

HR '78 45th Reunion Symposia Descriptions and Speaker Bios

A. Keep Sharp! Learn How to Preserve Brain Health as We Age

Thursday, June 1

10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.

Northwest Labs

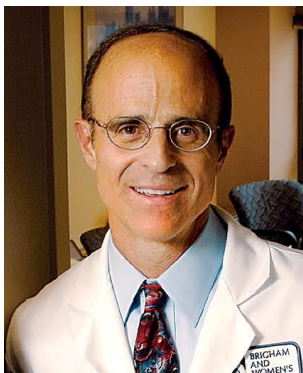
Summary:

Is it possible to preserve brain health as we age?

As many of us have seen our parents, family members, and friends decline with the onset of dementias, such as Alzheimer's disease, Lewy Body disease, Primary Progressive Aphasia, Vascular dementia, and others, we ask ourselves if there are any ways to prevent this seemingly inevitable decline or at least slow it down.

Fortunately, we have a panel of accomplished neurologists and occupational and environmental health professors who can give us a glimpse into what is being done to answer these questions. With members of the Class of '78 now in their mid-60s, it is more pressing for each of us to examine this new data as it becomes available.

Panelists:



Kirk R. Daffner '78, MD,

Dr. Kirk Daffner is the Director of the Center for Brain-Mind Medicine and chief of the Division of Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, and the J.

David and Virginia Wimberly Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. He is the faculty editor of “Improving Memory”, a Special Health Report from Harvard Medical School. Dr Daffner is a member of the Class of ‘78.



MingMing Ning, MD, MMSc

Dr. MingMing Ning is a vascular neurologist and Director of the Cardio-Neurology Division and Clinical Proteomics Research Center at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). Her NIH-sponsored research explores a wide range of multi-disciplinary omics and digital technologies to improve brain-heart health and individualize treatment. Music and art for vascular cognitive health is of particular interest. She has served as President of the American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR) and is Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. Dr Ning graduated with her BS and BA from Yale.



Stephanos N. Kales MD, MPH, FACP, FACOEM

Dr. Stephanos Kales is a Professor and the Director of the Occupational Medicare Residency Program at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and the Division Chief of Occupational and Environmental Health at the Cambridge Health Alliance.

He is a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. His primary research involves the health of firefighters and police officers. He has significant expertise on obesity and cardio-metabolic risk. He is a faculty member in Harvard’s Cardiovascular Epidemiology Program, a multi-disciplinary, heart disease prevention collaboration, and is also a faculty Member of Harvard Medical School’s Division of Sleep Medicine. He was Scientific Chair of the 2017 Mediterranean Diet and Health Conference in Greece and co-authored the Textbook of Lifestyle Medicine in 2022.

Dr Kales graduated with his BS from Bucknell.



Moderator: Anna Athena Manatis, '78 M.D., MPH

Dr. Anna Athena Manatis has been an internist for over 30 years, earning her MD from New York University and her MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health in Occupational and Environmental Health. She has a particular interest in power plant pollution and lung cancer, as well as environmental exposures and breast cancer. Before joining Mass General Brigham she worked in private practice on Cape Cod for 20 years in the practice she started in 1989. Ana is a member of the Class of '78.

B. Whither Democracy at Home and Abroad?

Thursday, June 1

10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.

Northwest Labs

Summary:

Much has been written about the rise of authoritarianism throughout the world during the last decade. Among the questions this program will address are:

1. How are democracies doing across the globe?
2. What are the leading indicators that a democracy is in trouble?
3. If democracy is in trouble, what are the causes?
4. What can citizens do to protect and preserve their democracies?

Panelists:



[Elizabeth Andersen](#)

Elizabeth "Betsy" Andersen is Executive Director of the World Justice Project, leading its global efforts to advance the rule of law. She has more than 25 years of experience in the international legal arena, having served previously as Director of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and its Europe and Eurasia Division (ABA CEELI), as Executive Director of the American Society of International Law, and as Executive Director of Human Rights Watch's Europe and Central Asia Division.

Ms. Andersen is a member of the American Law Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the Board of Trustees of Williams College as well as on the governing and advisory boards of several international non-profit organizations. She is the recipient of a number of awards for her work in the international rule of law field, including a Williams College Bicentennial Medal, the American Society of International Law Prominent Woman in International Law Award, and the American Bar Association Section of International Law World Order Under Law Award.

Ms. Andersen received a B.A. from Williams College, an M.P.A. from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, and a J.D. from Yale Law School.



[Mayor John Cooper, '78](#)

John Cooper is the ninth mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Tennessee. John served as an At-Large Member of Nashville Metro Council from 2015 to 2019. He was elected Mayor in 2019. Since taking office, Mayor Cooper has made Nashville's teachers the best-paid in Tennessee, provided paid family leave to all public school employees, and increased the city's education budget by 20% to fund better facilities and resources across Davidson County. Mayor Cooper also established an \$18/hour minimum wage across all Metro departments, provided body worn cameras for police officers and recruited hundreds of new officers to the force, and created a \$50 million "housing first" plan to get Nashville's most vulnerable residents off the street and into stable housing. During Mayor Cooper's tenure, Nashville has more than quadrupled its affordable housing resources, including a first-ever Metro Housing Division. Nashville is co-leading a private-public partnership to construct 100 megawatts of local, utility-scale solar power. In the spring of 2022, Mayor Cooper publicly set a target reduce Nashville community greenhouse gas emissions 80% from 2014 levels.

Mayor Cooper is a member of the Class of '78 and received an MBA from Vanderbilt University.



[Archon Fung](#)

Archon Fung is the Winthrop Laflin McCormack Professor of Citizenship and Self-Government at the Harvard Kennedy School. His research explores policies, practices, and institutional designs that deepen the quality of democratic governance. He focuses upon public participation, deliberation, and transparency. He co-directs the Transparency Policy Project and leads democratic governance programs of the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the

Kennedy School. His books include *Full Disclosure: The Perils and Promise of Transparency* (Cambridge University Press, with Mary Graham and David Weil) and *Empowered Participation: Reinventing Urban Democracy* (Princeton University Press). He has authored five books, four edited collections, and over fifty articles appearing in professional journals. He received two S.B.s — in philosophy and physics — and his Ph.D. in political science from MIT.



Moderator: Deval Patrick, '78,

Deval Patrick is Co-Director of the Center for Public Leadership and a professor of practice at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is also a Senior Advisor to Bain Capital and co-chair of American Bridge 21st Century Foundation, a progressive political action committee. He is the founder and, from April 2015 to December 2019, was Managing Partner of Bain Capital Double Impact, a growth equity fund that invests in commercial businesses for both competitive financial returns and positive social impact. From January 2007 to January 2015, he served as Governor of Massachusetts. He has been a senior executive in two Fortune 50 companies, a partner in two Boston law firms, and by appointment of President Bill Clinton, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the United States Justice Department. He is a Rockefeller Fellow, a Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute, and the author of two books. Mr. Patrick earned his AB *cum laude* from Harvard College and his JD from Harvard Law School.

C. Confused About Crypto?

Thursday, June 1

2:20 P.M. – 3:20 P.M.

Northwest Labs

Summary:

If crypto is supposed to revolutionize the financial system, why hasn't that happened after 14 years? But if it's only a speculative bubble, why does it persist? And if you were graduating today, would you decline traditional job offers on Wall Street or Main Street and take a flyer on a crypto start up instead? Classmate Timothy Massad will offer a few thoughts on how to understand what's happening with crypto, its potential and its limitations, and be joined by several recent Harvard graduates who have chosen to make it their professional focus. They will discuss what motivated them to jump into this space and how they see it evolving. As the Buffalo Springfield sang, "There's something happening here . . . What it is ain't exactly clear." We hope this session can shed some light!

Panelists:

[Timothy Massad, '78](#)

Timothy Massad is currently a Research Fellow and Director of the Digital Assets Policy Project at the Harvard Kennedy School. He has been following crypto since 2014, when he was Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (2014-2017). He was previously Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Stability during the Obama Administration. Prior to his government service, he was a partner at the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. He has written several papers on digital assets published by the Brookings Institution, where he is a nonresident senior fellow, as well as op-eds on the subject for the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, Barron's, and other publications.

[Recent Harvard graduates who have chosen to make crypto their professional focus.](#)



Thomas Cowan is a graduate of the joint degree program at the Harvard Business School and the Harvard Kennedy School. He most recently worked at Paxos, the stablecoin issuer, with its strategy team and at Ripple with its Central Bank Digital Currency team. He also recently published a paper for Tim Massad at HKS's Digital Assets Policy Project on the payment uses of

regulated stablecoins. Before graduate school, Thomas worked with the Boston Federal Reserve Bank's CBDC team and as an Asia tech analyst at the CIA. He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and History from MIT.



Izzi Steinhaus is an investor at Nyca Partners, a fintech-focused venture capital fund based out of New York, where she spends much of her time researching, meeting and investing in companies in and around the digital asset ecosystem. Prior to joining Nyca, Izzi was an Associate at Goldman Sachs in the Investment Banking Division covering banks and fintechs within the Financial Institutions Group. Izzi started her journey in fintech as an undergrad, where her deep interest in the space served as a launch point for her thesis research. Izzi graduated from Harvard College with a degree in Applied Mathematics and a focus in Economics.



Amira Valliani is Head of Policy at the Solana Foundation, whose mission is to support the decentralization, security, and adoption of the Solana blockchain, a Layer 1 blockchain, and its community. In this role, she works with lawmakers, operators, and web3 community members on building the policy architecture for the next generation of the internet. Amira came to the Solana Foundation having spent time as both a policymaker and entrepreneur. Most recently, she founded a creator economy company called Glow, which helped podcasters monetize their content and which was acquired by Libsyn (LSYN) in 2021. Amira previously served as Senior Advisor to the Deputy National Security Advisor in the Obama White House and as an advisor in the State Department Office of Policy Planning under Jake Sullivan. Amira has an MBA/MPA from the Wharton School and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



Maude Wilson is Policy Counsel for Uniswap Labs, which supports the Uniswap protocol, a leading decentralized protocol on which participants can trade and lend crypto assets. In her role at Uniswap Labs, Maude advocates for policy positions on behalf of the decentralized finance and crypto ecosystems. Prior to joining Uniswap, Maude worked in the Alternatives to Incarceration Unit at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and as a summer associate at both Davis Polk and the U.S. Attorney's Office, SDNY. Maude earned her JD from Harvard Law School, where she studied DAOs, NFTs, and other blockchain issues, and planned the inaugural Harvard Blockchain Conference.



Stephen Xi is a graduate of Harvard College as well as Harvard Business School. Stephen has been extremely active in the HBS blockchain ecosystem, serving as Co-President of the HBS Blockchain Club and Co-Chair of the [Harvard Blockchain Conference](#). He also spent 7 months at Polygon, a leading Ethereum scaling solution, as a Director of Product Strategy. Prior to business school, Stephen worked in early stage tech investing, first at Volition Capital and later at Norwest Venture Partners. Stephen will soon start working at [MPCH](#), a cryptographic infrastructure company focused on MPC (multi-party computation) that will initially serve the institutional crypto custody market.

D. Doom or Mere Gloom: Is There Hope for Avoiding Climate Collapse?

Thursday, June 1

2:20 P.M. – 3:20 P.M.

Northwest Labs

Summary:

This program will address the following questions:

1. What do we now know about the predicted impacts of climate change?
2. What potential alternative energy, carbon capture, geo-engineering or other solutions might be available to address the problem?
3. Is there cause for optimism that we are up to the task?

Panelists:



[Daniel P. Schrag](#)

Daniel P. Schrag is the Sturgis Hooper Professor of Geology at Harvard University, Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering, and Director of the Harvard University Center for the Environment. Schrag studies climate and climate change over the broadest range of Earth history. He is particularly interested in how information on climate change from the geologic past can lead to better understanding of anthropogenic climate change in the future. In addition to his work on geochemistry and climatology, Schrag studies energy technology and policy, including carbon capture and storage and low-carbon synthetic fuels. From 2009-2017, Schrag served on President Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Among various honors, he is the recipient of the James B. Macelwane Medal from the American Geophysical Union and a MacArthur Fellowship. Schrag earned a B.S. in geology and geophysics and political science from Yale University and his Ph.D. in geology from the University of California at Berkeley. He came to Harvard in 1997 after teaching at Princeton.



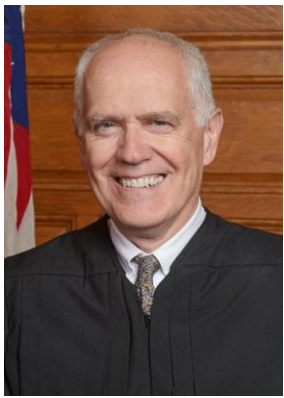
[Mindy S. Lubber](#)

Mindy S. Lubber is the CEO and President of the sustainability nonprofit organization Ceres. Prior to Ceres, Lubber served as a Regional Administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President Bill Clinton. She also founded Green Century Capital Management and served as the director of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group (MASSPIRG). At Ceres, Lubber leads the organization's executive leadership team and more than 200 employees working to mobilize the most influential investors and companies to solve the world's greatest sustainability challenges. She has been at the helm since 2003, and under her leadership, the organization and its powerful networks and global collaborations have grown significantly in size and influence. As a well-known global thought leader on climate change, Lubber has inspired capital market leaders including global coalitions of institutional investors and corporate boards and executives to factor environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices into their overall strategies. She is frequently quoted in top business and financial news outlets and pens a regular column for Forbes.com on a variety of topics that have strengthened the economic and financial case for sustainability action and elevated concepts, such as climate and water risk, to the mainstream business community. She regularly speaks to high-level world and national policymakers on the need for stronger clean energy and water policies and regulations, and has helped change the political conversation around tackling our greatest sustainability challenges to one focused on jobs and the economy. In 2015, Lubber helped catalyze the necessary business support to get the historic Paris Agreement across the finish line, leading Vogue Magazine to name her a "Climate Warrior." She has received numerous awards and recognitions for her leadership. In 2020, Lubber was awarded the United Nations 'Champions of the Earth' Entrepreneurial Vision award. In the same year, Lubber made Barron's Magazine's list of the 100 most influential women in U.S. finance, and then again in 2021. She has also received the Climate Visionary Award from the Earth Day Network, William K. Reilly Award for Environmental Leadership from American University, and the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship from the Skoll Foundation. She has been recognized by the United Nations and the Foundation for Social Change as one of the World's Top Leaders of Change. In 2019, 2020, and 2021, Ceres was named a top 100 women-led businesses in Massachusetts by the Globe Magazine and Commonwealth Institute. Lubber earned her B.A. in business administration from the University of Buffalo in 1975, her MBA from the University of Buffalo in 1976, and her JD from Suffolk Law School in 1983.



Phil Duffy, '78

Phil Duffy is a scientist who is dedicated to understanding and managing the human consequences of climate change. Since 2021 he has served in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he helps to form and implement the President's climate agenda. Prior to rejoining government, he was President and Executive Director of the Woodwell Climate Research Center (formerly Woods Hole Research Center), which helps to manage climate change through use-inspired research. In the Obama administration, Dr. Duffy served as a Senior Policy Analyst in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and as a Senior Advisor in the US Global Change Research Program. Before joining the White House, Dr. Duffy was Chief Scientist at Climate Central, a climate change communications organization. At Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Dr. Duffy was a Senior Scientist and Deputy Division Leader in the Atmospheric Science Division, and led research on impacts of climate change in California and the west, including wildfire and water scarcity. He also did the first climate model simulations of solar radiation management, and the first-ever global climate simulations at resolutions as fine as 50 km. He has held visiting positions at the Carnegie Institution for Science, Stanford University, and the University of California, Merced. He holds a bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* from Harvard in astronomy and astrophysics and a PhD in applied physics from Stanford.



Moderator: James R. Milkey, '78

James R. Milkey is an associate justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, having been nominated for that position by Governor Deval Patrick in 2009. Before that, he was Chief of the Environmental Protection Division of the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. There, he served as counsel of record in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), which addressed the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibility to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under

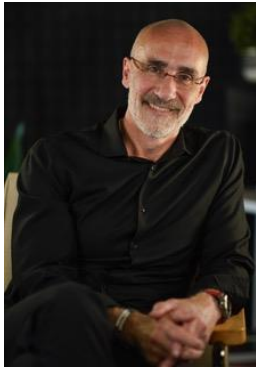
the Federal Clean Air Act, and he successfully argued that case before the United States Supreme Court. Milkey has lectured frequently on climate change, enforcement, brownfields, and regulatory takings issues. Among the awards he has received are Public Servant of the Year (2006) from the Environmental League of Massachusetts; one of ten "Lawyers of the Year" (2007) by Lawyers USA; American Bar Association Award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy; and a lifetime achievement award from the Environmental Protection Agency-New England. Milkey earned an A.B. in history and science at Harvard College in 1978 and a JD at Harvard Law School and a masters in city planning at MIT in 1983.

E. What's Next: Finding Purpose and Happiness in Life's Next Chapter

Thursday, June 1

3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Northwest Labs Atrium



[Speaker: Arthur Brooks](#)

Arthur C. Brooks is the William Henry Bloomberg Professor of the Practice of Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School, and Professor of Management Practice at the Harvard Business School, where he teaches courses on leadership and happiness. He is also a columnist at *The Atlantic*, where he writes the popular weekly “How to Build a Life” column. Brooks is the author of 12 books, including the 2022 #1 *New York Times* bestseller *From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life*. He speaks to audiences all around the world about human happiness, and works to raise well-being within private companies, universities, public agencies, and community organizations.

F. The Balloon Goes Up: China's Place in the World Goes Critical

Friday, June 2

4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Boylston Hall, Fong Auditorium

Summary:

2008, the year of our 30th reunion, was the year of China's great emergence on the world stage with an exquisitely produced and avidly watched Summer Olympic Games. Companies raced to take advantage of the burgeoning Chinese domestic market and efficient supply chains; enrollment in Mandarin language programs soared as young people dreamed of making their fortune in the fastest growing and largest market in the world; US universities, including Yale, Penn, NYU, Duke, Chicago, Stanford and, yes, Harvard, flocked to open offices or campuses in China. It was the high point of China's soft power influence in the world.

What happened?

The shooting down of a Chinese "spy balloon" off the coast of South Carolina highlights just how far China's soft power reputation has fallen.

This panel will offer some suggestions as to how to understand this rapid change and what it means for the future. Among the questions it will address are:

1. What changes has Xi Jinping brought to governance in China during his first ten years as CCP General Secretary?
2. What are the party's goals beyond economic growth?
3. What is the impact of China's governance and goals on the United States and the existing global order?
4. Should your grandchildren still be encouraged to study Mandarin?

Panelists:



Mark Wu

Mark Wu (伍人英) is the Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University and the Henry L. Stimson Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, where he teaches international trade and international economic law. He recently returned to Harvard after serving as Senior Advisor in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. At Harvard, he has also served as a Faculty Co-Director of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, and as a faculty affiliate at Harvard's Asia Center, Center for the Environment, Center for International Development, East Asian Legal Studies, and the Harvard Environmental Economics Program. Professor Wu's publications include *The Law of the World Trade Organization (WTO): Documents, Cases & Analysis* (West Academy Publishing 2013, with Petros C. Mavroidis).



Meg Rithmire

Meg Rithmire (任美格) is F. Warren MacFarlan associate professor at Harvard Business School in the Business, Government, and International Economy Unit. Professor Rithmire holds a PhD in Government from Harvard University, and her primary expertise is in the comparative political economy of development with a focus on China and Asia. A new book, forthcoming with Oxford University Press, *Prekarious Ties: Business and the State in Authoritarian Asia*, examines how governments attempt to discipline business and how business adapts to different methods of state control. Her work also focuses on China's role in the world, including Chinese outward investment and lending practices and economic relations between China and other countries, especially the United States.

Professor Rithmire is a faculty associate at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, the Fairbank Center for East Asian Studies at Harvard, and the Harvard Faculty Committee on Southeast Asia.



Moderator: Jeff Williams, '78, EALC, MBA '82

Jeff Williams (韦杰夫) is a Rajawali Fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard Kennedy School and an experienced corporate and non-profit director. He has had a career in banking and education of 40 years in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and China. He is currently an advisor to UBS Asset Management in Hong Kong and China and a member of the board of UBS SDIC Fund Management Company. He is trustee and audit committee chair of China Medical Board, and a council member of Asian Corporate Governance Association. His major at Harvard was East Asian Languages and Civilizations.

In 1979-80 shortly after the resumption of diplomatic relations between China and the United States Jeff taught at Peking University. In 2004-06 he was the first foreign president of a Chinese commercial bank, Shenzhen Development Bank. Most recently, in 2010-2013 he was the inaugural Executive Director of Harvard University's Center in Shanghai.