

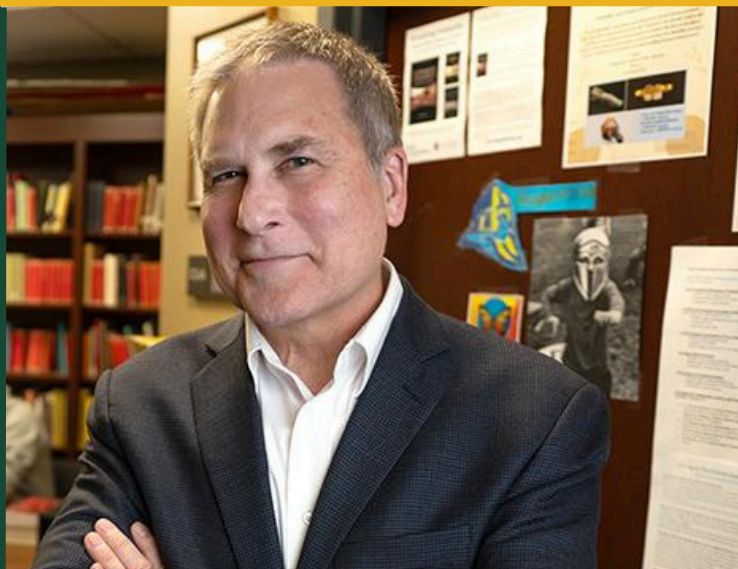
2026 Cherry Award Finalist Public Lecture: Lendol Calder, Ph.D.



ROBERT FOSTER
CHERRY AWARD
FOR GREAT TEACHING™

Join us 5:30 p.m.
October 13, 2025

Old Main Forum 226,
Augustana College



Make America Mean Something Again: Rethinking American History in the Age of Trump

He is the most improbable yet influential political figure of our time: Donald Trump. When he descended the golden escalator in 2015, many dismissed it as a stunt, not a serious presidential bid. Yet months later, Trump's "Make America Great Again" story captivated millions.

Drawing on three decades of listening to college students as they try to make sense of America's past, I will examine how a dearth of coherent national narratives created a vacuum that Trump's story of America filled. Historians erred, I will argue, when they gave up national storytelling in teaching and research, ceding ground to purveyors of nostalgia and simple slogans.

Finally, I will survey possibilities for forging a new national narrative—one that respects evidence, acknowledges the complexities of America's past, and equips future generations to engage history with critical insight.

Calder was a 1999 Carnegie Fellow whose work has reshaped history education in the U.S. and abroad. Focusing on the teaching of introductory courses, Calder is renowned for developing a "signature pedagogy" for undergraduate history teaching.

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"What makes Lendol an exemplary teacher is that he applies his expertise to study his own courses and makes his conclusions public, treating his ideas as shareware to improve everyone's teaching. He is known far beyond his subfield or even his discipline, earning a reputation as one of the most creative pedagogical thinkers in a generation."

- Jane Simonsen, Professor of History & Gender Studies, Augustana College

**Space is limited
RSVP**

