

## **COLORADO HAS NOT HAVE THIS MUCH RAIN IN MORE THAN A 100 YEARS!**

By Xlmena Buller and Ryan Kwan

*'It's got to be the largest storm that I can imagine in the state's history'* said Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper. In the past five days there has been non-stop precipitation in Colorado breaking records of over 70 years (73-year-old record of 5.5 inches for September in Boulder). Heavy rains are not unusual for Colorado, however no body was expecting the intensity in which they came this time and therefore Colorado citizens were not prepared. The main threatened sites have been Boulder, Denver and Colorado springs causing roads and education centers to be closed and people to be evacuated from their houses. The flooding water is heavily full of debris which makes it all much more dangerous. Buildings have collapsed and roads have been eroded, making the cities unsafe. In Colorado Springs, a record of at least 7 inches of rain was collected in 24 hours whereas in the past, the highest amount of rain Colorado Springs area collected in the month of September was 5.91 inches in 2011. Such high amount of rain caused rivers and creeks in Colorado Springs that are normally dry or have a relatively low flow rate to flood over bridges and the creeks became roaring rivers. For instance, *Monument Creek* at Bijou Street which normally has an average discharge of 20 cubic feet per second reached over 3000 cubic feet per second during the recent floods! Despite such intense weather, our geology class managed to visit one of the first field study sites that shows sign of water movement in the past to see it 'in action'. The field site was at Cheyenne Canon, and after a brief visit at nighttime, our class managed to see the power of water, transporting sediments and gravels down the slope of the mountain and out to the road near residential areas.