

Let's Dish!

The best places to dine & socialize in near campus may surprise you, such as this hidden gem on Spaniolo Drive, which features three restaurants and more to come this summer.

Story & Photos by Dana Suhaskumar



Take a break from the everyday at the best restaurants Arlington has to offer

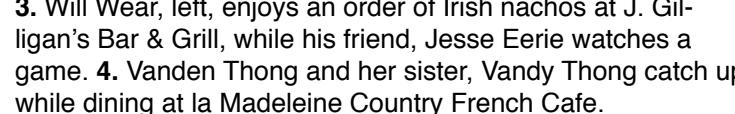
1. HR Training Specialist Vanden Thong, right, and her sister, Vandy Thong, enjoy dessert at The Cheesecake Factory at The Parks Mall at Arlington.



2. Bombay Chopstix, a unique convergence of Indian and Asian cuisine located on Spaniolo Drive below College Park Apartments, is set to open early this summer.



3. Will Wear, left, enjoys an order of Irish nachos at J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill, while his friend, Jesse Eerie watches a game. 4. Vanden Thong and her sister, Vandy Thong catch up while dining at la Madeleine Country French Cafe.



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or years, UTA students have longed for more dining choices on and around campus. Well, now that wish has become a reality. From long-standing favorites, such as J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill to newly minted restaurants whose staff are yearning for droves of students, faculty and staff to rush through their doors, Arlington has hundreds – even thousands – of options to please even the most discerning culinary connoisseurs, regardless of budget.

The best of those might even be within walking distance of you, and judging by just how light the foot traffic is, you may not even know it. Spaniolo Drive, on the northeast side of campus adjacent to the UTA Bookstore, is one such example. It's home to three restaurants currently – Pie Five Pizza Company, Texadelphia, and Coolberry UTA Frozen Yogurt. Did you know you could get a made-to-order pizza, topped at an ingredient bar right in front of you, in just five minutes, or that you could experience a unique blend of Philly's favorite cheesesteak with a Texas twist? Have you ever tried Boba Tea? The friendly staff at Coolberry, an everything-under-the-sun establishment disguised as a simple yogurt bar would love to watch your expression as you try this Asian delight. All three restaurants offer

ample seating, indoors and out, as well as wifi to inform your friends and family of what they're missing out on.

UTA Training Specialist Vanden Thong discovered the strip while on a quick jaunt to the bookstore.

"They have so many different things to choose from," she said of Coolberry, adding that she loves to dine in Arlington, in general. "There are a variety of food options

also located on Spaniolo Drive, is stocking up and preparing to open its doors to patrons early this summer.

Less than a mile away, J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill has befriended many a UTA student. It's the Cheers of UTA, a place where they really do get to know your name, according to university studies senior Jesse Eerie, who has been loyal to the bar since 2011.



The Grease Monkey, less than a mile from campus, transforms at night. Windows inside the restaurant lift up to create a unique indoor/outdoor dining experience.

from new, delicious ethnic cuisines to warm, comforting American dishes."

Bombay Chopstix, a unique blend of Indian and Asian cuisines

"The staff is amazing, the food's great, and you have lots of old-school types who've been coming here for 20 years," he said. "It's a great place to meet people." **kg**

What's on the Menu

in Arlington

On Campus



Coolberry UTA Frozen Yogurt

435 S. Pecan St.
682-472-0094

This one-stop-shop has it all: Boba tea, a self-serve frozen yogurt bar with every topping imaginable, made-to-order sandwiches (hot and cold), and even Krispy Kreme donuts. Outside and inside dining available. Get 20% off when you check-in with Facebook.



Texadelphia

445 Spaniolo Drive
817-642-5002

Featuring an on-campus bar that just opened in late April, this restaurant serves up Philly's favorite sandwich with a Texas twist. Employees will treat you like family. Try the Founder's Favorite with beef, grilled onions, mozzarella, mushrooms, jalapenos, and a mustard blend. Rewards program available.



Pie Five Pizza Co.

501 Spaniolo Dr.
817-460-7435

Pizza in five minutes on campus, made-to-order. Choose from a wide variety of toppings, including an optional gluten-free crust. Pizzas are topped at a counter in front of customers. Perfect for students to grab a quick bite between classes.



Wifi available



Delivery available



Entrees
under \$10



Entrees
over \$10



Gluten-free
options

Near Campus



J. Gilligan's Bar & Grill

400 East Abram
817-274-8561

Specialties include the bacon cheddar burger, Irish nachos and \$2 well drinks Mon.-Thurs. It features open mic night on Wednesdays and Karaoke Night every Thursday. Close-knit bar where strangers become friends.

Thai Basil Leaf

805 W. Park Row Drive
817-277-0440

An authentic Thai food restaurant in a cozy setting just minutes away. Employees say the most popular items are Green Curry, hand-rolled curry puff pastries, and the Tom Kha soup. Entree plus soup special Mon.-Thurs. for \$7 (regular price \$10).



Panda House Chinese Restaurant

1325 S. Cooper St.
817-265-3833

A family owned restaurant that has been here for 30 years, featuring authentic cuisine and hearty portions for a great value. Try the Kung Pao Chicken with Shrimp Fried Rice.

Worth the Drive



La Madeleine Country French Cafe

4201 S. Cooper St. #731
817-417-5100

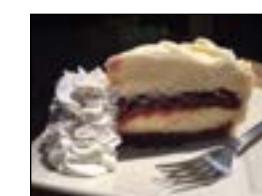
A classic, country-style cafe with comfortable seating and a relaxed atmosphere, perfect for dining with friends. Specialties include the Croque Monsieur and Chicken Parisien and a wide variety of hand-made desserts, such as a fresh fruit tart and strawberry Napoleon.



Babe's Chicken Dinner House

230 North Center, Arlington, TX 76011
817-801-0300

Homestyle country fried foods, such as chicken fried chicken, fresh pies, and endless sides, including green salad, buttermilk biscuits, mashed potatoes, green beans, cream gravy, and corn. Located next door to Arlington Music Hall, which has hosted a variety of famous singers, such as LeAnn Rimes and Steve Holy.



The Cheesecake Factory

3811 S. Cooper Street (The Parks Mall at Arlington)
817-465-2211

Full-course meals, including specialty burgers (such as the Kobe Burger, featuring American style Kobe beef & sauteed mushrooms), but the main attraction is the restaurant's signature decadent desserts, including red velvet cheesecake (shown here) and the original cheesecake. It's difficult to choose just one!