MIT's board elects its next chairman

**Millard was Lehman Bros. exec**

**By Leon Lin**

The MIT Corporation named its next chairman, Robert B. Millard '73, at last Friday's elections. He will assume his new role as the head of MIT's board of trustees in October.

Millard is the chairman of HealthPartners, a hedge fund launched after the demise of Lehman Brothers, which Millard had become a managing director in 1983. He has held various positions within the MIT Corporation and the MIT Investment Management Company since 2001, according to MIT.

The current chairman of the MIT Corporation, John Reed '61, turned 75 earlier this year and is therefore stepping down per tradition, according to Millard. Reed became chairman in June 2010.

In a statement, President L. Rafael Reif praised both Millard and Reed.

"John led a smooth transition from President Hochberg's presidency to mine, and he played a central role in preparing the Institute for the next capital campaign," Reif said, referring to an ongoing fundraising effort expected to inject billions of dollars into MIT's endowment. "In these and other critical pieces of MIT business, John brought imagination, focus, and a steady hand."

And of Millard, Reif said: "Humble, a critical thinker, a problem solver, and a doer, Bob has a way of constructively asking insightful questions and of getting people to focus on the most important long-term strategic issues."

Millard holds a bachelor's in architecture from MIT and an MBA from Harvard. Apart from his work at investment firms, he is the president of a timber company in Maine and a co-founder of L-3 Communications, an electronics and communications supplier.

Both Millard and Reed have agreed to be interviewed by the Tech at a later date.

The Corporation also elected 11 term members last week, all of them current or former top executives in the private sector.

**Math department head appointed new dean of science**

Professor Michael Sipser, the head of the math department since 2004, will serve as the new dean of the School of Science, MIT announced last week.

Sipser has served as interim dean since the previous dean of science, Marc Kastner, stepped down last December after being nominated to head the Office of Science in the U.S. Department of Energy.

Sipser has been a member of the MIT faculty since 1987 and a member of the mathematics department since 2004.

In an email to the MIT community last Thursday, Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD ’88 praised Sipser for his ability to seek facts when problems became evident and to make the fact "the new PhD centerpiece" of MIT's future.

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Iraqi Kurds take oil city as militants push forward

By Tim Arango, Suadad al-salhy and Alan Cowell

THE NEW YORK TIMES

EBIL, Iraq — Iraq’s fracturing and deepening Thursday as Kurdish forces poured into the strategic northern city of Kirkuk after government troops fled, while emboldened Sunni militants who seized two other important north- ern cities this week moved closer to Baghdad and issued threats about advancing into the heart of the Shi’ite south and destroying the shrines there, the holiest in Shiism.

The rapidly unfolding developments came as Prime Minister Nouri at al-Maliki’s entreaties for emergency powers stalled because of inaction by parliament, which probably paralleled the inability or unwillingness of al-Maliki’s armed forces to hold their ground only compounded the crisis. The U.S. government’s apparent rejection of al-Maliki’s requests for airstrikes on the Sunni militias reflected a deep reluctance by the Obama administration to re-en- tangle the U.S. militarily in Iraq.

But President Barack Obama, offering his first detailed com- ments on the Iraq crisis, told re- porters at the White House on Thursday that his national security advisers were examining “all op- tions” on how to stop the Sunni militant advances.

There were unconfirmed re- ports Thursday that Iran, an ally of al-Maliki’s Shi’ite-led government, had sent Revolutionary Guards into Iraq to train and arm the Sunni militants.

Kurdish officials said Thurs- day that their forces had taken full control of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, a city dear to many Kurds, as gov- ernment troops abandoned their posts there.

Militants aligned with the jihadi Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant swept across the porous border from Syria to Tuesday over eastern Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city.

They have been driving toward the capital since then, capturing the town of Tikrit, the birthplace of Saddam Hussein, seizing parts of the oil refinery city of Baiji and threatening Samarra, a city sacred to Shiites just 70 miles north of Baghdad.

With its oil riches, Kirkuk has long been at the center of a politi- cal and economic dispute between Kurds and successive Arab govern- ments in Baghdad.

The disappearance of the Iraqi army from the city Thursday appeared to leave Kirkuk’s fate in the Kurds’ hands.

The Kurdish administration’s decision to negotiate for the re- lease of Bergdahl in exchange for the Taliban detainees, who were being held at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, ignited anger among members of Congress and others who es- poused free Taliban detainees with bargaining with terror- ists. Lawmakers in both parties have objected to the move, say- ing Obama did not consult adequately with them about Bergdahl’s impending release.

Some members of his former unit, who say Bergdahl de- serted by walking off his post, are also angry that lives were put at risk in the search for him.

As the uproar has continued in the United States, Bergdahl has been cloistered at the Landstuhl hospital without access to television or the Internet, officials said. But some details of his imprisonment by the Taliban have emerged, including ac- counts that Bergdahl was held in a cage as punishment for one of two attempts to escape.

At Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Bergdahl is expected to receive treatment the military has designed for soldiers freed from lengthy captivities. Many of the protocols the military has established to handle such patients were first developed during the Vietnam War.

Bergdahl is expected to be sworn into office before the sched- uled meeting next week of the Fed’s policymaking committee. Brainard has given little public indication of her views on mon- etary policy, but analysts expect her arrival — alongside Fischer’s in June — to strengthen the hand of the Fed’s chairwoman, Janet L. Yellen, who has championed the Fed’s focus on job cre- ation and wants to retreat slowly from its stimulus campaign.

The arrival of Fischer and Brainard also ends a period in which presidential appointees have not held a majority of votes on the Fed’s policy committee.

The 12 voters on the Federal Open Market Committee always include six members of the Reserve Bank presidents who are picked by those banks, while in recent months the number of Fed gover- ners had dipped as low as nine.

President Barack Obama had announced nominations to the remaining vacancies on the Fed’s board, but the White House has signaled that new vacancies will be filled by someone with community banking experience.

In Brazil, jeers and cheers for government and FIFA

By Simon Romero

SÃO PAULO — Protests erupt- ing on the streets of Brazil’s largest city Thursday just hours before the opening of the World Cup soccer tournament, with the police dis- opening demonstrators with tear gas and rubber bullets near the stadi- um where Brazil was to play against Croatia.

While a festive mood began to take hold in the country over the tournament, with simmering resentment among many people about spending on the World Cup, estimated at $11 billion.

In Sao Paulo, the protesters were largely peaceful, carrying banners denouncing FIFA, the organization overseeing international soccer and the World Cup. But at certain points some masked demonstrators also threw rocks and bottles in the direc- tion of police, while lighting piles of garbage on fire in the street.

A small protest against the World Cup also unfolded in downtown Rio de Janeiro, with the police dispersing- ing hundreds of protesters by firing rubber bullets in their midst.

A strike by airport workers in Rio was suspended according to Brazilian news reports, but only af- ter causing missed flights for some World Cup visitors at the city’s larg- est airport.

Elsewhere, a strike by bus driv- ers began in Natal, a host city in northeast Brazil where the United States will play against Ghana on Monday. Hundreds of doctors in the city’s public health system also went on strike. Brazil’s government said it was sending 4,700 federal police to maintain order in the city.

In the immediate vicinity of the stadium, the police presence was strong, with police officers or mob- ile units present at almost every turn.

Brazilian fans, the majority wearing yellow jerseys or bandan- nas, posed with Croatian fans wear- ing red and white checkered jerseys underneath a wall display that was a tribute to the history of the Corinthians, one of Sao Paulo’s largest soccer teams.
Cantor forgot Virginia roots, voters contend

By Trip Gabriel
THE NEW YORK TIMES

GLEN ALLEN, Va.— Here in the plane-slow, Virginian capital city, a few voters seem to have reconciled themselves as one of the few who did. Despite Cantor’s rise to the second-most powerful member of his party in the House of Representatives, a leader of its angry right flank, Republicans here seem to agree with Cantor’s challenge to topple him from power by turning him as insubordinate to his party as he has been to external issues including immigration, the federal budget and the administration’s Obamacare policy.

But more than any specific issue, voter after voter had a more fundamental complaint. At a time of deep cynicism about government, they described Cantor as the quintessential insider, having succumbed to Washington and forgotten where he came from. And amid the widespread range of Republican voters in the Obama administration, the line between a leadership position and being sufficiently at odds with one’s constituents to be able to be called sufficiently antagonistic to the White House proved to be impossible for Cantor to navigate.

“People are sick and tired of him,” said David Mottett, 60, who entered a Martin’s store and asked that he be driven to a local hospital. “He has no integrity, no respect, no faith in God, no faith in the American people. He has no heart.”

The twouble budget battle, the health care law and the government shutdown had left some Cantor supporters in the 7th District in CaliforniaInterface.com.

The campaign portayed Cantor as a rogue Rebel, opposing a broad, comprehensive immigration overhaul as passed by the Senate, but “supporting amnesty” for those of his constituents, the idea that his legislation would only help illegal immigrants, as his opponents, were spread.

Like many places, the 7th Con- gressional District is a growing Latino population, although it has a large number of Asian residents and Hispanic, 77 percent are non-Hispanic whites, 15 percent are black, and 8 percent are Asian, according to the 2010 census. Even those who voted for Cantor did not sound terribly upset with the result. They included Spencer, the retired handyman.

“I’ll say straight up I didn’t agree with everything he does,” he said. “The people in the district spoke. Mr. But is the man in charge now.”

US drone hits Pakistani for 2nd time in 12 hours

By Declan Walsh
LONDON — An American drone struck a muslim compound in Paki- stan’s troubled northwestern tribal region on Thursday, killing at least 12 people, in a second such attack in 12 hours on Tuesday, killing at least 12 people, in a second such attack in 12 hours.

The U.S. drone strikes, after an al- most six-month lull in the operations while Pakistanis officials tried and failed to negotiate a peace deal with the Taliban.

The strikes, both of which were reported to have been launched by a Pakistani drone, came in the most recent wave of attacks by the Taliban.

The Taliban, who refuse to lay down their arms, were the most likely to con- cede, some weeks earlier, that they might do so.

But in the days since the Karachi attack, military officials have hinted that plans are underway for a major operation.

The Pakistani Taliban presented the American drone strikes as a joint assault with the Taliban in the troubled South Waziristan tribal area.

And the collapse in peace talks with the Taliban, combined with the Taliban’s attack on the Karachi airport on Sunday, resulted in 36 deaths, both of which were reported to be for a military operation.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s government in Afghanistan.

Pakistan security officials said Thursday that a CIA drone fired missiles at a suspected Taliban compound four miles north of Miram Shah, the main town in North Waziristan.

In private, some Pakistani offi- cials say they quietly support drone attacks if only because they perceived Pakistan’s per- ceived need to support. But a senior Pakistani security of- ficial, speaking on the condition of anonymity, insisted that the action was not part of an official approval from the Pakistan government.

The long lull in CIA strikes co- incident with a contend effort by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s gov- ernment to draw the Pakistani Tal- iban into peace talks. But that effort has all but collapsed in recent weeks. Moreover, the audacious Taliban assault on the Karachi airport on Sunday, resulted in 36 deaths, both of which were reported to be for a military operation.

The Pakistanis said the Karachi airport assault was a joint assault with the Taliban in the troubled South Waziristan tribal area.

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Law and Order in the skies

“Microdrones” are consumer products and should be regulated that way

By Henry H. Perritt, Jr. and Elliot O. Sprague

On Tuesday, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced that it has approved all company RGB to perform drone flights in rural roads, power lines, and other equipment in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. This is the first commercial drone authorization and is a step forward in the FAA’s efforts to ensure the commercial use of unmanned aircraft.

It does not, however, represent a viable approach to regulating these aircraft. Alaska’s remote areas can be dangerous in the lower 48. Moreover, the drones approved for Alaska are adaptations of military fixed-wing models, and the approval is layered with restrictions pertinent to specifics of the vehicles and the territory.

The interesting technological revolution that is buzzing around the heads of regulators involves a different kind of drone—one with multiple helicopter-like rotors. These rotors combine the advantages of helicopter flight profiles with electric propulsion systems whose variable RPM eliminates noise, pollution, and battery energy demand. The FAA, however, is not yet ready to embrace this technology.

This is only the latest example of regulatory decision-makers being straitjacketed by their past while technologies make drastic changes in a potentially irrelevant way. Young engineers and good young engineers — we need to know how to confront such regulatory challenges. They will understand that policy can be just as important as finding a techni- cal way to craft regulations. It’s the only way to inform policymakers about how technology can supplement law. It’s the only way to form a regulation of drones is necessary. A 787 flight crew responsible for 300 passengers doesn’t want to encounter a microdrone on final approach. A police or news helicopter pilot doesn’t want to compete with small aviation outlets for access to the skies over a fire or an active shooter zone. It would be nice to have the 12-pound bowling ball hit you on the head. Some microdrones weigh more than that.

Congress is steps beyond the FAA. It said that the FAA was supposed to begin integrating drones into the national airspace system by 2013. It’s now mid-2014, and the best the FAA can do is to renegotiate its regulations so that drone flight for commercial purposes is illegal.

Meanwhile, it promises an initial notice of proposed rulemaking sometime before the end of 2014, grudgingly granting a few special allowances for isolated geographic areas like Alaska, and expressing will- ingness to consider equally speci- fic requests from Hollywood. Most people buying and using these vehicles don’t care about the FAA’s prohibition — indeed many of them are probably un- aware of exactly what the FAA is doing.

Taking another five years to go through every line of the 500 pages of existing federal aviation regulations to adjust the de- tails of existing requirements for manned aircraft is not the right approach. Manned airplanes and helicopters cost anywhere from hundreds of thousands to tens of millions of dollars. A fuels for their flight are implemented through professional pilots, me- chanics, and directors of opera- tions who have designed their careers around manned aircraft. Instead, the FAA must rec- ognize the technology and what they are: inexpensive consum- er products that put strikingly similar technologies within the reach of almost everyone.

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The implications for personal privacy are important, but privacy is essentially a sideshow. Legal doctrines for protecting personal data are already crys- tallized, and privacy advocacy groups are well-versed in making their views heard and attended to in political and regulatory arenas. The main is- sues relate to safety, and the FAA needs to do its job in a realistic way.

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Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun Fun

Friday, June 13, 2014

Coffee Talk
by Fred Piscop

ACROSS
1 Tater
5 DVD player ancestors
9 Sleeper’s sound
14 Approximately
15 Grad
16 Health-insurance outlay
17 Noble act
18 iPod model
19 Major 2011 hurricane
20 Weapons testing sites
23 Pose a query
24 Rank above CPO
25 Bavarian capital
29 Transgression
31 Handful of hair
35 Tommy or Tosca
36 Aggressive personality
38 Nintendo game console
39 Is clueless
42 Discontinue
43 Whistle blasts
44 Canceling locales
45 “...we forget”
47 Hibachi residue
48 Too diluted
49 Computer screen pop-ups
51 Designer Claiborne
52 Company cars, expense accounts, etc.
60 Razor sharpeners
61 Honey factory
62 Storage rental
64 Top-rated

65 Hovering above
66 Big galoot
67 Grannies
68 Golf goals
69 Laddled entrée

DOWN
1 Lawn material
2 Make ready, for short
3 Software purchaser
4 Dunce
5 Disappear suddenly
6 Sound of chains
7 Ladder level
8 Urban pollution
9 Descendant
10 “Take your time!”
11 Amenable (to)
12 Kentucky senator __ Paul
13 Needle holes
21 Available to rent
22 Freshen up
25 Runway strutter
29 __-face (affectionate)
32 No longer sleeping
33 ___-face (affectionate)
34 Boxing refs’ calls
37 On fire
40 Breakfast bread

Techdoku
Solution, page 11

360× 9× 6

4 1 5

20+ 6×

120×

22+ 1–

2+ 3

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Sudoku
Solution, page 11

3 7 8 9

7 5

4 9 7

2 3 7 1 8

5 6 7

7 3 9 8 2

3 6 7

8 2

2 9 1

2 3

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
MIT’s 148th Commencement

1. A soon-to-be graduate marches into Killian Court.
2. Some students decorated their caps.
3. Ellen Kullman, Chair and CEO of DuPont, gave the commencement speech.
4. Anika Gupta ’14, President of the Class of 2014, and President Reif take a selfie during the presentation of the class gift.
5. President Reif presents a diploma to Sidhanth P. Rao ’14, President of the UA.
6. Diplomas lay stacked and ready to be handed out before the start of the ceremony.
7. Graduates flip their class rings during the ceremony as a part of MIT tradition.
nuclear fusion will one day be harnessed as a power source, consid-
ering that the MIT experiment was a waste of taxpayer money. It
deemed MIT’s facility outdated and small, the least scientifically useful
of three domestic fusion reactors. In the politics of the experiment, it
said amounts to a $1.5 million-
per-student training program that MIT must keep going to protect
its turf and prestige.

The White House believed that
tax dollars were better spent on
reactors in New Jersey and Califor-
nia, and it diverted some of the MIT
money for a France-based inter-
national project of unprecedented
scale. MIT’s fusion experiment was
slated for elimination in the 2013
and 2014 budgets.

“I personally would like to see
us build the most modern type of
machine. We thought the only way
to do that was to do without MIT,”
said William Brinkman, former di-
rector of the Office of Science at the
Department of Energy. “But closing
a facility is not an easy thing. It’s a
political hornet’s nest.”

This is a story about those “hor-
nets” and that nest, about the ex-
terodary multilateral lobbying campaign waged by one of the most
powerful research universities in the
country. It was an exercise of
muscle along the Massachusetts-
Washington axis that did something
significant even on gridlocked Cap-
itol Hill — restoring funding for a
program run by the White House.

“In the end, it is about picking
a winner and a parochial effort to
direct money to MIT,” said Steve
Ellis, vice president of Taxpayers
for Common Sense, a Washington-
based watchdog group. “It’s cer-
tainly a case of lawmakers buck-
 ing the president and putting their
thumb on the scale for a particular
project.”

MIT enlisted the support of a
wealthy Democratic donor from Colorado and the help of an in-
fuential Washington think-tank
co-founded by John Kerry. These
efforts were backed by lobbyists,
cluding a former congressman from
Massachusetts, with connections to
the right lawmakers on the right
committee. The cast also included
an alliance of universities, industry
and national labs, all invested in the
fusion dream.

“It’s ground-breaking research
that could lead an energy revolu-
tion,” Brinkman said. “This was
about politics. This was about
government.”

The revival of MIT’s project,
whatever its merits, clearly dem-
strated what the combination of
old-fashioned Washington horse-
trading and new-fangled power —
both nuclear and political — can
do.

Vast promise, little progress
The goal has remained elusive.

“Given the potential for nearly limitless, cheap,

efficient fuel that does not harm the
environment has long made nucle-
ar fusion the “holy grail” of energy.

But the road from potential to
reality has been punctuated by
fits and starts and littered with scientific obstacles.

MIT’s fusion reactor, like most of
its kind, uses a powerful magnetic
field to confine plasma, an ionized gas whose atoms simulta-
neously col-
lide at temperatures exceeding 100
million degrees Celsius, nearly 10
giga Newtons hotter than the core
of the sun, to produce energy — for just
a few seconds.

But for a fusion reactor to actu-
ally generate electric power, the
plasma must become dense and
hot enough to produce more energy
than the reactor uses to create it —
and the reaction has to be sustained
continuously. A feat akin to
creating a captive “star” is far too
has not been achieved anywhere,

despite decades of research and engineer-
ing efforts.

That daunting challenge has
evoked skepticism in some quar-
ters about fusion ever becoming a feasible energy source, at least not
without much larger reactors.

The best hope for success in the
eyes of the Obama administration is
the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) be-
ing built in Cadarache, France. That
ambitious worldwide collabora-
tion, estimated to cost tens of bil-
donals of dollars, is where much of
the scientific and political attention
— and resources — have shifted.

The project, with the European
Union, Russia, China, South Ko-
rea, Japan, and India as partners,
was conceived in 1985 at a Reagan-
Gorbachev summit in Geneva as
the first step toward a commercially
viable thermonuclear reactor. Con-
struction is underway and experi-
ments may begin in 2020.

At nearly 300 feet tall and weigh-
ing 23,000 tons, ITER will be 10
times larger than the MIT machine
and will be able to hold 1,000 times
the amount of plasma, increasing
the potential for a scientific
breakthrough.

But despite the optimism, the Unit-
ed States has committed to sup-
porting 9 percent, estimated at $4
billion to $6.3 billion, of what is the
biggest international research and
development project in history.

MIT believes its reactor will
yield lessons that help seed the
larger dream, allowing scientists to
better understand the underlying
physics of nuclear fusion and how
to better control the turbulent and
volatile plasma.

But to the Obama administra-
tion, the MIT project does not offer
efficient enough to justify the cost and need-
ed to be scrapped in favor of more
promising sites.

Energy Department officials
said they prioritized the country’s
other two fusion reactors, run by
Princeton University and by Gen-
eral Atomics, a San Diego company,

ewer MIT’s because they were more productive and important to the fu-

ture of the international project.

The MIT reactor appeared
doomed.

White House: Power down
In February 2012, just hours before President Obama unveiled
his budget for the 2013 fiscal year, a White House official
 received a call from the Department of
Energy. The administration had
decided the university’s reactor
experiment was done.

The MIT reactor, which had re-
ceived $28 million in fiscal year
2012, would get just $16 million
in Obama’s new budget. The money
would pay the staff to ensure a safe
cleanup of the reactor, but no more
experiments would be run.

Reactor revived by
lobbying campaign
Alcator C-Mod layoffs rescinded

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MIT kids send spies to Harvard
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A group of MIT students and alumni have hired private detectives to
investigate security at their natty neighbor Harvard after a drug dealer
was wounded and dorm security was compromised ...

Charges Dismissed Against Massachusetts PI

... “The release of the photographs and narrative will help keep near-
years’ students from becoming targets of predatory crime,” according to
Simmons Agency, Inc. principal Robert Simmons.

Private eye who probed Harvard shooting sues college

A private investigator who was arrested, along with his wife, ...allege
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the Kirkland House dormitory ...

Boston, June 3, 2014: Simmons Agency is pleased to announce:

MIT BEATS HARVARD!

Harvard signs settlement agreement with investigators

The MIT group’s achievement has 2 of its goals — Harvard’s team, 1.

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C-Mod, Page 10

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In fact, it wasn’t dead yet. It had simply endured enough rounds of cuts to winnow the fusion field to bare bones.

John Brinkman, the former Energy Department official who believed the money should have been eliminated. “This was not a negotiation call. It was an information call,” recalled Claude Canarz, an MIT graduate student and a former conference chairman and House member of the energy and water subcommittee.

Solution to Sudoku from page 5

3 6 1 7 8 5 9 4 2
2 9 7 4 3 6 1 8 5
4 8 5 1 2 9 7 3 6
9 2 4 3 5 7 6 1 8
1 5 8 2 6 4 3 7 9
7 3 6 9 1 8 5 2 4
5 1 3 6 4 2 8 9 7
8 4 9 5 7 3 2 6 1
6 7 2 8 9 1 4 5 3

Solution to Crossword from page 5

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5:43216
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The quest for the perfect steak may take you places: you might have to go on a pilgrimage to unfamiliar faraway lands, cross a language barrier with the chef to find your favorite cut, or spend a late night at someone’s grandma’s kitchen. Tango was all of that to us — a virtual trip to Argentina, a mine of perfect cuts, and a table for home-cooked meals.

After a trek through American and Brazilian steakhouses in Boston, our quest would have been incomplete without a visit to an Argentinian one. Beef is not only traditional cuisine for Argentinians — it is a lifestyle. Yearly beef consumption is estimated at 55 kilograms per head, and cowboys and landowners are central to Argentinian folklore, society and politics. Indeed, the vast Argentinian lowlands, known as the Pampas, are fertile and temperate grasslands ideal for grazing but not more intensive agriculture, making livestock the natural product of the land.

To reach Tango, you must head to East Arlington, which is a 20-minute drive from campus or a journey from Alston via the T plus some walking or bus connection. But experiencing the art from that is an Argentinian steak is well worth the trek. We began our latest visit with a selection of appetizers, including chorizo (pork sausage) and morcilla (blood sausage) ($12) and a Caipirinha salad ($8). The blood sausage was rich in flavor and had a perfectly balanced profile of fat and juiciness, which paired well with the relatively milder-tasting and saltier chorizo and the accompanying carmelized onions. The salad was standard fare but tasty, including fresh ingredients and an enviable balsamic vinaigrette. But without a doubt, the king of the night was the steak.

The Argentinian method of grilling meat, perfected over the centuries across the Pampas, is what sets Argentinian steak apart. The meat is placed in vertical metal crosses rotated slowly at a distance from an open fire of glowing coals in order to get the most benefit from the glowing embers, with a sprinkle of salt before being finished. We were delighted by a succulent churrasco (sirloin cut, $25), which was tender and cooked to perfection. It was excellent by itself or with the traditional parrilla, garlic, pepper and olive oil sauce, chimichurri. The entraña (skirt steak, $25), the most popular cut in Argentina, was also our favorite. It was seasoned perfectly and had maintained a great deal of its natural fat and salt content, often hard to achieve with this cut. Other companions also tried the traditional chicken Milanesa ($20), a tasty, thinly pounded and breaded chicken breast with a perfectly crispy crust, and the costillas de cordero ($29), juicy grilled lamb chops whose taste unfortunately was not fully realized when enjoyed rare. Each entrée was accompanied with a choice of two sides, which are variations of potatoes or vegetables typical of the Pampas. Notable accompaniments included the pure-potato mashed butternut squash and sweet potato) and the Tango fries, which were lightly fried and expertly seasoned potato chips.

For dessert, we tried the flan con dulce de leche (caramel custard, $8), a nice sweet finish after the savory entrees that tasted home-cooked and delicious. Everything at Tango, from the setup of the rooms to the attentive and knowledgeable service, is designed to create a dedicated and expert carnivore’s experience. By the end of our meal, we felt at home with the relaxed vibe, the attentive and knowledgeable service, whether a culinary cultural adventurer or a steak lover, Tango can surely take you places.