

The United States stood still on Monday afternoon, August 21, 2017, as the path of the Solar Eclipse passed from the West to East coast. In Lincoln, which fell within the 70-mile-wide path of totality, viewers experienced 84 seconds of darkness as the moon aligned with the sun.

Here at NWU, students, faculty, and staff began to gather on the Taylor Commons starting around 11:30 a.m. to watch as the moon made its way across the sky. Eclipse glasses were provided, as were some eclipse-themed desserts and snacks, both in the dining hall and out on the green. The main viewing event was hosted by Physics professor Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, and classes between 12:30 and 1:30 were cancelled so students (and professors) were able to experience this once-in-a-lifetime event without having to worry about missing class on the first day.

Despite the cloudy conditions, all eyes were on the sky as it neared 1 p.m. Chatting within the crowd turned to excited murmuring as the eclipse passed through the final stages before totality. As the beads of light around the edge of the moon disappeared, revealing a perfect ring of light, spectators erupted in cheers.

Although the overcast sky obscured the progression of darkness throughout other stages of the eclipse, the sudden twilight of totality was clear. For a moment, along with most of the Lincoln area, NWU stood in awe.

In the blink of an eye, the moment was over and the sun began to peek out from behind the moon once again. Some spectators put their eclipse glasses back on to continue watching, others packed up and returned to their busy schedules.

Janelle Andreini, Assistant Dean for Student Success and Campus Community, watched the eclipse on the NWU campus with her daughter, a student at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. After getting up from her spot in the grass, Andreini laughed.

"I knew it was going to be cool, but I didn't expect it to be *that* cool!"

Not everyone returned to business-as-usual immediately after viewing the eclipse. Nebraska Wesleyan's Yoga Club held a session of "Eclipse Yoga" on the green space for about 25 minutes before the 2 p.m. class period. The yoga practice, led by Communication Studies Professor Karla Jensen, was attended by more than 15 people—including a few members of the public who were on campus to watch the eclipse.

Though the Lincoln skies did not fully cooperate, the total solar eclipse was an incredible experience for all who witnessed it and an unforgettable start to the 2017-2018 school year at NWU.