

## PREFACE

A conference on Quadratic forms and Related Topics was held at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA, from March 26 to March 30, 2001. This meeting was jointly supported by the National Science Foundation, the Louisiana Education Quality Support Fund, the LSU Office of Research and Graduate Studies, the LSU College of Arts and Sciences, and the LSU Department of Mathematics. The conference was organized by J. William Hoffman, Jurgen Hurrelbrink, Jorge Morales, Robert Perlis, and Paul van Wamelen, all at LSU.

This book is the volume of the proceedings for that meeting. The majority of the articles published here record details of talks delivered at the conference. All contributions have been refereed independently according to DOCUMENTA MATHEMATICA standards.

The papers in this volume are representative of the current state of the subject. In the recent past, the field of Quadratic Forms has enjoyed breakthrough results such as the confirmation of the Milnor Conjecture on relations between the theory of quadratic forms and algebraic  $K$ -theory. Topics of the articles in the proceedings include Witt groups, Brauer groups, Galois cohomology, generic splitting of quadratic forms, Hasse principles, and the theory of involutions.

It is a pleasure for us to give thanks to the agencies involved for their support of this conference. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank our colleagues, graduate students and staff at LSU for their untiring and alert assistance before and during the meeting, and all speakers and participants for their contributions to the success of the conference.

The Organizers  
Baton Rouge, October 2001