

2007 Speaker



File Photo

Erik Calonius

Erik Calonius is a former reporter, editor and London-based foreign correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal*, a staff writer for *Fortune* magazine and Miami bureau chief for *Newsweek*. In 2006, Calonius completed his first narrative nonfiction book, *The Wanderer: The Last American Slave Ship and the Conspiracy That Set Its Sails*. Hampton Sides, a Mayborn Conference former speaker and author of *Ghost Soldiers* and *Blood and Thunder*, says “*The Wanderer* is my favorite kind of history: a voyage into the turbid waters of a past we thought we knew, a past we scarcely could have imagined.” Calonius’s slave ship narrative has received national acclaim, inspiring the state of Georgia to plan a memorial structure to *The Wanderer* on Jekyll Island, where the ship landed in 1858, and a walking tour in Savannah, where much of the story took place.

Calonius is currently writing *Predictably Irrational* with Massachusetts Institute of Technology behavioral economist Dan Ariely. This insight into human behavior will be published by HarperCollins in early 2008. Calonius has collaborated on more than a dozen nonfiction books, most dealing with business and economics. Calonius earned a master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University.

Phone: 940-565-4564

P.O. Box 311460
Denton, TX 76203-1460

MaybornInstitute.unt.edu

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