The Alamo Breccia is a carbonate megabreccia exposed in southern Nevada. It likely represents the detachment and resedimentation of 250+ km³ of carbonate rock following a moderate-sized bolide impact in the Late Devonian (Warme and Sandberg, 1996). The breccia contains chaotic debrues with stromatoporoid clasts, an upper graded zone and carbonate lapilli. Paleomagnetic samples collected by students on the trip will be used to test the origin of the breccia (hot or cold) and will also provide information on hydrothermal alteration. The fieldtrip also included a rim tour of the 550'-deep Meteor Crater, a recent (49 Kya) impact crater near Flagstaff, Arizona. Students examined non-impact, episodic sedimentation deposits as well, including debris flows, flood deposits and terrace sequences of the Colorado River at Lee’s Ferry and the Grand Canyon. The class also examined Mesozoic eolian deposits at Zion National Park.

But the biggest lesson learned on the trip: a cheap motel in Vegas is not worth the money saved.
To the Right: Balanced Rock, a “hoodoo” formed by differential erosion of softer material under boulders, near Lee’s Ferry, Arizona

Above: Cross-bedded Navajo Sandstone, Zion National Park, Utah

To the Right: Well-preserved impact structure, Meteor Crater, Arizona

To the Right: The Grand Canyon.