

Our class web meister **Larry Wheeler** writes, “For the past 15 years, I have been a volunteer mediator at the Justice of the Peace Courts in Texas. I help others in my community resolve their disputes without having to go through costly and time-consuming litigation. I have been affiliated with the Dispute Resolution Center of Harris County and the Central Texas Dispute Resolution Center. I am also a member of the Texas Association of Mediators. I have mediated close to 400 disputes, with about 75% resulting in mutually agreed settlements.” Let me add that Larry has maintained our website since its inception, and we all thank him for keeping us up to date. Another Class Note arrived from **Ruth Schimel**. “Blooming further from my ILR education, I continue contributing to others through my Career & Life Management Consulting practice and publishing articles and books on professional and personal growth. For examples and descriptions as well as my poetry, please explore my website: <https://www.ruthschimel.com>. You'll also see there examples of a new monthly, pithy Newsletter designed to enrich recipients' interests. Another unfolding project with a colleague is <https://artingconversations.com> I would love to hear from you and learn about what's engaging you.

Weighing in from the Pacific Northwest, **Karis Ricketts** writes from Seattle. “My daughter, Erin McMonigal, graduated from Cornell (class of 1994). I have twin grandchildren who might be interested in Cornell class of 2031 but now they are both very involved in sports and school. Finn is very interested in math, has studied mandarin at school for about 3 years. Riley is interested in science. They are both on the varsity tennis teams and Riley is on volleyball and basketball teams. They have played mixed doubles in tennis tournaments on occasion. We'll see! I made friends at Cornell with whom I'm still in touch: Fran Shapiro Ivker, Mary Ellen Bertoni Reid and many others. I spent a number of years recruiting for Cornell in the Cornell Club of Western Washington and also played tennis for a while. Cornell changed the trajectory of my life by inspiring me to try different options: After Cornell, I was a typist in Denver, then a clerk typist for FAA in Alaska where I also learned to fly a small airplane and received my private pilot's license, then a French teacher at an army post in Alaska, then accepted for graduate study in French at University of Washington, later studied accounting at the UW, was accepted in the MBA program at UW, turned it down to take a job as a junior staff accountant at a local accounting firm, went on to a second local accounting firm,

finished my MST, then formed my own CPA firm and have continued to enjoy the work. I would never have tried accounting because I wasn't interested in accounting until I had tried a number of other jobs. I found that all aspects of public accounting, especially tax work, are actually fun.”

**David Waks** is now residing in Florida and writes, “I learned to program computers as a Cornell freshman in 1957, and think I was the first "computer geek" at Cornell. I have worked with digital technology and data my entire life since then. In 2004 when still living in New Jersey, I started volunteering to apply my IT skills to winning elections. After moving to Florida in 2013 I got involved in helping to elect Democrats in Lee County, and now chair a stateside organization. It all started at Cornell!”

I received a rather short note from **Gerold Yonas** that he has a new book out: **The Dragon’s Brain** <https://www.apbooks.net/product-page/the-dragon-s-brain> I clicked through the URL and read the teaser below.. “At the American research lab known as the birthplace of nuclear weapons, a scientific breakthrough sparks a mysterious disease. Devoted to his belief in the power of science, renowned physicist Dr. Alek Spray and his team scramble for a solution to this bizarre neurological pandemic. Unfortunately, the 'cure' they engineer could prove deadly in the wrong hands. As Alek battles a Chinese crime syndicate bent on world domination, he realizes that the ambiguous nature of scientific advancement holds the promise of both good and evil depending on its use. Now the woman he loves is in danger and the unintended consequences and misuse of Alek's inventions could forever alter the course of humanity. Alek and his colleagues must find the solution before it's too late.” Sounds like an interesting read.

Finally a lengthy note from **Philip Bereano** his first in almost 40 years. I haven’t shared any news since our 25th reunion when my essay about being busted for demonstrating against apartheid in South Africa was published as part of our reunion “Yearbook.” After being fired from the Cornell faculty In 1975 due to my political activities, I was a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle for 30 years, in the subject area of the social relations of technology. During that time, I raised my son Josh as a single parent, and now have two teenage grandsons—Alec and Zach—who, fortunately, live nearby. We often have vacationed together, particularly in Spain where I had an apartment on the sea

outside of Barcelona for over 20 years. Like others of us, given our age, I have experienced some health issues, but in many ways, I am still able to continue with a host of social and civic activities I was involved in the negotiation of two UN treaties dealing with genetically modified organisms (the US is not a member, although over 160 other countries are), and a participant in many international regulatory meetings on GMOs. Domestically, I was on the national board of the ACLU for 25 years (and voluntarily used my Columbia law degree to take a case up to the highest court in New York State.) I have been a cofounder of many civic organizations, including ACT/UP Seattle, which established the first large-city on the street needle exchange. We saved lives! I am working on a curated oral history project, and already have had some oral history segments posted online by other organizations; for example, my civil liberties and AIDS activism can be found at: <https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/bereano.htm> I join in a monthly zoom chat with fraternity brother classmates Stu Bresnick, , Joe Geller, Kent Gershengorn, Ira Mickenberg, Burt Neuborne, and Jerry Siegman.