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

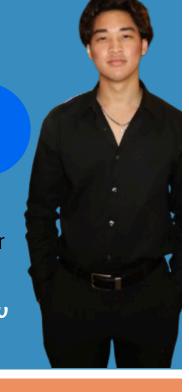
Potato Preference:

Baked Potato

Favorite MIT Memory:

Ring delivery with the Class of 2026, where we recieved 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

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

- 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

Potato Preference:

Waffle-cut Fries

• Admissions Tour Guide

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

- English and Citizenship

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!"

