

**[Lauren]** So I'm Lauren Feitzinger, I'm an undergraduate, so BS in MS&E and I'm focusing in the operations and analytics area. I will be graduating this spring in 2020, which is exciting.

[Interviewer] So the first question is, can you tell me a little bit about your background? Where'd you grow up?

**[Lauren]** Yeah, so I, as I mentioned earlier, I am a kind of a California girl through and through. I grew up in Palo Alto actually, and then my family moved to Southern California when I was a freshman in high school. So I graduated from Palisades high school um down in SoCal.

[Interviewer] Next question is how did you become interested in engineering?

**[Lauren]** Yeah, so this is kind of a fun story. Um, my mom is definitely sort of my biggest inspiration for becoming an engineer. She was actually also an MS&E major and a co-term back when it was industrial engineering. So I feel like I've just been kind of exposed to women in STEM my whole life. And when I was a kid, you know, my mom used to love solving math problems with me. And I just, I feel like it was just something that was ingrained in my identity from a really young age. And then when I got to Stanford, I knew that I wanted to do something in STEM, but I wasn't sure if I was going to do something like chemistry or something a little bit more abroad. And eventually I think the reason I chose MS&E is because there's just so many different classes across areas of STEM. And I found that really exciting. Um, and I also didn't know exactly what I wanted to do, so I kind of found that. Perfect.

[Interviewer] So the next question is, um, can you tell us about your area of concentration and why you chose it?

**[Lauren]** Yes. So, I am O & A concentration, and I chose operations and analytics because I guess the name sort of says it all. It's a little bit more technical, which I was kind of excited by. I feel like I was going to learn a lot of hard skills and data analysis from it, which is something exciting for me. But I think what really drew me in was I took this class, MS&E 263, which was healthcare operations. And I was just so excited by like, using, we got to use real data in that class to solve problems for, well, like theoretical problems, I guess, for hospitals. And I just thought, like, I just loved the applied aspect of it. And I started to look into the concentration and realized that there are a lot of project based classes, which I thought was really, really cool and I've enjoyed it a ton.

**[Lauren]** Um, and so I would definitely recommend O&A to anybody, even though I think it, it can be a little intimidating. There's actually just a ton of really cool classes. So it's been great.

[Interviewer] The next question is what are your career plans and how did you decide on them?

**[Lauren]** Yeah, so I'll be working at Bain in Dallas after Stanford, and I decided to do management consulting, let's see, well I was just this fall I was choosing between healthcare because I worked in

healthcare last summer and consulting. Um, I really, really love healthcare and I still think it's probably what I'll end up doing in the long run, but I thought that I wanted something that uh gave me a little bit more broad exposure to different industries and different skill sets. And so I'm engineering consulting. I know a lot of people from us and you go into it, it was, seems like a really logical choice for me.

**[Lauren]** Yeah. And I think, I think eventually after that, I'll probably get an MBA, but I'm also trying to keep my options open. So we'll see what happens. I think it's good. I think it will open up, you open up your opportunities as well, cause it'll expose you to a lot more. Yeah. That's kind of what everybody said. And um, I know that it's challenging, but people said that they learned a lot, so I'm excited to kind of get a new kind of learning after being in the classroom for such a long time.

[Interviewer] So the next question is, um, what most excites you about your future?

**[Lauren]** Yeah. Oh man. Let's think, I mean, I guess first of all, I'm really, as I mentioned, I'm really excited to start at Bain. My start date got moved unfortunately because of coronavirus, but, um, once I do start, I'm excited to get to travel and explore different places.

[Interviewer] I think that's okay.

**[Lauren]** Just, yeah, I think just like experiencing a different sort of learning that I've had at Stanford is really exciting to me and getting to explore sort of how my education applies outside of the classroom. Um, but also I'm excited to move to Dallas and kind of just start my new adult life. I think, um, I have been in California my whole life, as I mentioned. So I'm really ready to start something a little bit new and explore a new city and kind of just to see different people's perspectives around the country. So that's exciting.

[Interviewer] Nice. The next question is what advice do you have for future students and how can they make it the best use of their time and MSB and Stafford?

**[Lauren]** Yeah, that's a really good question. I feel like I have a lot of advice that I wish I could have heard as a freshman first is to go to office hours and to interact more with professors. I think coming into college, it seems like several professors are really scary cause they're all obviously really incredibly accomplished people, but they're professors for a reason. And I realized that first of all, they're really nice. And second of all, they really want to help you succeed. So you should go to office hours and get to know your professors because it's a nice thing to do, but also because it's really good for sort of building out your network and just getting advice on where to go next. I really, I wish that I'd learned that sooner in my education. Another thing is that just, I mentioned that I really love project based courses and I think I've heard that people tend to shy away from them because group project work can be sometimes a little bit difficult, but I think that I've learned by far the most in group projects during my time at Stanford, first of all, because oftentimes you're getting to work with real world problems, which is like the most applicable thing you can do.

**[Lauren]** Um, but second of all, just because it's so important to learn how to work with other students, even though it's challenging. And so I would just recommend that you try to take a lot of the project based classes that NSF has to offer because they are super well-designed in my opinion.

[Interviewer] So the last question is what will you miss about Stanford in the Bay area?

**[Lauren]** Yeah. Oh man. I will miss a lot of things about San Fran in the Bay area, obviously. Um, I'm going to miss my friends. Like I just love the people at Stanford and I'll say them, miss my family since, um, they are actually back up in the Bay area now. But I think like in terms of looking back at Stanford, my favorite things about Stanford are just like the diversity of backgrounds. I think that I've been so pleasant and not surprised, but just like kind of in awe of how diverse of backgrounds people come from and how much I've been able to learn from that. And I don't really think that's something that I can get anywhere else other than Stanford. And so it's like the main reason that I'm super, super glad I chose it. Um, cause I just learned so much from my peers and the professors. And then another thing I'm going to miss is just like the overall kind of vibe of passion and drive at Stanford. I think that, and people always said that when I was coming into Stanford, like San Franciscans are so passionate and so unique. And I really do think that that's kind of a real thing. Like it's just, I just felt so lifted up by all the people around me. And um, I loved learning about people's sort of unique interests and being a part of a group of people that I think are going to make a lot of change in the world. So, I will miss that general atmosphere probably the most.