This is an oblique view of what might be the most spectacular young crater on the Moon - Giordano Bruno. The imposing cliff in the background rises 3000 m above the melt pool seen in the middle ground (top of cliff not seen here). Scene is about 3 kilometers wide.

Giordano Bruno is one of the youngest large craters on the Moon (21 km dia., 35.97°N, 102.89°E). LROC captured this fantastic oblique view of the crater from an altitude of 113 km. The Sun was fairly high above the horizon (31°) so only the steepest slopes and boulders in the foreground cast shadows, and albedo (surface brightness) contrasts are prominent.

Faster than a speeding bullet - or rather ten times faster than a speeding bullet - is a good starting point in terms of grasping the energy released in a typical impact event. That is, for a bullet approaching 2 kilometers in diameter! The pressure and heat that were released during the collision not only excavated a hole much larger than the impactor but also melted a tremendous amount the target rock. Melt was sprayed and sloshed on the forming crater walls where much of it flowed back, seeking the lowest point in the impact crater. From the LROC vantage point you can follow the path taken by impact melt as it flowed across the irregular floor, ponding in closed depressions, and some of it ultimately reaching the lowest point.