

Barbecue Chef Invests on Interstate

Specializing in smoked meats and seafood

James Harris is a native Portlander, having attended Joseph Lane Elementary and Franklin High School. He received an associate degree from Multnomah Junior College, now part of the University of Portland, and also attended Portland Community College and Portland State University. He is the father of one son, Justin, 24, who is also in the restaurant industry and helps out in the family business, and has aspirations of owning his own establishment someday.

James' experience is many. He has worked for many civic groups in the public interest over the years, serving on the Multnomah County Economic Development Commission, the Columbia Region Association of Governments (currently known as METRO) and the Portland Planning Commission. He feels this gives him additional insight into the needs of the community and the components of a successful business.

As a private citizen he has owned many businesses, including Bon Vivant Clothing, Broadway Mall and Deli, Broadway Seafood Restaurant and Market and Fremont Produce and Meats.

In the restaurant field, he has worked for 30 years in both the front and back of the house capaci-

ties. He has held management positions at Red Lion, Shari's and Marriot, and was the Sous Chef at the Red Lion. He also has been an active investor with property and other holdings.

James combined his knowledge of business, restaurants, and city planning when designing his business plan and opening his current endeavor U-Licious Smokehouse and Grill at 4037 N. Interstate Ave.

The Interstate Avenue/Overlook neighborhood is an established Portland locale with a new light rail line, a constant influx of new businesses such as Adidas and Harbor Freight, and continually rising property values.

James uses original American methods for authentic barbecue, developed a century ago on the fire grills of the South and West. All meats are smoked on site, with many traditional dishes, like oxtails and pulled pork, and traditional sides like beans and rice and collard greens. Franz breads are used in all dishes and the restaurant feature local microbrews and micro sodas.

To start the business, James leveraged current investments to raise startup capital. All funds were provided internally, utilizing no government aid programs or loans.

He considered many names for the business, in reference to the area, such as Interstate Bar and Grill and Overlook Smokehouse. But when discussing the ideas with friend Connie Adams, she suggested that the name be personal and make you think "delicious".



James Harris, owner of U-Licious Smokehouse and grill, 4037 N. Interstate Ave., specializes in smoked meats and seafood.

James' father U-licious used to love to cook breakfast for the family, and so the name was decided.

This month represents U-licious second anniversary, and although he experienced serious illness shortly after opening, he is establishing a regular clientele, including catering for small and large events. There is also live music on Fridays, with a wonderful new selection of wines.

For more information, visit the U-licious website at freewebs.com/ulicioussmokehouse/index.htm.

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