

Introduction to the Third Loyola Conference on Quantum Theory and Gravitation

As was the case with the previous similar conferences, the Third Loyola Conference on Quantum Theory and Gravitation was the occasion for the emergence of a wonderful variety of ideas from a group of physicists and mathematicians talking and listening to each other. Some of the presentations were historically reflective, some were solid steps on firm foundations, and some were more speculative leaps based on necessarily slimmer evidence, but all shared the common goal of advancing our understanding of the two fundamental physical ideas of this century, quantum theory and gravitation, with the hope of their eventual unification. This publication of a representative selection of results is presented with the hope that the reader can experience some of the pleasure and insight shared by the conferees.

While quantum theory may not depend on hidden variables, the success of a conference most certainly does. We hope that the partial listing here of some of those whose work behind the scenes was so essential will be a small beginning toward repaying the debt of gratitude owed: J. C. Carter, S. J., President and R. A. Preston, Academic Vice President, for the most fundamental support of all, financial; Mrs. Germaine L. Murray, for excellent secretarial work; Christopher M. Rey, Conference Coordinator, for constructing a well-oiled machine; and finally, for all the essential details, Dr. and Mrs. Keith D. Bonin, Brett Bryars, Paul Russo, David Dufour, Lucy Fitzgerald, Troy Million, Alicia Clay, Michael Kelly, John Singletary, Phillip Parr, and Tom Swyden.

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