-The symposium was one of the first meetings to bring together astronomers and physicists after the announcement of the discovery of gravitational waves.

-It coincided with the announcement of the collision of two neutron stars by LIGO and the multi-messenger counterpart astronomers (GW170817) , which was watched live by the conference participants and generated quite a bit of discussion both formally in the sessions and informally in the breaks.

-Sever al of the presenters at the Washington DC announcement of GW170817 flew to Baton Rouge after it to be present at the meeting.

-This was the first conference where details of that discovery were discussed.

-A visit to LIGO Livingston Observatory took place on Wednesday afternoon.

-Neil Gehrels, one of the proponents of this Symposium, was remembered during the banquet after his untimely passing .

-There was discussion on diversity in science during one of the lunches