PREFACE

NORBERTO SALINAS

These are the proceedings of the seventh Great Plains Operator Seminar, which was held in Lawrence, Kansas, from May 27 to May 31, 1987.

Professor Dan Voiculescu, from University of California at Berkeley, was the principal speaker who gave a sequence of three lectures on Free Products of C^*-Algebras and Related topics. There were also four major lectures delivered by Professor Bruce Blackadar from University of Nevada at Reno, Professor Scott Brown from University of Michigam at Ann Arbor, Professor Kenneth Davidson from University of Waterloo at Waterloo, Ontario, and Professor Steve Power from University of Lancaster at Lancaster, England. There were many half hour contributed talks, and all of them were presented in non-parallel sessions.

The organizing comittee of GPOTS 1987 was composed of Professor Norberto Salinas (Chairman), Professor William Paschke (transportation coordinator), Professor John Bunce, Professor Albert Sheu, and Professor Harold Upmeier, all from the University of Kansas. There were more than one hundred participants who came from different parts of the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Far East.

The Conference was held in a very friendly and mathematically active environment, according to all the comments and remarks expressed by the participants. Its great success was due to the cooperative efforts of a large number of people. First, special thanks are due to the Stouffer Endowment Fund from the University of Kansas and to the National Science Foundation, for their generous support, without which, the holding of the conference would have been impossible. I would also like to thank my colleagues from the organizing committee for their valuable help. I am very grateful to the Chairman of the K.U. Mathematics Department, Professor Charlie Himmelberg, who made numerous and substantial contributions to the preparation of this conference. I also wish to thank our secretary, Gloria Prothe, who played a very important role in helping with various aspects of the conference and, afterwards, in handling the correspondence and helping with the preparation of these proceedings.

All the papers included here were refereed and, in many instances, the authors were asked to revise their manuscripts on the basis of the referee's reports. In fact, there were some cases in which these reports were not favorable, and the corresponding papers had to be rejected. Our warmest thanks go to all the authors who submitted manuscripts for publication in this proceedings. I also thank all the referees for their valuable contributions and cooperation.

It is deeply disturbing and very sad to recall the passing of one of the most active and brillant members of our seminar, Professor Constantin Apostol, who died four months before the conference. In accordance with the desires expressed by most participants, these proceedings, as a whole, are dedicated to his memory.

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