

Faculty Leads Solar Eclipse Viewing on Campus

MAHWAH, N.J. -- Dozens of faculty, staff and friends gathered next to the Bradley Center to get a glimpse of the solar eclipse on Monday, August 21. Professor Ron Russo, who teaches an astronomy course at Ramapo, came prepared with safety glasses, eclipse fact sheets and pin-holed cardboard boxes for a little old-school viewing.

“Throughout time, solar eclipses have shaped the events of the world, from ‘predicting’ the rise and fall of emperors, to settling battles between great armies to helping prove Einstein’s theory of relativity,” said Russo. “But the eclipse of 2017 has a more meaningful message: it reminds us that we are part of a big and beautiful universe and that we all come from the same place. It’s a wonderful way to bring us together, even for a little while.”

In the Mahwah area onlookers witnessed about 71 percent coverage, beginning at 1:23 p.m. and progressing until about 4 p.m., with the eclipse peaking at 2:44 p.m.

The event was the first total solar eclipse in the continental United States in 38 years. The next one to cross through America will be in April 2024. Mark your calendars!