

Richard Tapia

Rice University

Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics

University Professor and Maxfield-Oshman Chair in Engineering

2011 National Medal of Science recipient

Department of Mathematics

Public Lecture

MATH IS KEY

*Math at top speed: Exploring and Breaking
Myths in the Drag Racing Folklore*



For most of his life, the speaker has been involved in some aspect of drag racing. He has witnessed the birth and growth of many myths concerning dragster speed and acceleration. In this talk, he will identify elementary mathematical frameworks for the study of popular drag racing beliefs. In this manner some myths are validated, while others are destroyed. The speaker will explain why dragster acceleration is greater than the acceleration due to gravity, an age old inconsistency. His "Fundamental Theorem of Drag Racing" will be presented. The first part of the talk will be a historical account of the development of drag racing and will include several lively videos.

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

4:30 p.m.

Armstrong 1010

701 West Stadium Avenue

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

A reception co-hosted by the College of Science and the College of Engineering will immediately follow the lecture in the atrium of Armstrong Hall.