

# MEET THE AMBASSADORS!

## Claire Southard

Major: CS + Neuroscience (2025)  
Hometown: Cape Girardeau, MO

- Mock Trial
- Wind Ensemble
- Admissions Tour Guide

Potato Preference:  
**Sweet Potato Fries**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Playing the piano in the Amazon Rainforest with the MIT Wind Ensemble!

*"Cast a wide net when applying to college! Sometimes the perfect college for you isn't the one you originally expected."*

## Ethan Nguyen

Major: CS, Econ, Business (2026)  
Hometown: Farmington, NM

- MIT Men's Tennis
- Undergraduate Association
- Undergrad Econ Association
- Gordon Engineering Leadership

Potato Preference:  
**Baked Potato**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Ring delivery with the Class of 2026, where we received our class rings to mark our MIT halfway point!

*"Never underestimate yourself! You'll never know if you don't try."*

## Gloria Huang

Major: Finance (2025)  
Hometown: Bowling Green, KY

- Sloan Business Club
- Global Platinum Securities
- Asian American Association
- Kappa Alpha Theta
- Admissions Tour Guide

Potato Preference:  
**Mashed Potatoes**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Travelling to Newport, Rhode Island to run a marathon with a few of my best friends!

*"Take pride in your small town roots and embrace your individuality! Don't feel like you have to fit a specific mold- your unique background is your biggest strength!"*

## Josh Nix

Major: Math and Finance (2027)  
Hometown: McAlester, OK

- Global Platinum Securities
- MIT Capital Partners
- Phi Kappa Theta

Potato Preference:  
**Potato Wedges**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Spending time with my fraternity at Cape Cod as one of my early outings freshman fall!

*"Describe your community in your essays! I tried to create a picture of my day-to-day in high school, and it helped bring imagery of my circumstances."*

## Kathleen Julca

Major: Urban Studies and Planning (2025)  
Hometown: All over! (TX, Germany, Peru!)

- Globally Indigenous Students for Justice

Potato Preference:  
**Boiled potatoes w/ ceviche**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Protesting with other students and pushing for our demands with administration, both in and out of the indigenous community.

*"Explore new places on campus! There truly is a place for everyone."*

## Kelsey Woods

Major: CS + Neuroscience (2027)  
Hometown: Albany, GA

- Society of Black Engineers
- Black Women's Alliance
- Black Students Union

Potato Preference:  
**Waffle-cut Fries**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Attending the two-episode premier event of the Percy Jackson TV series with the Black Women's Alliance!

*"It is okay to not know something! Not taking advanced classes doesn't disqualify you from being accepted to a great school, and it certainly doesn't determine your success."*

## Lanie Dela Pena

Major: MechE and BioEng (2027)  
Hometown: Kingman, AZ

- Undergraduate Association
- First-Gen Low-Income (FLI)
- Associate Advisor

Potato Preference:  
**In-N-Out Fries**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Going to Puerto Rico on spring break for my Terrascope mechanical engineering class!

*"Explore your options! I found it valuable to see what resources and communities exist at difference schools that align with my interests and personality."*

## Ridhima Singh

Major: CS, Econ, Finance (2027)  
Hometown: Farragut, TN

- Alpha Chi Omega (AXO)
- Bhangra + DanceTroupe
- South Asian Association
- Admissions Tour Guide

Potato Preference:  
**Waffle-cut Fries**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Volunteering at the Boston Marathon with my sorority from 4am-10am, then exploring the city and watching the race!

*"Don't be ashamed of your background! Where you're from will always shape where you're going, and it's so helpful to have little reminders of home wherever you go."*

## Taylor Dawson

Major: Physics (2025)  
Hometown: Vinton, VA

- Associate Advisor
- Teaching Assistant
- DanceTroupe
- Asian Dance Team

Potato Preference:  
**Cheese Fries w/ Ranch**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

Going to see Black Panther: Wakanda Forever with friends after it was filmed on campus!

*"Feel free to explore all your interests, especially if they weren't something you could really explore back at home. You may meet some lifelong friends!"*

## Vaneeza Rupani

Major: Aerospace Engineering (2025)  
Hometown: Northport, AL

- Individual Tutoring for English and Citizenship
- Associate Advisor
- Undergraduate Research

Potato Preference:  
**Mashed potatoes w/ butter**

### **Favorite MIT Memory:**

My 21st birthday in São Paulo, Brazil during a global classroom trip in January with my classmates!

*"Don't be afraid to try new things! It feels intimidating to join large clubs when you're from a smaller area, but everyone is so welcoming, and it's so worth it!"*