Dear Mr Fleming, Dear Mr Wroblewski,

The capstone project that you propose is of very high interest to me on many levels. Let me first introduce myself. I did my undergraduate in France, where my curriculum has slowly deviated from pure mathematics to computer science. Last year, I became eager to specialize in data sciences, which led me to take two courses on Coursera: “Computing for Data Analysis” (Johns Hopkins U.) and “Machine Learning” (Stanford). With these background and interests, it was only natural for me to apply for a Master’s degree in IEOR at Berkeley, next to Silicon Valley.

Last year, I took part in two five-month-long computer science projects that involved four other students from my university. I enjoyed working hard on these projects, both because I liked the everyday challenge of coding, and because they gave me valuable insights about how to work in a team on a long-term project. At the beginning of the second one, I realized how much the first had already taught me in terms of computer science and group organization. I am sure that these two experiences will help me cope better with the capstone project.

I also think that my background in data analysis and machine learning could prove very useful in working on this project. I have been driven by statistics for long now, because they always answer the question “What can I deduce from the data I have in front of me?”, and they reproduce the way of thinking we have when it comes to applying mathematical models to everyday life. From a computer science point of view, I have had the opportunity to work with Python two years ago and I have really enjoyed using this programming language. I would be happy to use it again in the capstone project you propose.

In summary, I think that both my skills and my interests match perfectly the capstone project you are proposing. I really hope to work with you in the following year. Feel free to contact me for any further information, and thank you for reading this letter.