



Contact: Annamaria C. Lalevee
(908) 852-1400, ext. 2238
laleveea@centenarycollege.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SINGER-SONGWRITER, NOVELIST AND ACTOR STEVE EARLE TO SERVE
AS CENTENARY COLLEGE GATES-FERRY LECTURER IN FEBRUARY**

Events are Free and Open to the Public

Hackettstown, N.J., January 30, 2012 – Centenary College is proud to announce that the Spring 2012 Gates-Ferry Distinguished Visiting Lecturer is Steve Earle, a musician, actor, author and political activist who was most recently featured in the HBO series *Treme*. He will be conducting Question-and-Answer sessions about his career at 7 p.m. on February 22, 2012, **AND** 2 p.m. on February 24, 2012. **Both events are free and open to the public and will take place at the Sitnik Theater in the David and Carol Lackland Center (715 Grand Avenue, Hackettstown, N.J.).**

A protégé of legendary songwriters Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark, Steve Earle quickly became a master storyteller in his own right, with his songs being recorded by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Waylon Jennings, Travis Tritt, The Pretenders, Joan Baez and countless others. 1986 saw the release of his debut record, *Guitar Town*, which shot to no. 1 on the country charts and immediately

established the term “New Country.” What followed was an extremely exciting and varied array of releases including the biting hard rock of *Copperhead Road* (1988), the minimalist beauty of *Train A Comin’* (1995), the politically charged masterpiece, *Jerusalem* (2002), and the Grammy Award-winning albums *The Revolution Starts...Now* (2004), *Washington Square Serenade* (2007) and *Townes* (2009). Earle’s latest release, *I’ll Never Get Out Of This World Alive*, is his 14th studio album and also received a Grammy nomination for the 2012 Grammy Awards (Airing Sunday, February 12).

2011 saw the release of Earle’s critically acclaimed debut novel, also titled *I’ll Never Get Out Of This World Alive*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. The novel imagines the troubled life of Doc Ebersole as he is haunted by the ghost of his former patient and friend, Hank Williams.

American Singer-Songwriter Patti Smith says: “Steve Earle brings to his prose the same authenticity, poetic spirit and cinematic energy he projects in his music. *I’ll Never Get Out Of This World Alive* is like a dream you can’t shake, offering beauty and remorse, redemption in spades.”

Additionally, Earle has been a featured actor on the HBO Original Series *The Wire* and *Treme* and has also been seen on *Law & Order* as well as the major motion picture *Leaves of Grass*. He is married to the critically acclaimed singer-songwriter Allison Moorer and the couple lives in New York City.

“I am so pleased that Steve Earle has agreed to serve as Gates-Ferry Distinguished Visiting Lecturer at Centenary College,” says Dr. James Patterson, Provost and Chief Academic Officer at Centenary College.

The Gates-Ferry Distinguished Visiting Lectureship at Centenary College recognizes the dedication to the College of Joseph R. Ferry, Trustee from 1948 to 1976 and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for 20 years. It was established to set high standards and goals for students and faculty alike, and to enrich the quality of life on the Centenary campus.

To reserve a spot, please call 908-979-4355, ext. 1.

Founded in 1867 by the Newark Conference of the United Methodist Church, Centenary College's academic program integrates a solid liberal arts foundation with a strong career orientation. This mix is designed to provide an educational experience that prepares students to succeed in the increasingly global and interdependent world.

Centenary College's main campus is located in Hackettstown, N.J., with its equestrian facility in Washington Township (Morris County). The College's School of Professional Studies Program offers accelerated degree completion programs in Parsippany, with an additional facility in Edison, and at corporate sites throughout New Jersey.

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