

Chronicle digital manager speaks about the future

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Chronicle's digital manager, Wali D. Pitt, participated in a panel discussion, "Future of Black Owned Newspapers and Media Organizations: Perspectives from the Next Generation," at the 2016 mid-winter conference of the National Newspapers Publishers Association in Miami, Florida.

The panel discussion centered on the next generation of publishers, editors and other black-owned media corporate leaders and how they will incorporate new technology and innovation in their vision for the future.

Along with Pitt, other panelists included James C. Belt, Dallas Examiner; Chris Bennett, Jr., Seattle Medium; and Sam Collins, Washington Informer "Bridge."

Pitt remarked, "It was a great and humbling experience to share a panel with these accomplished journalists. I enjoyed being around others who grew up in the

newspaper business, like myself."

Referring to the topic discussion by the panel, Pitt said, "We spoke about emerging technology, the fight between generations over that technology, and ways to incorporate new technology while staying true to the roots of community journalism."

Pitt also mentioned the input of Sam Collins who publishes the "WI Bridge," a monthly millennial publication within the Washington Informer that deals with mil-



by Ande Williams/Eyeonastv.com/Napa
Wali D. Pitt, digital manager for The Chronicle of Winston-Salem, speaks at the National Newspaper Association's 2016 mid-winter conference

ennial issues in the D.C. community. "I feel like this was a great compromise between the generations, and more traditional newspapers could look into similar solutions to 'bridge' the gap between millennials and their elders." Pitt learned the business from his parents, Ernie and Elaine Pitt, Publisher

Emeritus and Business Manager, respectively, of The Chronicle. Wali attended North Carolina Central University, where he studied Mass Communications. After an internship at the Tallahassee Capitol Outlook, he changed course and transferred to Cape Fear Community College to study Film/Video Production. Shortly after receiving a degree, Wali joined Legion Productions as an editor and camera assistant. He has worked on numerous films and TV shows such as "One Tree Hill" (CW Network), "Top Sniper" (Discovery Channel), and "Arthur Newman Golf Pro," a film starring Colin Firth.

Pitt's goal is to take the digital knowledge he has learned in the film industry and bring The Chronicle to the forefront of the digital news marketplace. Utilizing his skills, he intends to use a community-oriented approach to create a state-of-the-art digital footprint for his family's newspaper.



An interpretative dance routine is performed by dance troop Spirit of David at the ceremony for Dr. Robert Brown on Friday, Jan. 29.

Chief

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heartfelt account of the help he received from Brown and how he assisted him and his family throughout his life and that he would not be where he is in life without Brown.

"Dr. Brown is now chief of the Ikorodu kingdom. He found me and brought me to this country where I could put my feet on the ground and have a sense of belonging. I am

thankful for the help that he provided for me to become a learned person and engineer from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in Greensboro North Carolina. I am so glad he brought me here," said Shotobi of his feelings of Dr. Brown.

The ceremonial hat, bracelets, and necklace were blessed by the various Chiefs and honored guests in the crowd and then were bestowed unto Brown by Shotobi followed by a shar-

ing of a glass of water that symbolizes peace and sharing of food that symbolizes good tidings to Brown as well.

According to Brown, this achievement is very high on his list because something that came to him because of God's blessing and that it wasn't because he was the greatest or the smartest, it was just simply because God blessed him with it.

A member of the audience said, "This is not an honor that can be bought or



Dr. Robert Brown and King Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi pose for photos with their wives at the end of the ceremony.

purchased but something that has to be earned. There have not been too many westerners bestowed with this honor but for what Dr. Brown has done over the years for us this honor is well deserved."

Brown stated that this honor means a great deal to him because he has been to Nigeria many times. He has lived there, worked there, and he has been in every state of the Nation and knows the people very well. He went on to say that he has brought back a

number of young people to the states to study at our universities because of their brilliant intellect. "I think that it's a blessing that I received from my grandmother who raised me in High Point. We were poor and didn't have many material things but we were rich with incentives to do well and to help others and this is what it's all about. When asked why he decided to help as much as he has over the years he said, "My grandmother, because I saw her help

everyone even though we were poor she would share our food and our home to those down in the dumps and say the 23rd Psalm and I'm just trying to give back." He closed by saying that his grandmother always told him, "It doesn't belong to you, it all belongs to God and he gave it to you so you could bless others."

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