Second Cloud Write Up

## Objective

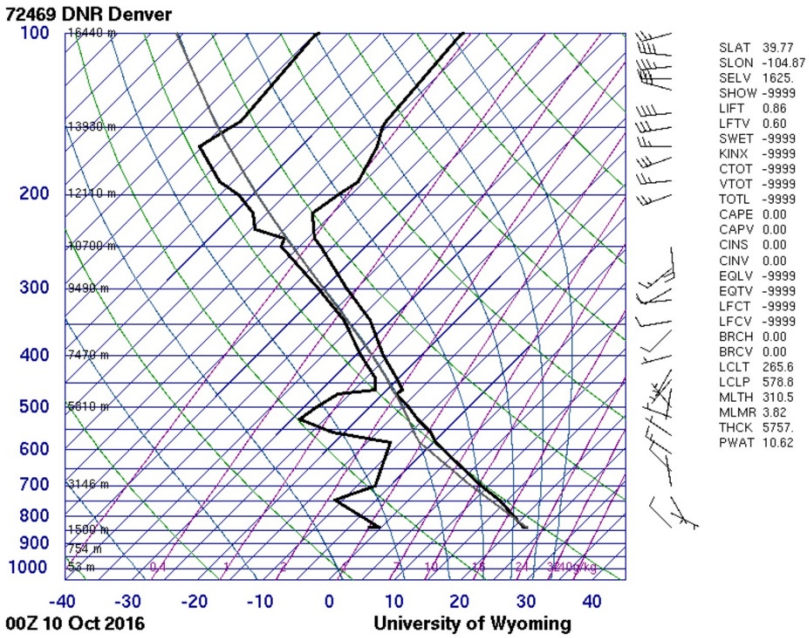
This is my image for the second cloud assignment. The point of this assignment was to capture an image of clouds. I have always loved looking at clouds so I was excited to have an excuse to be photographing them. I wanted to take some sort of sunset image but as someone who does not have a car, getting to a nice spot to see the sunset proved to be difficult. I visited my hometown in California recently, where I did have my car and tried again to capture a sunset but none of the pictures I got, I liked enough. Since I could not capture the beautiful colors of a sunset, I set out to find and capture clouds in an interesting and dynamic way.

## Time and Place

This picture was taken on the CU Boulder campus, on the 5$^{th}$ floor roof of the University Memorial Center. It was taken on November 14 at approximately 11:45 am. I was at an elevation of about 5440.13 feet facing about 300° North West.

## Cloud Information

The clouds in these image are cumulus clouds and altostratus clouds. The clouds had been similar to this in the days before. The weather had been calm the days before and after this photo; there had been no rain or snow. The atmosphere was stable in Denver when the weather balloon went up that morning. Below is the Skew-T Diagram from that morning.




Photographic Technique

The camera I used is a Canon PowerShot SX280 HS. For this picture my aperture was f/4.5, ISO-80, shutter speed 1/1000 and the focal length is 12mm. Post-processing of my image required taking out a lot of distracting buildings. Below is my original photograph and the final one. I also blacked out the mountain to make it less distracting and so it could provide a frame and contrast. I wanted to make the sky a bright blue that really pops without the clouds losing their bright whiteness. So I bumped the contrast up for the sky and then went in and brightened the highlights of cloud. After that, I also went in and darkened the shadows and some midtones of the clouds.

Self-Assessment

I like this image because it reveals to types of clouds that are quite different. The thin ones on top are altostratus clouds while the puffy ones along the bottom and right are cumulus clouds. What I

personally dislike about this picture is that it is not as clear and crisp as I would want it to be. That could probably be helped if I invested in a DSLR camera. As someone who loves colors and cotton candy skies, that was what I had really to capture going into this assignment. But I am satisfied with this image because I think it is very unique. The clouds are easy to see and identify, therefore I believe the fluid physics are easy to discern as well. If I could capture a picture like this with the clouds being colored by sunset or sunrise, that would be how I could take this picture a step farther.