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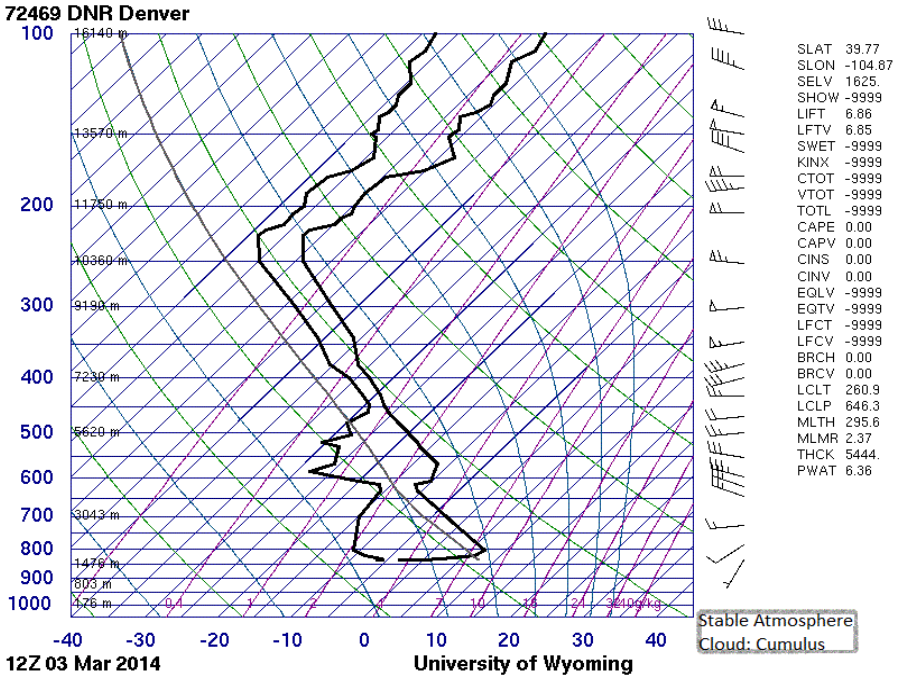
Cloud Report #2

For the second cloud assignment I didn't have to worry about finding inspiration for what I was looking for showed itself while I was amidst my first team fluid flow assignment. The assignment was being conducted at the Engineering Complex on the CU campus at Boulder and to the south of me stood a large gray concrete building. Behind it sat the sun and a few small cumulus clouds. I figured this moment would be a great opportunity to test out my new DSLR camera I recently acquired and also a great way to take two birds out with one stone. I wanted to take a picture that incorporated some lighting differential and some kind of luminesces and I saw this photograph as a great opportunity to exercise my artistic freedoms in these directions. I waited for the clouds to move into position, that day the winds must have been moving fairly quickly up where the clouds were because you could easily see them move from a western direction heading east. After a few different attempts I was able to capture the photograph that can be seen above.

The photograph was taken on March 3 around 1 PM. Precise time is not known for the time on the photograph information was wrong (It was saying that I took the photograph at 1 AM so I'm assuming it was actually 1 PM for that seems about right according to my memory). I was facing south when I took the image and was aiming the camera up at about a 45 degree angle. The weather in Boulder Colorado was fairly nice that day considering that the weather had felt colder weeks prior. The wind was blowing slightly off and on where my team was conducting its experiment. You could tell that the wind was blowing fast up high where the clouds were because the clouds were moving fairly quickly. The air felt nice overall and the sun was shining really good which made for good lighting in the photograph I took for this assignment but also was very good for the fluid flow experiment my team and I were working on.

The cloud image I took is a great representation of a cloud from the cumulus family. The clouds were moving pretty fast that day and they didn't seem to be that high up in altitude. It was one of the nicest days that there had been in Boulder for a while. It was a perfect day to do an experiment outside and take some photos. When looking at the Skew-T Diagram from that day (Below) I was able to discover the atmospheric condition.



The Cape reads Zero on the diagram signifying a stable atmosphere for the day the photograph was taken.

I took the photograph using my Nikon D3100 DSLR camera with a Nikon DX AF-S NIKKOR 18-55mm 1:3.5-5.6 GII ED lens. The aperture was set to f/10, this way I could capture definition in the shadows on the building and blow out the sun and the clouds a bit to get them to pop. I chose to do a rather fast shutter speed at 1/400 sec. This was to insure no motion blur for I was taking the picture hand held and I also wanted to make sure that the clouds in the photo and the sky didn't come back too bright. I wanted to compose the image with the sun behind the building and with the building's edge meeting in a slant to where the horizontal and vertical lines connect in the rule of thirds. The rest of composition also follows the rule of thirds (something I'm always considering while taking a picture). When it came time to post process the photo I didn't do any cropping but I did take the color out, I turned the exposure down a bit and I also turned the highlights up so that the building got darker but the sky got more luminescent. Besides that I didn't do much to the photograph using the two programs Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom.

In the end I feel happy with what I was able to do but at the same time only consider myself a beginner in the world of photography. This experiment with lighting and shadows intrigues me and as I

move forward with my DSLR strapped around my neck I will take these contrasts and what's possible in post editing into more consideration. I am though very happy with how this picture turned out. I wasn't really sure when I took the photo what I was going to be able to do with it but the more I learn what some of these programs can do in post editing and more of what my DSLR is capable of I am very enthusiastic that I have myself a new hobby.