

## The Guilfordian's top five Greensboro burger joints



PHOTOS BY NIKI GANES/GUILFORDIAN

**BY MATTHEW JONES**  
STAFF WRITER

Hot grease drips off a buttery brioche bun as you sink your teeth into a savory combination of hot grilled Angus beef, melted cheddar cheese and smoky bacon.

Hungry yet?

It is no secret that Greensboro is filled with locally owned joints that serve up some of the best burgers in the state. Fresh, readily available ingredients are piled onto patties made from the best meats by both established diners and just-opened restaurants. The following are just a few of the best:

**Jam's Deli** (5707 W. Friendly Ave. and 2920 Martinsville Rd.)

Walking into Jam's is like traveling 60 years back in time to a land of 50s and 60s music, brightly colored plastic and friendly service. Diners at the deli will have a difficult time deciding between their excellent six-ounce burgers paired up with some of their flavorful curly fries. Offerings include the standard Jam Burger piled high with lettuce and tomato and a bacon cheeseburger.

**Fincastle's Downtown Diner** (215 S. Elm St.)

The cooks behind the counter will fix you a burger that might just blow your mind.

"It's like my Spidey senses kicked in when they place my plate in front of me," wrote Derrick Matthews in a review of Fincastle's on his blog, TheDowntowner. "But instead of

sensing danger, I was sensing a plate of food I was getting ready to wreck."

Their menu includes the classic Fincastle Burger, served up with their trademark Fincastle sauce. Adventurous students can venture out to try the Joel Burger, featuring spicy pimento cheese and Fincastle sauce sandwiched between two perfectly cooked patties.

**Emma Key's Flat-Top Grill** (2206 Walker Ave.)

Inside an old barbershop, chefs serve up delicious burgers from a massive flat top grill.

"The burger is glorious; a hand-formed patty browned atop the griddle to a perfect dark on the outside, with a center pristinely pink enough to remind me that I'm eating meat," wrote former editor of YES! Weekly Brian Clarey in a review of the joint.

Signature burgers include the James Taylor, topped with enough chili, slaw and onions to make the singer-songwriter proud. Or, maybe you were never into folk rock and would rather have The Greensburger, with pickle spears and spicy sport peppers.

**Hops Burger Bar** (2419 Spring Garden St.)

Hops serves up some of the greatest burgers around in wire baskets lined with brown paper to catch all the flavorful juices that drip from their burgers.

"Build-your-own burgers are available, but skip the work and

just order one of Hops' specialty burgers," wrote Jennifer Bringle in a review for The News & Record. "I've eaten a lot of burgers and fries in this town, and I must admit that Hops has taken its place among my favorites."

You might even be tempted to sample one of their newest and top-selling burgers, the French Onion, topped with caramelized onions, savory aioli and gruyere cheese. If Angus beef is not your thing, Hops offers mushroom, cauliflower

and nutty patties made in-house. Additionally, Hops offers a variety of hot and crispy fries as well as local craft beers.

**The Big Burger Spot** (3750 Battleground Ave. and 510 A Nicholas Rd.)

Behind the counter, you can hear the loud sizzling of patties as they cook on the infrared griddle.

"Big Burger Spot is the really fun kind of burger joint, total blink and you miss it kind of place," said Kristi Maier on her food blog,

triadfoodies. "On the side of a gas station and convenience store...not exactly a dive, but almost."

The Spot serves a wide variety of burgers, including the Backyard BBQ with fried onions and smoked bacon and the Mediterranean with hummus and cucumber yogurt sauce, in any of three sizes: Almost Big, Big, or Colossal. Additionally, their french fry menu is nearly as big as their burger menu, featuring Pesto Garlic Aioli and White Truffle Parmesan fries.



## Community of writers work to sharpen their craft in the Guilford Writing Group

**BY EMMA RUMPL**  
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a nice, relaxing space to work on your writing whilst surrounded by non-judgmental, friendly peers? How about one with a flexible schedule, providing you with plenty of opportunities to unite with fellow writers?

If this sounds tempting, then the Guilford Writing Group may be just for you.

Those looking for a good, relaxing place to work on their writing will be delighted to learn that the writing group provides such a space. They can write to their heart's desire in a setting where the only sounds are the clacking of keyboards and the scratching of pens and pencils against loose-leaf paper.

"It's a no-pressure environment to work on writing," said first-year Jessica Kellam. "It gives you a chance to focus."

Individuals who regularly attend the group receive a number of benefits. For instance, their writing skills are likely to improve or stay sharpened.

"GWG helps to keep my fiction writing muscles in shape," said writing tutor Linda Catoe in an email interview. "I hope this group will encourage me to expand my abilities into the long-fiction arena."

Another benefit is the influence writers have on each other's work just by attending the group.

"It's very inspiring to be around a lot of other people who are interested in writing," said Heather Hans, instructional design & assessment librarian.

The writing group encourages students to explore new territories, such as a different form of prose or an alternate writing style.

"I started writing in genres I normally haven't written in," said junior Gray Stanback.

GWG also boasts a judgment free environment. People who wish to come in and share their writing need not fear scathing criticism. Instead, they can expect to receive compliments and helpful feedback.

Participants have found that the writing group is a safe space to unveil their writing, and it helps them feel more confident about sharing their work.

"(The writing group has) been a catalyst for me to be more comfortable with (sharing my writing) and to just be comfortable with people's suggestions," said senior Faith Krech.

The familial feeling of the writing group complements the tolerant atmosphere. From the moment an individual walks into a GWG meeting they will find no animosity directed toward them, but rather people who are happy to have another fellow writer among them.

"(GWG) provides a good, open feeling," said junior Sam Dawson. "I got

to know a lot of people. It provides a sense of community."

The relaxing, tolerant and friendly aspects of GWG have been present since its founding in 2012.

So, what is different about it this year? Flexibility.

"Rather than being a very static group, (the writing group) is responsive to the needs and ideas and inspirations of the people in the group," said GWG Founder and Assistant Professor of English Mylène Dressler.

GWG members appreciate Dressler's consideration for their busy schedules.

"I think it's a very compassionate way of doing things, said junior Amanda Libby. "(Mylène) wants to have everyone come when they can."

A gathering welcome to any member of

the Guilford community, GWG encourages students, faculty and staff to attend its meetings. The group regularly gathers on Wednesdays from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in Duke 103 to work on any type of creative writing.

In addition to having regular meetings, Dressler plans to schedule writing workshops and other literary events throughout the year. She is opening the gates of opportunity for people who cannot visit the group at its regular meeting time.

"(The writing group) is open to anyone, any major, any member of our campus community," said Dressler. "Creativity happens in all kinds of places and we want to nourish that in every way possible."

GWG is beginning to unfurl its wings by emphasizing that a community of writers cannot improve unless other fans of the written craft join in as well.

**Want more information about GWG?**

Visit the Guilford Writing Group Facebook page or contact Mylène Dressler at

**[dresslermc@guilford.edu](mailto:dresslermc@guilford.edu)**