" even when they missed it," Click informed me.

Unlike most sports, the foundation of Pickleball is kindness.

"If you hit somebody with a ball...you always say you're sorry. In Football if I tackle you I don't say sorry. In Tennis if I ace you I don't say sorry," Gene says.

This is just one of the distinct features of Pickleball which separates it from its counterparts. After every match all four players meet at the net and tap paddles. This is a way of saying "good game".

The fastest growing sport in the world is changing the sports culture for the better. For those interested, on May 30th several thousand players and spectators will come to Oasis for a Professional Pickleball tournament which will be broadcasted on ESPN.

As North Texas residents flock to local pickleball courts in search of a new hobby they end up rekindling their competitive edge, finding lifelong friends, and becoming better people overall.

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No Blemish Ministry: A Beacon of Faith and Community

In a world where many seek spiritual guidance and community, No Blemish Ministry stands out as a beacon of faith, dedicated to bringing people closer to Jesus Christ. This ministry, accessible through their website No Blemish Ministry, offers a variety of resources and services aimed at nurturing the spiritual growth of its members and the broader community.

No Blemish Ministry is driven by a clear mission: to glorify Jesus Christ and bring the lost sheep back to their first love. The ministry emphasizes the importance of walking in truth and knowing God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. This mission is reflected in their various outreach programs, worship services, and educational resources.

The ministry offers a range of programs designed to cater to different aspects of spiritual life:

1. **Worship Services:** Regular worship services are held to provide a space for communal prayer, worship, and spiritual nourishment.

2. **Educational Resources:** The ministry provides educational materials that help individuals understand the teachings of Jesus Christ and apply them in their daily lives.

3. **Community Outreach:** No Blemish Ministry is actively involved in community outreach, aiming to support and uplift those in need through various charitable activities.

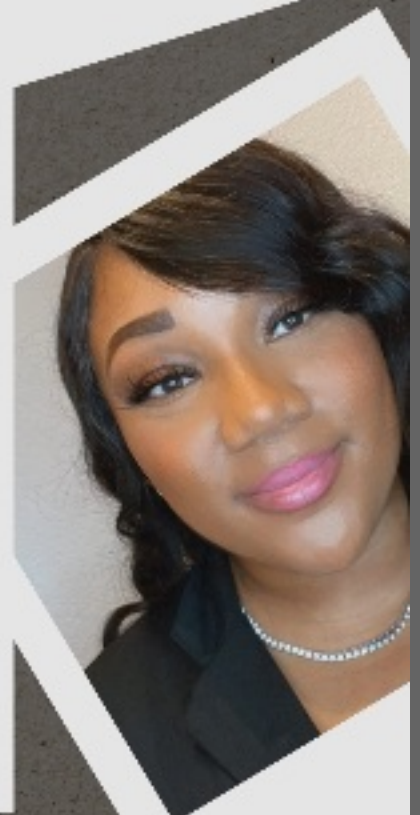
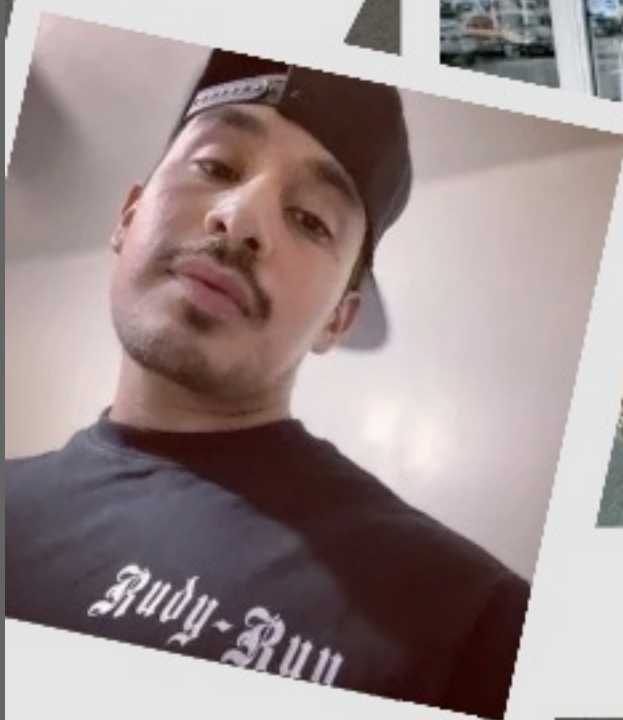
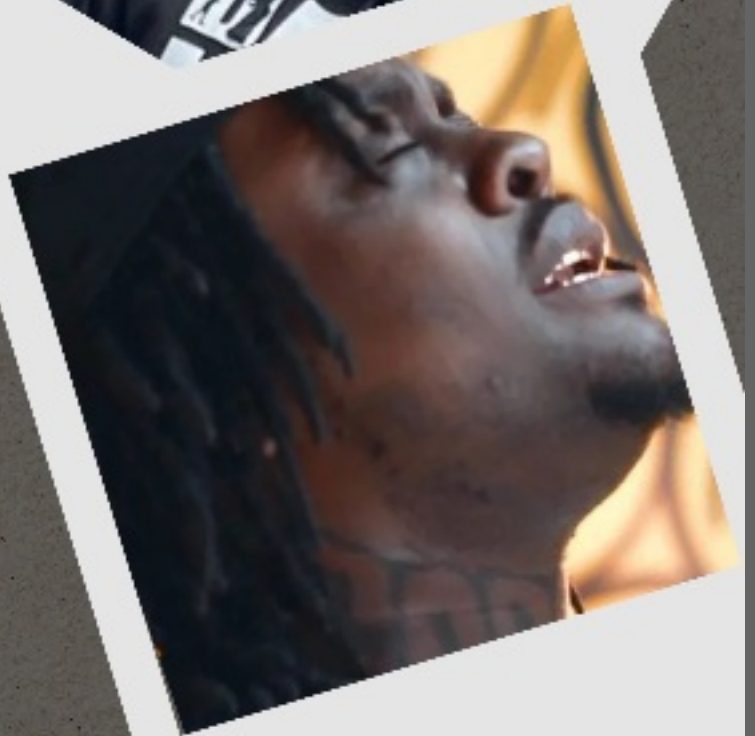
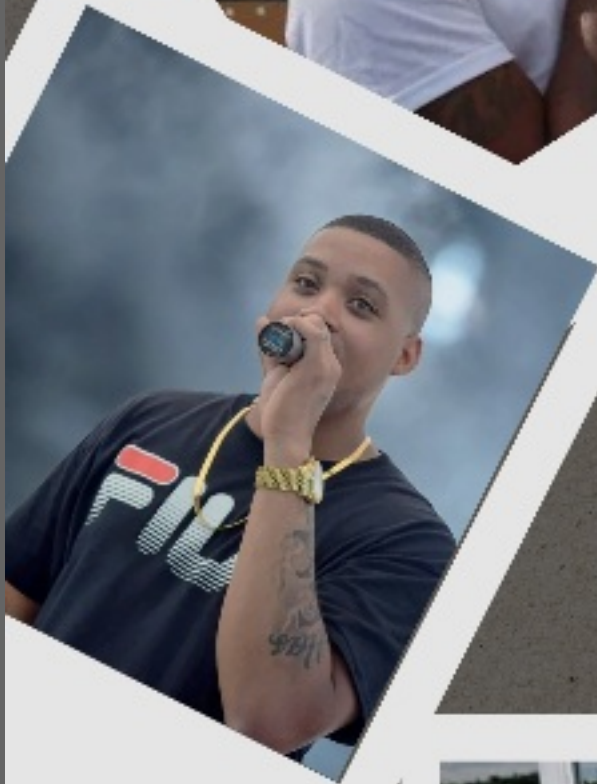
The website serves as a central hub for all the ministry's activities. Visitors can find information about upcoming events, access sermons and educational content, and connect with the ministry's community. The site is user-friendly and designed to make it easy for individuals to find the resources they need.

No Blemish Ministry also has a strong presence in the world of Christian music and media. They produce and promote music that glorifies Jesus Christ and resonates with today's youth. Their YouTube channel features a variety of content, including music videos, sermons, and testimonies, all aimed at spreading the gospel and inspiring faith.

No Blemish Ministry is more than just a gospel lead organization; it is a community dedicated to living out the teachings of Jesus Christ and helping others do the same. Through their website and various programs, they provide valuable resources and support to those seeking spiritual growth and a deeper connection with God. Whether you are looking for a place to worship, educational resources, or a supportive community, No Blemish Ministry offers a welcoming and enriching environment.

For more information, visit their website at: www.NoBlemishMinistry.com

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