



# Solar Eclipse came to Brevard

Ivelysse Leighton  
Staff Writer

The Solar Eclipse came to Brevard! On April 8, 2024 Brevard College was lucky enough to be in the path of the solar eclipse. Even though we weren't in the path of the Total Solar Eclipse, Brevard still had about 86% coverage. Students and faculty gathered together in the academic quad to watch and experience this event together.

I was able to ask Astronomy professor Robin Pulliam some questions regarding this eclipse. What is a solar eclipse? Pulliam responded with "It's when the moon is passing between the sun and the earth where it's perfectly aligned so it blocks the sun's rays from hitting the earth." With technology nowadays, she said that this is very predictable since it depends on the orbit that coincidentally happens.

There is a distinct difference between a lunar eclipse and solar eclipse and Pulliam was able to

tell us the differences. "A lunar eclipse is when it goes sun, earth, then moon. It is when the sun hits the earth and casts a shadow on the moon. For a solar eclipse its sun, moon, earth. It's the orientation between the earth and the moon." The names are really the key because lunar is normally associated with the moon, so that's an easy way to differentiate.

There's something still that we're all curious about. How rare is a solar eclipse? Pulliam expertly answered us with, "Solar eclipses happen often, but for totality to happen on such a large range that's happening in the United States right now that is like a 100 year event. That's why everyone's so excited about it." In fact a strip stretching from Texas up to Maine saw totality, which is a momentous event.

I was able to catch up with some of BC's students who were in the academic quad around the time of the eclipse. Calista Henry, a sophomore here at BC, commented on how it felt to see everyone gathering together to share this moment. "I'm really

feeling brought together with my community and this is the most I have ever seen anyone on campus congregate together." It really was a moving sight to see everyone gathering together and taking time to live in the present.

Summer Crist, a freshman softball player, spoke on how it felt to be able to get the opportunity to view this solar eclipse. "I feel like this is an awesome opportunity as a college student to see an eclipse with everyone on campus!" She spoke with immense enthusiasm as she described how she felt.

Everyone gathering together to share in an event was something that I hope to see again because it truly was an exciting experience that embodies what BC stands for. Experiential education was in full swing. I was able to talk about different experiences with students and faculty as well as get an in person experience with such an event. The next Solar Eclipse that we will see is in 2044. You can travel around the world to chase it if you so please!



Photo by Jennifer Kafsky



Photo by Ryan Ropp



Photo by Anna Ervin

# A little about this year's solar eclipse

Olivia Ervin  
Staff Writer

Did you get a chance to see the eclipse? Whether you traveled out of state to see the full shebang or you stayed here and enjoyed the partial coverage of the sun, it was pretty fascinating to watch.

The last solar eclipse in North America occurred in 2017, hitting totality from Oregon to South Carolina. This time, it went through Mexico, reaching all the way up to Canada. As opposed to the last eclipse, it not only covered more area and denser populations, but it also lasted longer.

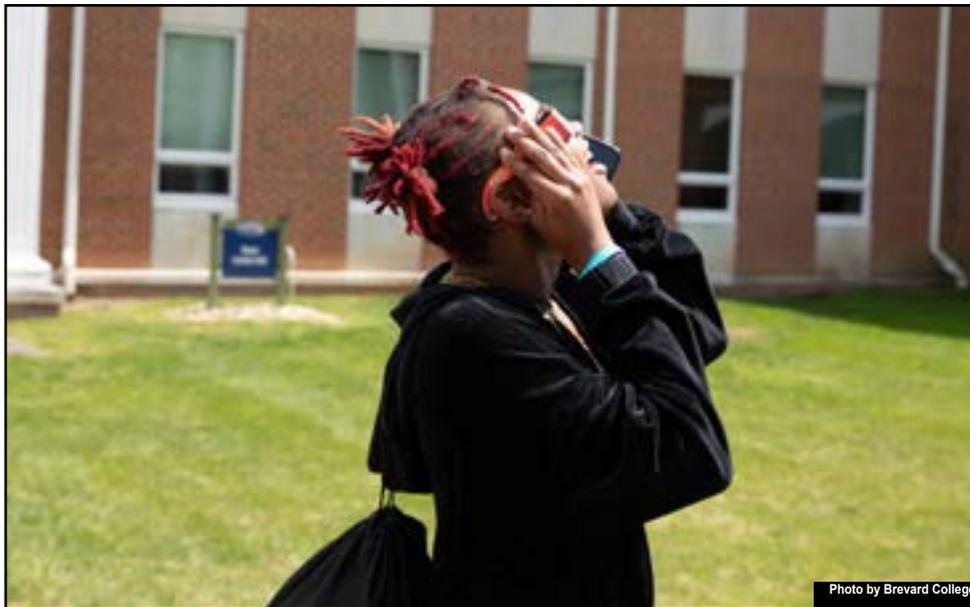
2017's lasted two minutes and 42 seconds, while this one lasted almost double that at four minutes and 28 seconds.

This eclipse also had many visible solar flares seen during totality. It is because of something called a solar maximum, which is part of a cycle of increasing and decreasing activity from the sun. The NASA website says it is "when the magnetic field is more like a tangled hairball" as opposed to more uniform like the eclipse from 2017, where the activity was minimal.

The college had a special telescope set up for

people to use to get a closer look at the sun and moon crossing paths. They also supplied a couple pairs of glasses for people to share and look up at the sun safely. We reached around 85% coverage of the sun, which is not full, but it was enough to see change in brightness outside and for the animals to act differently.

The next total solar eclipse visible from the U.S. will be in 2044 according to NASA so make reservations for twenty years from now to visit a state that is reaching totality because it is breathtaking to watch.



# J. Drew Lanham reads to the BC campus

Isaiah Collison  
Managing Editor

“There’s no grander space than where we open our minds and hearts.”

Dr. J. Drew Lanham is a birder, naturalist and hunter-conservationist. Lanham received his B.A. and M.S. in Zoology, and his Ph.D. in Forest Resources from Clemson. Currently he is a professor of wildlife at his alma mater in South Carolina, where he lives. He is active on conservation boards, like the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, Audubon South Carolina, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, BirdNote, and the American Birding Association and is even a member of the advisory board for the North American Association of Environmental Education.

Much of Dr. Lanham’s work mentions the sparrow, an old world bird that is identified by its brown and gray feathers. So when Dr. Lanham took questions from the audience, members were quick to point out they’d noticed a theme.

Do you have a connection with sparrows personally?

“God’s eye is on the sparrow,” was his quick response. “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” is an old hymn. His grandmother said it and sang it. Lanham remembered how in the winter she would throw grits to birds in the backyard because she felt bad for them. This sparked something in him, taking a specific interest in sparrows.

“They represent brownness and blackness for me.” Lanham said. His research focuses on songbird ecology and the African-American role in the conservation of natural resources.

Another question from an audience member saw Dr. J. Drew Lanham being asked about vulnerability, and if he struggles with it. “Chapters came out of me, and I piece together chronology. I owed myself the truth — I owed the reader. Vulnerability is to move outside yourself.”

Dr. Lanham believes in transparency. “It is the responsibility of all humans to expose what and where beauty is left. Silence is a germ.”

He wants us to remember “Misery loves company. Misery loves the poet.”



Drew Lanham, an ornithologist and professor at Clemson University, speaks in MG 125 Thursday afternoon about his experiences as a birder, conservation activist and writer. Lanham was on campus as the spring 2024 speaker for the McDowell Lecture Series. He delivered a formal talk in the Porter Center Thursday evening as part of a ticketed event, but he met in a smaller, less formal session with Alyse Bense’s ENG 309 Poetry Writing class, which was open to interested students, faculty and staff.

# Spring Fest moves indoors



The club booths are set up and ready to greet you!

Photo by Ivelysse Leighton



Photo by Ivelysse Leighton



Photo by Brevard College

A bracelet made at the Pride Club booth

# Senior art exhibit 'Random Chance of the Universe' is unveiled

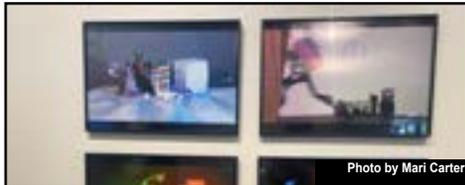
Seniors had an art showing in the art building on campus, which consisted of the most heartfelt pieces I have seen in a long time.

I visited it and heard many of the questions and answers they gave, not only expressing and presenting their passion for their works and future projects, but also how much time things take, and how it can range from piece to piece.

There were animations, live action photos, Dungeons and Dragons inspired pieces, old school approaches and character creation in general. It was beautiful, and the range was just phenomenal.

I look forward to future showcases like this and congratulations seniors and everyone who set up the gallery. It was touching to not only me, but I noticed many other recipients were delighted.

— Mari Carter



# Chiaroscuro release party

The Chiaroscuro Release Party is next Wednesday, April 17, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Spiers Gallery.

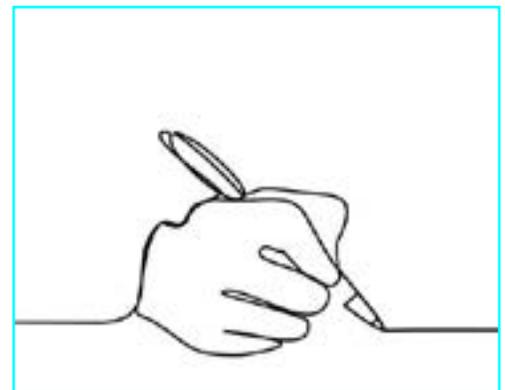
The 2023-24 edition contains great literature, poetry, and other forms you might not expect. Quintin Overocker, Dr. James Everett, Alexa Jennings, Sarah Hajowski and Evey Perry will read selections of their work from this edition, giving students the opportunity to hear work read by the authors themselves.

The release party coincides with student exhibitions in Spiers Gallery, so it is the perfect time to experience the creativity of both your peers and BC faculty on full display.

Come check out your classmates' excellent work!

There will also be food, drinks and music. What more can you ask for, really?

— Jordan Laws



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## Student Profile

# Lena Hatter is one of the 2024 graduation speakers

Anna Ervin

Editor in Chief

Lena Hatter is one of the senior commencement ceremony speakers and majors in Health Science with minors in Biology and Chemistry. You may have also seen her as the student government president, the senior RA of Jones, a biology and chemistry tutor, a SAAC representative and a graduate of the women's soccer program.

On campus, you're probably going to see her in the coffee shop ordering an iced vanilla latte, in MS, Jones or taking a walk around the creek.

As a representative of the class of 2024, she, "has made a lot of connections with my peers, I have been here all 4 years and have experienced the same things as many people that have also been here four years. I feel I can give a reminder of who we were and who we've all grown to become."

Lena is from Melbourne, Florida, and she chose Brevard for a few reasons. She is from Brevard County, Florida, and she was getting recruited to play soccer. Lena said, "I just fell in love with the area, and I feel like I get a good balance of getting to live in the mountains while also being able to go home to the beach. It's like I'm always on vacation."

Transitioning into college was a little difficult for Lena, as she came in the school year following the initial COVID-19 shutdown. She said, "It was not what I expected a typical college freshman experience to be. However, I think Brevard College did such a good job making what they could of it. I felt really at home, and I felt like I got to do a lot at BC that others at bigger schools couldn't."

Looking back on her freshman self, Lena would say, "You're gonna do a lot of growing, and you're going to meet a lot of people on the way that will help you succeed and do better than you ever thought you were going to do." For Lena, part of being at BC has been getting to experience more than you ever thought possible.

Angie Mascaro has been a huge help to Lena during her time at BC. During her freshman year, Lena was struggling with some of her classes, and Angie sat her down and said, "I know you can do better than this." Lena said, "That was a huge wake-up call for me, and since then I've been on the dean's list and honor roll each semester."

Deb D'Anna has been another influential figure in Lena's time at Brevard. Lena said, "My first year, she was kind of hidden behind a screen. On the backend of Covid, when getting to learn who she is as a person, it taught me to be a better

person, student and leader."

Lena's after-college plan includes eventually going to med school or PA school. Her immediate plans are to start working in an introductory health position to gain some experience.

She feels that Brevard College has prepared her to "make connections with people of all ages and understand that I can make those connections with anyone and everyone, and also to allow me to let the people close to me support me."

Some of her favorite opportunities through BC have been playing soccer for all 4 years and getting to have a supportive team. She has also loved planning events like formals and mental health events, and she has loved getting the chance to "be an advocate for our students, and bridge that communication gap between students and campus life and getting to use my voice positively."

One of her absolute favorite memories at Brevard was the first day everyone got to take off their

masks in class. She said, "There were so many students and faculty that I hadn't seen the face of. It was a little anxiety-inducing, but it also gave me butterflies in my stomach. We took off our masks at the same time and everyone was smiling. I'd been in a class with people that were my same age and I'd had a professor for two semesters and just getting to see everyone's smiling faces was my favorite memory at Brevard College."

Lena is excited to graduate because "this is a huge accomplishment." She said, "Sometimes I even skip over how big this is, but it is a really big deal and I'm so excited and happy for everyone graduating. Now we have to go be adults in the real world, which is scary, but we made it this far."

Lena Hatter is an incredible person, student and leader, and hopefully you have gotten the pleasure to know her during her time at BC. We know she will do great things, and we can't wait to see what they are.



*Lena Hatter*

## 11 Fingers:

# If I sent you on a search and chop

Isaiah Collison

Managing Editor

The only idea dumps fail is if you get too attached to ideas that do not serve the thesis. Like the military conducts search and destroy missions to look for the enemy, we writers too must search and chop, scanning our work for extra fat. Cut in cold blood lest the story be too obese to turn in. Reshape working paragraphs into finer ones. This is editing. Have no feelings over the choices you make. Sentences better serve.

One day, at a creative writing company, where the nickname Heavy Hand has long replaced the name Davidson, the softest writer prepares to turn in an assignment.

HH: Frank, look what I have for you. It belongs to you because you asked for it. Right here. Here. My work. In my heavy hand. My best. The creative work expressed in creative form. One you will find nowhere else but in my heavy hand.

Frank reads the introduction and hands it back to Heavy Hand two seconds later.

Frank: I can tell you right now there's too many loose ideas that you over explained.

HH: And that's a bad thing? That's drama! Is that not my job? To make drama, I add. More reasons, and more reasons.

Frank isn't going with his dramatic flow.

Frank: You can either make the cuts or lose your job. No one wants this. It doesn't flow.

Heavy Hand runs away from work, right past Ms. Shaw T. Lean, the new hire. She used to be a plastic surgeon who specialized in liposuction. Now she wants to try her hand at writing. She is savvy, physically fit and mentally sharp.

After work, she goes to the grocery store for dinner items. She finds Heavy Hand in the junk food aisle for all the wrong reasons. She has the heart of a butcher, so she skips the introduction.

ML: I know why you ran.

The tears and goob and boogers all over his graphic tee give it away. Ms. Lean communicates like she has a degree in feeling-detection and feeling-deflection.

HH: A writer can only take so much. Before. I need to be warm and cozy. For the long, lonely night. Nothing goes right. Oh plan! There's so much hate in the world nowadays. I feel like it's gotten worse over the years. Don't'cha think? You're new in town. I'll show you around.

Ms. Lean notices Heavy Hand is grabbing more cookie for too little cookie sheet.

HH: Like I know sometimes. Everyone doesn't like drama, but I am drama so, yeah, and I know it like the back of my hand. No one online has a deeper cookie or pizza recipe than me. The pizza I have at home. Sausage, chicken, pineapple, pepperoni, peppers. Just need a few more toppings.

Heavy Hand takes Ms. Lean to a coffee shop

the next morning.

HH: Frank told me my story was too long and off topic. He hates me!

Clerk: The usual with heavy cream?

HH: Heavier! Forever and always from here in! Get this monkey to climb off my back. Don't you see it? I just want a daily day manager. And whipped cream.

Clerk: Focus. Tell me when.

Heavy Hand never says "when," and the clerk stops spraying whipped cream. She takes a small knife and moves to cut off the excess cream.

HH: No! I won't have you ruining it. It's perfect. I know what needs to stay — all of it.

Heavy Hand takes the drink and heads to the table where Ms. Lean is waiting with her green tea. She is working on his draft.

ML: Do you want a writing job or not?

Heavy Hand instead licks the spilling drink off his arm and hand.

ML: Heavy Hand, their respect towards you dwindles by the rewrite.

Heavy Hand wipes the drink lid across his sleeve but consents. Shaw T. makes the cuts on his draft of his assignment.

ML: Now. Take a look at this. It has no fat.

Making sure she doesn't see him, Heavy Hand starts a new document and repastes his fatty document. He can't resist the urge to add more words to it. Ms. Lean hears him banging away on the keyboard and knows immediately what he's doing. She throws her head back and laughs.

ML: So petty!

HH: This isn't freaking literary liposuction therapy, okay? You think you're using surgery tools to do this job? Those tools aren't even shiny. The sun frowns on your skills to complete even one job on this important task of writing for readers. You've never had to communicate by reading, only by cutting and taking and killing. Harmer. You, The Butcher, Ms. Shaw T. Lean, do you even write your own brochures? No. Which proves you need me the way I don't need you, dammit. I'll make a new draft and since you still don't believe me! Proof incoming! You can't cut and have the same product.

Heavy Hand attacks his third draft like an athlete trying to bulk up. Halfway through his intro paragraph, he surrenders to his mixed feelings about being an accurate, harder-hitting writer. He adds more! Ms. Lean hears the keyboard catching on fire.

ML: Heavy Hand, I need you to know something.

HH: There's nothing you can tell me! I'll make them love my fat story. Help me change the standard once. This isn't just business!

Ms. Lean palms her face and shakes her head.

HH: If they could just feel it! That's why they

hired me! To feel me! You feel me? You feel that?

Nope. And sticking with his wrong choice, Heavy Hand flips off Ms. Shaw T. Lean with both of his fingers. This is alot for 7:34 a.m.

HH: This is my assignment, you hag!

On the walk to the office, Heavy Hand spiels about how on the horizon is a new era of niceness, peace and patience in offices around the country. They arrive at work, and only Ms. Lean gets doors held for her.

Frank: Hey, you. How go those edits?

HH: Fat! Fat! Fatest yet! Read some!

Ms. Shaw T. Lean hands in her version of Heavy Hand's work. It's got the core story and no fat. Frank can tell by the smaller word count. Heavy Hand acts like all four of his limbs are being cut off. He screams bloody murder.

HH: I've been bamboozled! Cheated! Blinded! Horror! Lulled to sleep I tell you! The backstab!

Frank: (to Heavy Hand) Shut up. (to Ms. Lean) Ya know, Ms. Shaw T, you're perfect for a job like this. You hold the cleaver, but you don't act like doing your job is cruel. I mean. No one's dying. He looks upon the assignment with a toothy smile.

Frank: Nice and lean! Do a rewrite with one less character. We're really thrilled to have someone who can search and chop.

They shake hands, and the boss pays Ms. Shaw T. Heavy Hand's money.

Ms. Lean takes out her magnifying glass to pinpoint any ripple effects of removing a character, checking the work to avoid internal bleeding and infection in rewrite #3.

HH: Poor assignment! My funds! Shaw T., do not trim through the emotion-storm of over explaining and preaching off point.

Ms. Shaw T. Lean shrugs.

HH: Because you don't know what I know, at my next job you'll still be here!



# Learning all about me

Alexander Bolton  
Staff Writer

Being honest with yourself can be the hardest thing to do. It requires you to take a step back and judge yourself as you would any random person. We all have favoritism with friends and family who we go easy on or cut us slack in situations. With this degree of favoritism for a separate individual, how much more do you offer yourself?

I believe shielding ourselves from the truth can be a fundamental mistake that leads to more self-destruction than self-care. When one chooses to be blind to the truth it is usually in an attempt to avoid pain or uncomfortability that causes some sort of difficulty in the human mind. It is much easier to live life blind to flaws and reality than to be hit by the truth of a matter.

We have to ask ourselves these questions. What have I been hiding myself away from? Why have

I chosen to do this? Along with what growth and experiences have I missed out on as a consequence of my fear?

When we choose to start being honest with ourselves, there is a level of self security we develop in consequence. Many struggle with accepting truths about themselves whether physically or emotionally and choose to neglect these issues, allowing them to persist. It is much easier to go through a day with a stain on your shirt when you haven't seen it yet than when you catch a glimpse of it in the mirror.

While there may be a level of comfort and ease within the escape from truth, there also is a lack of growth. As long as we avoid the stain on our clothes and continue to walk around with that same dirty shirt, the longer we allow the problem to persist, then the longer we allow ourselves to be stained with a flaw so easily fixable.

However, embarrassment is almost impossible to avoid after the realization that you've been walking around with a huge stain on your shirt. It allows you to make a critical change that can change your image going forward.

Ultimately it's not about who does and doesn't see that stain on your shirt — it's there, and you can choose to either go through life aware of the dirt as it builds up on your shirt while walking down that road of life, or you can walk blindly to the stains on your shirt, unable to make a critical change for betterment.

One thing that is true about life is your shirts are gonna be dirty and get dirty whether you know it or not. It's better to see the stains when they come than be blind because if you see them, then you have the chance to do something about it.

BC Theatre presents

# Macbeth

MORRISON PLAYHOUSE IN THE PAUL PORTER CENTER

Thu. April 18, 7p      Fri. April 19, 7p  
Sat. April 20, 7p      Sun. April 21, 2:30p

BREVARD COLLEGE  
BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA

# Brevard College tennis vs. Maryville College tennis

Savannah Anderson  
Staff Writer

The Brevard College tennis team hit the road on Wed. April 10, to play Maryville College, the women coming out victorious, the men having a close battle until the very end.

For the men’s doubles teams, Bryce Bernitt and Hayden LeBlanc played Jackson Meyer and James Smith and took a loss 5-8. Our three doubles team had the same score of 5-8, Peter Bresko and James Sirsich playing Seth Green and Gabriel Villalonga.

The two doubles team Noah Lewis and Devin Horton took the 1-8 loss against Kaleb Burke and Johnathan Crane. With our Tornados down 0-3, our singles players had the pressure on to clutch some victories.

Number one, Leblanc faced his earlier opponent Smith. After winning the first set 7-6 with a tiebreak score of 7-1, Leblanc was confident but not content. In the second set, he took a loss 4-6 forcing them into yet again, another tie-breaker. The 10-point breaker was won by Leblanc 13-11.

Number two, Bernitt, won his match against Crane with ease, taking the dub 6-1, 6-3. Our third string, Horton, had the biggest comeback of his

collegiate career. Losing the first set 0-6 to Meyer, he was not letting up. He came back in the second set and won 7-5 forcing them into a tie-break.

With the comeback that he was on, he was not going to let Meyer take the win. He won the breaker 11-9 the Tornados now tied with the Scots 3-3 match score. Next up, Lewis played Villalonga at number four. Lewis took a loss with set scores of 1-6, 3-6 in a tough match.

Number five was played by Freshman David Hoyle, who had not played doubles earlier in the day. Hoyle faced Green and lost his match 3-6, 2-6. And finally, number six singles, Brain Seon who also did not play doubles won an 8-game pro set against Ben Wyrick 8-6.

The men’s team ended the match with victories from Leblanc, Bernitt, Horton, and Seon, ultimately losing 4-5 in a tight battle the entire time.

For women’s doubles, number one Hannah Hersh and Gracie Spangler working together for their very first time took a loss against Katelyn Cook and Elizabeth Shwaiko 4-8. At number two, Madison Bowen and Brooke Garland played Abby Diggs and Alyssa Smith losing 5-8.

Number three doubles, also working together for the first time, Jada Ore and Sophie Trantham

defeated Mia Brown and Mandy Webb 2-8 finishing off doubles with the Nados down 1-2.

At one singles Hersh faced Brown and won with matching set scores of 3-6. Spangler her first time playing at the two-string, lost to Shwaiko 4-6, 2-6 in a well-played match at a seed she is not used to seeing yet.

Bowen faced Cook and had, yet again, another well-played match, ultimately ending with the victory, 3-6, and winning the second set, 7-6 with a 7-4 breaker to avoid a tiebreak for the third set. With four singles on the way, the Scots and Nados were tied 3-3.

At four, Garland got the win against Smith winning both of her sets 7-5 refusing to go into a tiebreak. Trantham took on Diggs next, in a long-fought battle Trantham took the victory, losing the first set 2-6 and coming back in the second winning 6-4. The tiebreak ended with a 10-7 victory for Trantham.

Ore took a huge victory with the easiest win of the day, beating Josie McRae who did not play earlier, 0-6, 0-6. The Tornados took the victory 6-3 over the Scots to end the night off.

