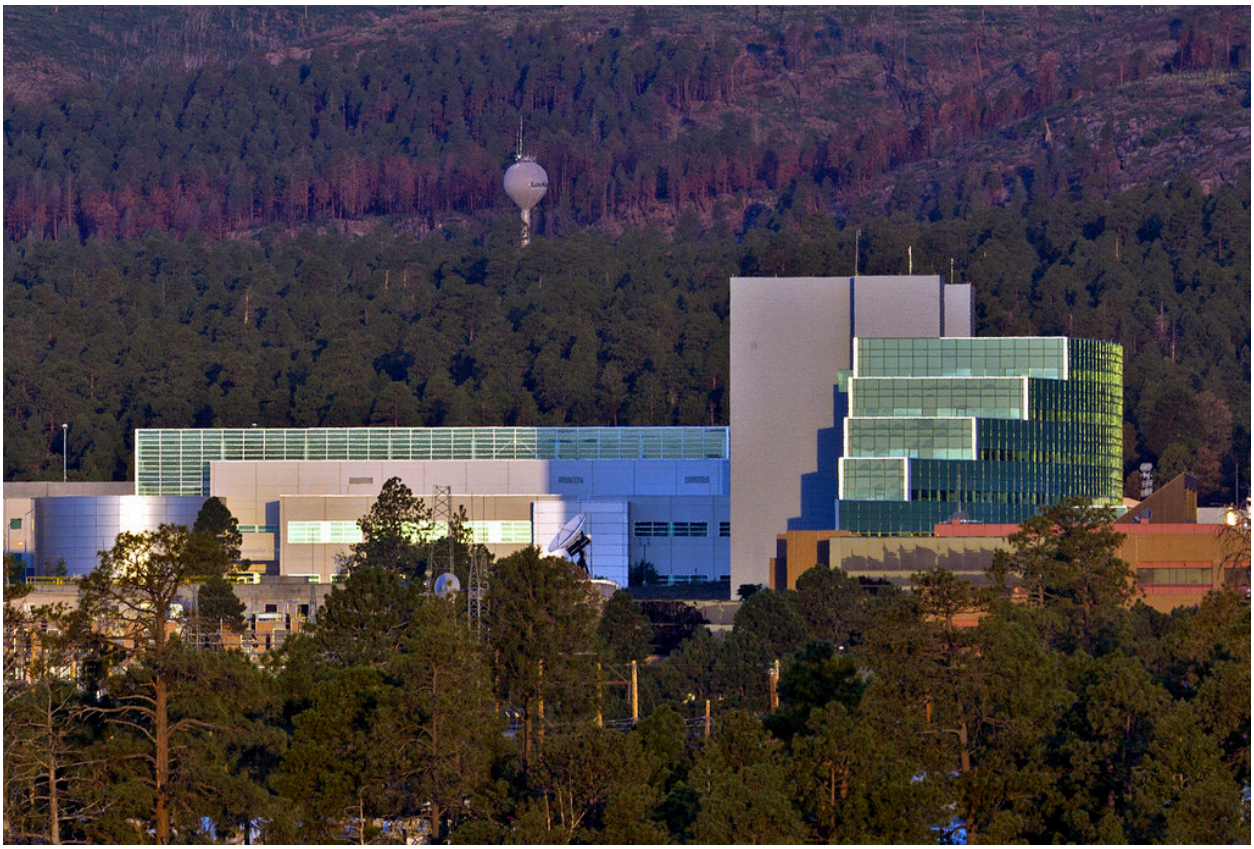
Haiti earthquake survivor to speak

June 14, 2010



Los Alamos summer student describes mission to help rescuers

LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico, June 14, 2010—When an earthquake struck Haiti last January, Christa Brelsford, a LANL student employee, was almost instantly trapped and partly crushed in the falling concrete of a building. She was saved by her brother and a friend, who hauled away debris for more than an hour before she was free.

Now, with a prosthetic lower leg and a new view of life, the Arizona State University graduate student will be telling her story to a Laboratory student group. The brown bag talk, 12-1 p.m. June 16, 2010, will be held in the Material Science Laboratory Auditorium and is open to Laboratory badge holders and escorted media. Members of the news media who wish to attend the talk should contact the LANL Communications Office at 667-0471 or 667-7000.

Brelsford, who currently works in the Energy and Infrastructure Analysis group at Los Alamos, was in Haiti volunteering with a literacy project when the earthquake occurred,

and in the aftermath of the event she has committed to supporting the rebuilding of the literacy program facility. Her nonprofit organization, Christa's Angels is aimed at rebuilding and supporting the Heads Together school in Cabois, Haiti, as well as providing for the education of the young Haitians who helped Christa during the disaster.