

THE SHORTHORN

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

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April 10, 2024

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ECLIPSE SPECIAL EDITION



ECLIPSE OF A LIFETIME



The Shornhorn: 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 Shornhorn 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-Bratton 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 Shornhorn: 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-Bratton, 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

AROUND CAMPUS

The President

Jennifer Cowley roamed around the university as she met with students, alumni and community members to celebrate the eclipse

BY MANDY HUYNH
The Shorthorn editor-in-chief

When the moon completely covered the sun at 1:40 p.m. Monday, the sky dimmed as President Jennifer Cowley laid her eclipse glasses over her eyes. Her jaw dropped at the sight.

She was joined by students, faculty, staff, alumni and other visitors lounging in the Architecture Courtyard. She sat still in that moment, but for hours prior she was on the move and was rarely motionless despite her broken ankle.

Cowley arrived on campus before 7:30 a.m. with donuts in tow for her office to kick off the university's Solar-Bration. Then, she had a full list of activities to get to.

She wore a blue shirt that featured star and moon patterns for the occasion. Cowley started her day attending a lecture in the library about the eclipse and viewing the Special Collections exhibit.

One story she witnessed was when she left the library, Cowley met a woman who was wondering where to go on campus. Cowley pointed out where Brazos Park was for the Solar-Bration.

The woman was a teacher from outside the Metroplex and came to experience the eclipse and thought that a university with a planetarium would be a good pick, Cowley said.

"She chose to come to UTA and experience the day with us because she wanted to take in all that we had to offer," Cowley said.

Cowley then went to an alumni engagement event in the Science

and Engineering Innovation and Research Building before heading to the UTA Planetarium for an interview with UTA Radio.

Cowley didn't have a moment to rest as she left the planetarium immediately to go to the Honors

College's watch party. While there she mingled with a few students, asking what they studied and if they were excited for the eclipse.

Next, she traveled to the Engineering Quad for their watch party. On the way, she was stopped

by students and faculty who wanted to introduce themselves to her. She rushed over to take a photo of herself with a cardboard frame that said "I BLACKED OUT! APRIL 8, 2024."

Cowley turned the corner from the quad and made her way over to Brazos Park, where she got herself a water and walked from the stage to Arlington Hall. From there she went back to the planetarium in hopes that the crowds would be smaller.

She weaved herself between people heading to Brazos Park, chatting with folks who were munching on SunChips and MoonPies. By the time she reached the planetarium, it was only a few minutes before totality. A few minutes for Cowley was enough time to visit one more watch party: the College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs'.

She got to walking to West Campus, crossing the Central Li-

brary mall and reaching the main bridge where she made sure to use the handrails on the stairs. She said she's on the mend after surgery to her broken ankle and that she can handle a day's walk better now.

When she made it to the courtyard, she spoke to a few people before sitting herself down on the grass to watch the eclipse. The crowd around her buzzed with excitement before booing at the clouds.

A few minutes before totality set, the clouds parted and set off a cheer in the crowd. When the dark sky returned to a typical sunny atmosphere, Cowley returned to her office as she had meetings scheduled all afternoon. She left with her hair tied back and water bottle drained.

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The Shorthorn: Natanael Mazariego

President Jennifer Cowley looks at the eclipse during the CAPPA Skywatchers 4824 event April 8 at the Architecture Courtyard. Cowley made her way through events at the Central Library's Special Collections, UTA Planetarium, Engineering Quad and Architecture Courtyard throughout the day, stopping to talk and view the phenomenon with community members.

CORRECTIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS

Bring factual errors to *The Shorthorn's* attention via email to editor@shorthorn@uta.edu or call 817-272-3188. A correction or clarification will be printed in this space.

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COMICS

Basket Case

A weekly continuing comic series
by *The Shorthorn* design desk

"Eclipse"

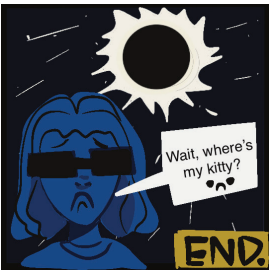
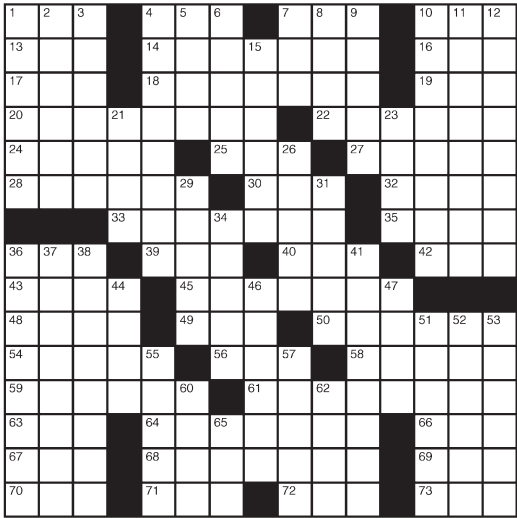


Illustration by Kennedie Hakes

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Tango move
 - Fort Worth sch.
 - Ref's relative
 - Moon vehicle, briefly
 - Geneticist's study
 - Hamlet's friend
 - Gasteyer of "SNL"
 - Asner and Sullivan
 - Right to enter 19 K.C. summer hrs.
 - Tactful
 - Main or Maple
 - Barrier Reef
 - Actor Alastair
 - Chalke of "Scrubs"
 - Spring holiday
 - Weep audibly
 - Donated
 - Mariners' base
 - Put in storage
 - Marksman
 - Compass dir.
 - "Kapital"
 - Hosp. sections
 - Subdue
 - Paper hankies
 - Prune
 - Lanka
 - Pay tribute to 54 Pine product
 - Inc. in London
 - Pay tribute to 59 "Emma" writer
 - Terrorist's cousin
 - Jeff. Davis' nation
 - Worldly
 - Coach
 - Parseghian
 - Black goo
 - Light knockers
 - D.C. VIP
 - Crafty
 - Sellout sign
 - Catch sight of
 - Byrnes or Hall

- DOWN**
- Silt remover
 - One Gandhi
 - Overtakes
 - Unlucky number



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Solutions

ACROSS
1 TANGO
2 FORT WORTH
3 REF
4 MOON BUGGY
5 GENETICIST
6 HAMLET
7 GASTYER
8 ASNER
9 RIGHT
10 TACTFUL
11 MAIN
12 MAPLE
13 BARRIER REEF
14 ALASTAIR
15 CHALKE
16 SPRING
17 WHISKEY
18 DONATED
19 MARINERS
20 STORAGE
21 MARKSMAN
22 COMPASS
23 CAPITAL
24 HOSPITAL
25 SUBDUED
26 PAPER
27 PRUNE
28 LANKA
29 PINE
30 INC
31 PAY
32 EMMA
33 TERRORIST
34 JEFF DAVIS
35 WORLDLY
36 COACH
37 PARSEGHIAN
38 BLACK
39 LIGHT
40 D C
41 CRAFTY
42 SELL
43 CATCH
44 BYRNES
45 HALL

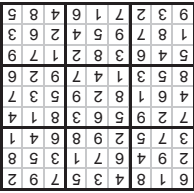
DOWN
1 SILT
2 ONE
3 OVER
4 UNLUCKY

su | do | ku

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Instructions:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 grid contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. That means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.



Solution

Solutions, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

		8	4					
2				7			5	
3	7			9				1
7						1		
4			8	2	9			7
	5							6
5				8			7	9
	8			5				3
				6	4			



The Shorthorn: Joel Solis

Spectators crowd the stage during Total Eclipse of the Park on April 8 at Levitt Pavilion. The watch party was free for all.

BY MARIE RENEA
The Shorthorn staff

As the sky darkened in the face of totality, Hutchinson, Kansas, resident Mike Frederiksen and his daughter Marcie laid side by side on the Levitt Pavilion grass, bringing a moment to life the two had been planning for a month.

On Monday afternoon, the pair arrived at the pavilion with eclipse-viewing eyewear and steadied their gaze toward the ever-shrinking light of the sun.

Mike, a former science teacher, knew about the eclipse for years. The opportunity to witness a once-in-a-lifetime event led him to drive from Kansas to visit his daughter, an Arlington resident.

Mike said the two wouldn't be moving from the pavilion due to the increased chances of traffic accidents during the eclipse, but before he could finish his sentence, Marcie lit up.

"Oh my god, this is so cool!" she said, looking up at the eclipse.

"Oh man, this is living now," he said,

mirroring her actions. "This is living."

The pair chatted back and forth throughout the cosmic event, talking about the clouds, the water cycle, the speed of the sun and moon together and the day overall.

The eclipse's totality cast a shadow upon the city, and in that moment, the whoops and hollers of the crowd and the distant music of the DJ didn't matter.

As Mike and Marcie lay next to each other in the grass, all that mattered to them was the sight they likely wouldn't see

again in their lifetime.

When the sun began to shine back in the sky, the light reflected off the damp glasses on Mike's face, and the pair remained in the same arrangement, basking in the moment's warmth.

"There are no words to describe it," Marcie said.

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The Shorthorn: Joel Solis

Arlington resident Marcie Frederiksen, left, lays with her father Mike during Total Eclipse of the Park on April 8 at Levitt Pavilion. Frederiksen drove down from Kansas to view the eclipse with his daughter.

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THROUGHOUT THE STATE

Texas basks in eclipse's shadow

Visitors and residents traveled to Texas for a chance to see the totality



First above: Attendees pose for photos with Arlington resident Cole Perrine, 25, during the Total Eclipse of the Park event April 8 at Levitt Pavilion. Perrine walked around the event, taking photos with attendees.

Second above: Attendees watch the total solar eclipse April 8 at the Baptist Student Ministry. People brought blankets, chairs and tents to watch the eclipse in its entirety.

Right: Spectators lay down to observe totality during the CAPPA Skywatchers 4824 event April 8 in the Architecture Courtyard. Students, faculty and the community gathered to watch the eclipse.

PHOTOS BY RONALDO BOLAÑOS, MARY ABBY GOSS, JOEL SOLIS AND CHRISTINE VO



Spectators look up at the sky during the Total Eclipse of the Park event April 8 at Levitt Pavilion. From start to finish, the eclipse lasted around three hours throughout Arlington.



Left above: Houston, Texas, resident Cynthia McDaniel, 75, watches the progression of the solar eclipse through eclipse-safe goggles during the Eclipse Over Ennis event April 8 in Ennis, Texas. McDaniel got the goggles as a birthday gift.

Right above: Attendee Celeste Currie, 42, looks toward the sun during the Total Eclipse of the Park event April 8 at Levitt Pavilion. Currie flew from Canada to observe the phenomenon.

Left: Andrew Ortiz, associate professor in the Art and Art History department, looks up toward the sun during the solar eclipse April 8 in the Architecture Courtyard. Classes were canceled from 1 to 2 p.m. to allow students and faculty to watch the eclipse.

OUT OF TOWN

The Visitors

The Gantzel family traveled to China to see a total eclipse in 2008. Nearly 16 years later, they made the trip to Texas, some flying in from Denmark, to create a new memory.

BY ELLA SCOTT
The Shorthorn engagement editor

ENNIS, Texas — In 2008, the Gantzel family of five stood in the Gobi Desert in China as they experienced their first total solar eclipse. This year, they added two significant others to the group and ended up in Ennis, Texas, to prepare for their second total solar eclipse experience.

The Gantzels live outside of Copenhagen, Denmark, in Roskilde and traveled over 5,000 miles to Texas. They

flew to Paris, France, then Dallas to get to the Eclipse Over Ennis event Monday.

During the four minutes and 23 seconds of totality — the longest duration of totality in the state — the family hugged each other, cried and laughed in awe of the spectacle.

Frederik Gantzel was 12 years old during the 2008 eclipse. This year, he was one of the reasons parts of the family traveled over 15 hours to watch the event in Texas, because he hadn't seen his dad in nearly two years.

Along with his wife Samantha, Frederik now lives in Denver, Colorado. His mother, Gitte, first mentioned traveling to watch the eclipse after realizing how close Frederik lived to the path of totality.

Frederik's father, Peder, served as the main coordinator of the trip. He began planning about six months ago and bought the plane tickets in December.

"Since we were in China and saw the solar eclipse, we were like, 'Oh, we need to be a family that trav-

els to see the total solar eclipses,'" Frederik's sister Mathilde said.

Peder, Gitte, their daughters Mathilde and Caroline, and Caroline's boyfriend Emil Rasmussen, flew into Dallas on March 31. Frederik and Sam arrived on April 3.

Since then, the family has spent the past week enjoying their vacation ahead of the eclipse. From riding horses to visiting the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza, the Gantzels have been making the most of Texas.

On the morning of the eclipse, the family nearly decided to stay at their Duncanville, Texas, hotel rather than travel to Ennis because of potential bad weather. However, they made the drive and the clouds split just in time for the total solar eclipse.

At 1:40 p.m. downtown Ennis was filled with cheers as everyone's eyes pointed toward the sky. The eyes of the Gantzel family filled with tears as totality began.

"Even alone it would be

a great experience," Frederik said. "But like my mom always says, 'It's not about the eclipse, it's about being together.'"

It was not just another event for them; this represented months of preparation, hours of travel, the highlight of their family vacation and a bonding experience witnessing the phenomenon together for a second time, 16 years after the first.

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The Shorthorn: Mary Abby Goss

Gitte Gantzel, 58, left, embraces Mathilde Gantzel, 27, during the Eclipse Over Ennis event April 8 in Ennis, Texas. The Gantzel family chose Ennis to watch the total solar eclipse since it had the longest totality time in Texas.



The Shorthorn: Mary Abby Goss

The Gantzel family poses for a photo during Eclipse Over Ennis on April 8 in Ennis, Texas. Some members of the family traveled from Denmark and others came from Colorado to watch the eclipse together as a family.



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AT THE PLANETARIUM

The Director

On Monday, UTA’s Planetarium director witnessed a total solar eclipse for the first time, sharing the experience with his son

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JAMES WARD
The Shorthorn staff

UTA Planetarium director Levent Gurdemir had never seen a total solar eclipse in person — Monday, he shared the experience with his son, Atlas.

Gurdemir said his heart broke when he was told his kindergartner would watch the eclipse from a classroom monitor. He wouldn’t forgive himself if his son couldn’t see the once-in-a-lifetime event in person.

Regardless of age, he said everyone should get to experience the phenomenon.

Gurdemir remembers the opportunity to see a partial solar eclipse when he was his son’s age with a homemade viewer, but he wasn’t able to see it very well.

Because of that experience, he wanted his son to have every opportunity to see the total solar eclipse better than he did.

Gurdemir took his son with him as they greeted staff and attendees during the campus’ Solar-Bration event. Along the planetarium mall, they both had smiles on their faces.

Earlier in the day, when the clouds covered the sky many believed the day might not turn out as expected. Atlas didn’t bat an eye. Instead, he sang a song to ward the clouds away:

“Clouds, clouds, go away, come back on another day. Everybody wants to watch the solar eclipse, come back on another day.”

As totality got closer and closer, the song clearly worked. Clouds tiptoed around the sun and moon. At one point to the dismay of the crowd, the sun was covered for a brief moment, but at 1:40 p.m. they were greeted by an uninterrupted total solar eclipse.

When the sky darkened, Gurdemir turned his head to view the eclipse in totality. He couldn’t believe his eyes.



UTA Planetarium director Levent Gurdemir fixes his camera as his son, Atlas, watches the eclipse during the Solar-Bration on April 8 at the planetarium mall. This was the pair's first time seeing a total solar eclipse.

“It was just beautiful,” he said. “It’s hard to describe. Beautiful is not enough words. Nice is certainly not enough words.”

Gurdemir shared the next few moments beside his son. They both smiled brightly as the mall was covered in darkness from the moon’s shadow.

The pair got to see their first total solar eclipse in person together, making lasting memories at the same time.

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UTA Planetarium director Levent Gurdemir and his son, Atlas, point to the eclipse during the Solar-Bration on April 8 at the planetarium mall. Gurdemir has been the director since 2008.

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ON THE COURT

The Athletes

Monday marked both Senior Day and the solar eclipse for the women’s tennis team. Players from UTA and Seattle University bonded over the spectacle.

BY ISAAC APPELT
The Shorthorn sports editor

Time stood still Monday afternoon as players and fans looked up toward the sky in unison. UTA and Seattle University’s women’s tennis teams finished their match — a 6-1 UTA win — before they joined to witness history. The Maverick’s black and white uniforms mixed with Seattle’s red.

For a brief moment, the Mavericks and Redhawks were not adversaries. Instead, the teams bonded over the Metroplex’s first total solar eclipse since 1878. UTA’s Athletics department partnered with Whataburger to provide free lunch to all in attendance and the university provided both teams with complimentary glasses.

Totality was scheduled for 1:40 p.m. and players began getting antsy

around 1:30 p.m., when clouds began hovering over the courts. Questions began flying.

“Will we still be able to see it?” “Can we go somewhere else to watch?” “What happens if the clouds don’t move?”

At 1:39 p.m., the clouds moved and anxiety turned into raw emotion. Screams echoed through UTA Tennis Center as players huddled together to witness the event. Senior Bruna Casasampere, who played in her final home match Monday as part of the team’s Senior Day, said she’s been looking forward to this moment.

“I know it’s a thing that never happens usually, so it’s very special it happened the same day of our last home match,” Casasampere said.

Casasampere and senior Francisca Vergara were recognized

pregame in the program’s Senior Day ceremony. Both players were given flowers and signs commemorating their time at UTA. Once they hit the court, the two showed their leadership as they won their singles matches and paired together to win a doubles point.

Vergara said she felt so many emotions after the game. UTA is her second school, so she said the university gave her a second chance. Picking up a singles and doubles win with her friend Bruna was special to her.

“I’m happy, but I’m so sad at the same time,” she said. “It’s so many mixed feelings.”

Monday’s match was just one of the memories these players will remember from the day. As the eclipse took over the area, players

stood arm in arm, their screams almost in unison as they bonded over the moment.

After the totality passed, the team stayed at the center. They began to blare music and sing into microphones, sending their booming voices well past the tennis center. It was more than just an eclipse for these women: it was an experience with their friends and their circle that they’ve built after coming to the university from all over the world.

The women’s tennis team has eight players, and each came from a different nation. From Spain to Ecuador to Slovenia to Chile, these players left their homes to play tennis at UTA. For Casasampere and Vergara, they had to navigate returning home during COVID-19, something deputy Athletics director Debbie Garcia remembers.

Garcia couldn’t help but smile as she talked about the memories these women made, not only with Senior Day, which is always special, but with an once-in-a-lifetime eclipse. She works with all of UTA’s athletics teams, but moments like Monday, when the athletes stayed at the arena rather than going home, show her that the interactions and connections she’s making are genuine.

“They’re not leaving,” Garcia said. “They’re still here hanging out together and that’s what makes it special because then you know in your heart that you have created a space for them where they can build relationships and that they’re proud of.”

Vergara said the bond with her teammates goes beyond the court, and she felt lucky and blessed to spend the day with them.

“They’re not my teammates, they’re my friends, they’re my family,” she said.

As players spent their time together, fans and athletics employees gathered on the deck of the tennis center and shared the moment. Phones were pointed at the sky with their camera lenses peaking through eclipse glasses to get the perfect shot.

Throughout the game, fans would watch rallies between players and then stare through their glasses in between points. It was yet another example of how sports and athletics can connect people, Garcia said.

“You create a unity. You end up building a bond over something that is just really special,” she said.

Garcia’s time in higher education has given her a chance to see and learn about things she may have never gotten the chance to do before, so spending Monday with her Maverick family was “special,” she said.

The win and eclipse combination was amazing for Casasampere. She said she was proud of her teammates and noted the team won on almost every court, six of seven, and that performance was an “amazing” job that made her proud to be a Maverick.

“I’m so so proud of being here at UTA and finishing my four years of college here,” she said.

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The Shorthorn: Shelby Carter

Women’s tennis players high-five before a match against Seattle University on April 8 at the UTA Tennis Center. As the teams finished their match, the Mavericks and Redhawks gathered to watch the totality together.

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