Abstract: On October 28, 2018, a brand new Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft crashed into the Java Sea, minutes after takeoff, killing all 189 people on board. The Flight Data Recorder revealed the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System on the 737 MAX series may have been responsible. Just a few months later, another MAX 8 dove into the ground at high speed, again minutes after takeoff, killing all 157 people on board. The apparent similarities between the crashes prompted worldwide grounding of all B737 MAX 8 aircraft. Lingering questions about FAA certification has led to congressional hearings and investigations by the DOT and even the DoJ. In this talk, the speaker will discuss both crashes, and outline the fascinating story of the intense rivalry between Airbus and Boeing behind the sequence of events that ultimately led to this situation.

Bio: Dr. Lakshmi Kantha is a professor in the Smead Aerospace Engineering Sciences Department of the CU College of Engineering. He teaches Rocket and Aircraft Propulsion, and is the author of the upcoming book "Airbus vs. Boeing, Clash of the Titans of Aviation," to be published by Springer.