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ECLIPSE SPECIAL EDITION



## ECLIPSE OF A LIFETIME



The Shorthorn: Joel Solis

**Spectators marvel** at the sky as the moon passes in front of the sun during the Total Eclipse of the Park event April 8 at Levitt Pavilion. The Metroplex experienced its first path of totality since 1878.

### The community gathered throughout Arlington for the once-in-a-lifetime event

BY HANNAH GARCÍA AND PEDRO MALKOMES  
The Shorthorn staff

On Monday, the total solar eclipse left Arlington starstruck — a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon, anticipated by thousands.

For the first time since 1878, the Metroplex was within the path of totality during the eclipse, meaning the moon's shadow completely covered the sun.

As one of the three largest planetariums in Texas, the UTA Planetarium drew students, residents and scientists to the university for the Solar-Bration watch party. Hundreds of stargazers poured onto campus, ranging from Arlington locals to international tourists.

Nilakshi Veerabathina, professor of instruction in astronomy, said while spectators may have different reasons to watch the eclipse — scientific, religious or cultural — they all share the goal of finding the best view.

Studied for around 5,000 years, eclipses used to strike fear in those who didn't understand what happened as the day suddenly became night. Once considered a bad omen, Veerabathina said they're changing people's understanding of eclipses through education, assuring them there is "nothing bad" about the science behind it.

The time of totality was what Veerabathina looked forward to most. Now on her fourth eclipse



The Shorthorn: Christine Vo

**Maverick Dining cook Raymond Hill looks** to the eclipse April 8 at Maverick Circle. Hill wore a tin hat, joking "eclipse, apocalypse."

viewing, she said she missed the moment by three seconds during the 2017 eclipse when a cloud rolled in, obscuring the sight.

Mustafa Amin, associate professor in physics and astronomy at Rice University, returned to his UTA alma mater to get the perfect seat to live sketch phases of the eclipse. Fasci-

nated with the scientific spectacle, his soft pastels personified a memory unique to his experience.

Amin graduated from UTA in 2003 and said he owes "everything" to staff and faculty, making campus an easy contender when choosing a viewing location.

Cody Domaille traveled over 900

miles from Rochester, Minnesota to witness the spectacle with his 10-year-old daughter, Tridaya. The pair brought a telescope and excitedly awaited totality while adjusting their machinery.

"This is her first total solar eclipse and this is my first one since childhood, so [we] decided that we wanted

to head down here to see this," Cody Domaille said.

A sudden shift in the sky caused murmurs amongst the crowds and by 1:40 p.m., they erupted as the sun's luminescent corona glistened behind the moon's outline.

Cody Domaille didn't anticipate the eclipse to be so "vivid," only expecting a small ring surrounding the moon's view. His daughter shared the same sentiment, impressed by the dark skies brought by the rarity.

"It was [so] surreal," Cody Domaille said. "It might be cliché to say, but it was a bit magical because I, again, don't get to see that very often."

Veerabathina said the eclipse was more than she expected as she was nearly moved to tears by the end of totality. Amongst the dark sky, she said Venus and Jupiter were visible, and the sun's corona was "beautiful." Overall, she said it truly was an out-of-world experience, one that anyone who didn't get the chance to see missed out on.

"They missed the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, that's all I can say," she said. "They missed that 'awe' that nature presents to us."

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*This print edition includes a collection of vignettes from various locations across North Texas. A vignette is a short story capturing a scene or a moment in time.*

#### AROUND CAMPUS

President Jennifer Cowley attended various events at the Central Library's Special Collections, UTA Planetarium, Engineering Quad and Architecture Courtyard.

THE PRESIDENT on page 2

#### IN THE CITY

After a month of planning, Mike Frederiksen drove in from Kansas to visit his daughter, Marcie, attending Levitt Pavilion's Total Eclipse of the Park.

THE DUO on page 3

#### OUT OF TOWN

The Gantzel's flew over 5,000 miles from Denmark and Colorado to Ennis, Texas, Eclipse Over Ennis. The town had the longest totality at four minutes and 23 seconds.

THE VISITORS on page 6

#### AT THE PLANETARIUM

UTA Planetarium director Levent Gurdemir brought his son, Atlas, to the campus' Solar-Bration, experiencing their first total solar eclipse.

THE DIRECTOR on page 7

#### ON THE COURT

Between plays, fans of UTA and Seattle University women's tennis teams glanced at the eclipses' phases. After UTA's Senior Day win, players came together to watch the totality.

THE ATHLETES on page 8