



Eastern Connecticut State University professor Cob Carlson, right, and award-winning documentary filmmaker Charles Stuart, left, have worked together for many years and were excited to show their work to students at a 'University Hour' talk at ECSU last week. Anthony Zepperi | For the Chronicle

Noted filmmaker pays visit to ECSU

ANTHONY ZEPPERI

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

WILLIMANTIC — Sadness filled the room as noted documentary filmmaker Charles C. Stuart presented his documentary, "Into the Light" at an Eastern Connecticut State University forum Thursday.

Centered on mental illness, the film told the story of two people, "Barbara" and a war veteran, "Brendan."

Stuart presented his film at ECSU's Student Center Theater, with approximately 40 people attending. The program was part of the school's regular "University Hour" speaker series.

He showed a montage of some of his best work, which dealt with mental health issues, sports and immigration. Stuart has been nominated for various Emmy awards and has had some of his work shown on PBS as well as HBO.

Thursday, he showed clips from "Don King, Unauthorized," a feature about the famous boxing promoter, and "Basketball: A Love Story," about the rising amount of blacks taking over basketball.

Stuart said it is important for subjects to have a say in the approach to making a documentary. "What I have tried to do with my films was let people tell their story," Stuart said. "This is what makes my job a fun one."

According to Stuart, he has covered murders, drug dealings, HIV as well as sports and AIDS.

He said his goal in making these films is to present an inspiring story to audiences. "The key to what I try to do is make something that stroy strong in its heart," Stuart said. "Story is king."

Stuart said there is one aspect documentaries have that movies do not have.

"A documentary as opposed to a film director making a movie is that things change," Stuart said. "You are in control of your own material."

He said filmmakers must be able to be passionate about the subjects featured in their stories. "I learned that you must treat people nicely," Stuart said. "You have to have a great curiosity for the subjects' story."

Cob Carlson, digital media professor at the university and close friend to Stuart, also edited some of his work including the one presented.

He said Stuart has done plenty of work as a filmmaker.

"He has had a body of work in his portfolio and over 50 hours of content," Carlson said. "We spent loads of time together making various films of which we are very proud of."

More about Stuart's filmography can be found here www.imdb.com/name/nm0994583.