**Benjamin A. Filreis**

2440 16th Street NW

Apartment 118

Washington DC 20009

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**Employment Objectives**

To advance a career as an analyst and a researcher, with particular attention to Iran and affairs in the Persian Gulf region.

**Language Skills**

Iranian Persian (Farsi)

Current Levels of Proficiency (ILR)

Listening: 3

Speaking: 3

Reading: 3

**Education**

University of Pennsylvania**,** Philadelphia, PA

Bachelor of Arts, *Summa Cum Laude* (2015)

Major: Political Science

Minor: Modern Middle Eastern Studies

International Relations concentration

Bard College,Annandale-on-Hudson, NY (2010-2011)

Friends’ Central High School,Wynnewood, PA (2010)

**Academic Achievement**

* 3.91 GPA
* 2012-2013, 2013-2014 Dean’s List
* Graduate coursework related to Arab-Israeli conflict
* Member of Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honors Society

**David L. Boren Scholarship**

* National Security Education Program
* Dushanbe, Tajikistan (August 2014-May 2015)
* Host: American Councils Eurasian Regional Language Program
* Persian-Farsi
  + Post-Program Oral Proficiency: ILR: 2+. ACTFL: Advanced-High

**Critical Language Scholarship**

* Awarded by U.S. Department of State
* Dushanbe, Tajikistan (June-August 2014)
* Persian-Farsi
  + Pre-Program Oral Proficiency: ILR: 1+. ACTFL: Intermediate-High
  + Post-Program Oral Proficiency: ILR: 2. ACTFL: Advanced-Low

**Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowship**

* USDOE Title VI Program, U.S. Department of Education (2014-2015)
* Awarded for intermediate-level Modern Hebrew and Middle Eastern studies

**Work Experience**

**Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP)**

1111 19th Street NW Suite 500

Washington DC 20036

(202)452-0650

* Research Intern for Lieutenant Colonel Michael Eisenstadt U.S. Army (Ret.), Director of Military Studies Program
* Fox Leadership International, Fox Leadership Alumni Research and Service Fellowship: Funding and sponsorship from Dr. John DiIulio, Univ. of Pennsylvania.
* Translations of Farsi-language sources to English
* Focus on Iranian military activities in the Arab World, particularly in Iraq and Syria.
* Open-source analysis
* (August to December 2015)

**Research Experience**

Fox Undergraduate Research Scholarship *–* Univ. of Pennsylvania

Leadership Hall

3814 Walnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19104-6197

* Analysis of the allocation of federal block grants by states to private contractors
* Research conducted on the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
* Presentation on project results to MPA seminar, Fels School of Government (June - August 2014)
* Sponsor: Dr. John DiIulio, Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion and Civil Society, Professor of Political Science, Univ. of Pennsylvania.
* Proficiency with Microsoft Excel, Data Collection

Independent Study: Khomeyni’s Regime: An Analysis of Totalitarianism in the Islamic Republic (Spring 2014)

* Formation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corp (IRGC) and purges of the regular armed forces between the years 1979-1983.
* Sponsor: Dr. Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, Robert I. Williams Term Professor of History, Director Middle East Center, Univ. of Pennsylvania

Master’s Course Research Assignment (Fall 2013)

* Analysis of nuclear programs in the Middle East, with attention to Israel and Iran.
* Sponsor: Dr. Ian Lustick, Professor Bess W. Heyman Chair, Department of Political Science, Univ. of Pennsylvania

**Counselor:** **Childhood Development/ Disability Services / Leadership Skills**

2000 Frost Valley Rd

Claryville NY 12725

(845)985-2291

* Frost Valley YMCA
* Summers 2008-2012
* Counselor for teenagers with intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities, including constant supervision and full support in hygiene and motor skills.
* Counselor for typically developing children

**Event Programming / Editorial Work**

3805 Locust Walk

Philadelphia PA 19104

(215)746-7636

* Kelly Writers House, Univ. of Pennsylvania 2011-2012
* Editorial Assistant *Jacket2* Magazine: Digitized, edited, and published rare archival 20th-century materials.
* Program Assistant: Event coordination and support.

**Office Experience**

**Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing, Univ. of Pennsylvania**

3808 Walnut Street

Philadelphia PA 19104

215-573-CPCW

* Research for Dr. Valerie Ross
* January – April 2012
* Gathering of sources and academic materials pertaining to Woody Allen films.

**Teaching Assistant**

1101 City Ave

Wynnewood PA 19096

(610) 649-7440

* Friends’ Central Middle School, Wynnewood PA, January-April 2012
* Assistant to Douglas Ross, 8th-grade science instructor.

**Volunteer Work**

* WriteCorps Program, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Fall 2011-Spring 2012
* Lea Elementary School (West Philadelphia) after-school program
* Program for students of West African immigrant families

**References**

* Dr. John DiIulio, [julio-jr@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:julio-jr@sas.upenn.edu), (email only)
* Mahyar Entezari, Persian Language & Culture Program Coordinator [entezari@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:entezari@sas.upenn.edu) , office phone: (215)573.6147
* Dr. Firoozeh Kashani Sabet, [fks@history.upenn.edu](mailto:fks@history.upenn.edu) , office phone: (215)898.4959