

# Claudia Fox

From High School to the Real World



## Arman Dezfuli-Arjomandi, 18-Year Old Computer Whiz – Start Your Own Business

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Arman Dezfuli-Arjomandi, a Philadelphia resident, is an 18-year-old computer whiz. As he puts it, he grew up in a very normal environment except for Kindergarten and first grade where his safety was at risk so his parents moved him to Lansdowne Friends School , a small Quaker school in Lansdowne , PA. Now he attends Friends Select School , an independent school in a community with approximately 545 students. He is completing his education at Friend Select this year and has enjoyed the school and curriculum immensely.



### Developed Smart Phone Applications

Even at the age of three and four, Arman loved computers. He thinks they are awesome and has put his entire focus in that arena. On his own time, Arman has taken numerous computer courses to help him hone in on his skills. With this background knowledge and the foundation courses he took at Friends Select, his teacher allowed him, after some persuasion, to pursue developing smartphone applications.

### Launches First and Second Version of Friends Select Mobile App.

The first app Arman developed was the Friends Select Mobile app. Arman, a junior at the time, and his business partner Haydn Dufrene, a senior at the time, wrote the code, beta tested it with other classmates, bought a development license and submitted the app to Apple for approval. The Advanced Computer Science students launched the first version of the Friends Select Mobile app on February 1, 2010, and then the second version on May 16, 2011, to a rapt audience of uppers schoolers.

### Contract with Friends Select

The app enables upper school students to see their daily schedule, see their friends' and teachers schedules, add and monitor assignments and due dates, access the Online Learning Center , even check SEPTA bus and train schedules. Under a five year contract, Friends Select bought the fully revamped, second version of the app. Arman says, "This was the one of the most fun experiences of my life!"

## **Developed Games**

The two students have also developed games for smartphones such as “Slide to Unlock,” a simple but wildly popular game. After being spotted by an advertising agency called OpenFeint, the app’s downloads went from 5,000 in the first six months to 150,000, much to Arman and Haydn’s surprise and delight.

## **Heading to Stanford University**

Arman will be heading off to Santa Clara University in the fall where he will be near his partner who is attending Stanford University , which will give them the close proximity to continue working together.

## **Used Own Funds to Buy Macs**

Arman and Haydn used their own funds from previous work and allowance to each buy their own Mac computers. Their return quadrupled their investment. “It was well worth it,” says Arman, “and we are off to a great start with our small business.” To visit their website: [www.thefalcoinitiative.com](http://www.thefalcoinitiative.com).

## **Tips**

- **Just go for it, no matter what your age**
- **Don’t let other people’s fears and negativity get in your way**