5th Anniversary of the Soltis Center for Research and Education
Hannah Miller One of the coolest experiences of my life!
March 7 at 5:03pm • Like • 5
Ryan Redmond Best time ever to be an Aggie! 😊
March 7 at 5:09pm · Like · 3
Becca Aillet I still talk about this trip! One of my favorite college experiences.
March 7 at 7:07pm · Like · 3
Vanessa Marfil: I fully agree with everyone! This was the trip that started my travels in college and up until now! 😊 Hope everyone is doing great!
March 9 at 10:30pm · Like · 1
Formed, not just informed
Zip Lines
2014
416 students
63 faculty
Mission

To provide students and faculty with an opportunity to participate in a quality international research, education and outreach experience.

Vision

An environment that fosters interdisciplinary and integrated research, education and outreach programs that are sustainable and recognize the unique physical and social setting of the Soltis Center for Research and Education.
Research Imperative

To provide faculty and students with a quality research environment that promotes and supports sustainable research programs focused on the unique biophysical and human environment of Costa Rica and Central America.
Ecohydrology of a Tropical Montane Forest

A National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program to quantify the hydrological and biogeochemical fluxes within a small watershed.
Improving Land-Surface Modeling of Evapotranspiration Processes in Tropical Forests

A Department of Energy grant to improve the modeling of fluxes of water vapor and carbon dioxide to and from tropical forests.
Education Imperative

To support high impact educational programs that provide students with an enriching international experience and an understanding of the unique biophysical and human environment surrounding the center.
Geological Field Mapping

A joint program between Texas A&M University and the University of Costa Rica to map the volcanic geology in the region around the Soltis Center.
Environmental Design

A College of Architecture program to introduce students to creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship in design.
Service Imperative

To develop and maintain meaningful outreach opportunities that leverage and strengthen research and educational programs.
Engineers without Borders

Student-led program to design and build a computer center with bathrooms at a public school in the village of San Carlos and to design and construct a pipeline system for the local water distribution system.
Citizen Science

An Earthwatch funded program in which citizen scientists assess the effectiveness of targeted payment for ecosystem services (PES) policies, landowner attitudes and decisions regarding PES, and mammalian dispersal in the Paso de Las Nubes biological corridor in Costa Rica.
<table>
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<th>New Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Texas A&amp;M University School of Law Clinics</td>
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<td>• Biomedical Sciences semester abroad</td>
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<td>• Department of English Creative writing studio</td>
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<td>• AgriLife Extension ecotourism program</td>
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<td>• International Baccalaureate program</td>
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<td>• Researcher in Residence</td>
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5th Anniversary of the
Soltis Center for Research and Education
Strategies

- Maintain and expand existing research infrastructure and laboratory space
- Strategically invest in research infrastructure to attract and maintain research programs
- Develop and strengthen partnerships with key national and international organizations that support research
- Catalyze and facilitate critical and innovative research in the biological, physical, and social sciences that relate to the tropics
- Convene expert working groups to develop ideas and proposals for innovative, interdisciplinary, and globally relevant research that include biological, physical, and social sciences, education, and public policy
- Translate research into environmental education and outreach programs for local communities and general public
Strategies

• Maintain and expand existing educational space and infrastructure

• Maintain and develop expertise of the biophysical and human environment that advances understanding of tropical environments

• Identify opportunities and programs that promote multicultural knowledge, skills and awareness

• Work with students, faculty and study abroad programs to develop appropriate and sustainable education programs
Strategies

• Maintain and develop meaningful local and regional outreach opportunities

• Promote community service and outreach activities for TAMU visiting courses

• Share expertise and information broadly through an information network

• Approach regional institutions to determine partnership opportunities in tropical studies

• Facilitate greater dialogue and partnership between local and regional institutions

• Provide information, training, and programs for TAMU faculty and students interested in outreach activities

• Bring elementary and high school students to the Center and develop environmental education activities

• Increase local awareness of the Center by providing guided tours and visits by local people to the Center
Connecting research in lowland and highland tropical environments
Jungle of Dreams: Rethinking research and education opportunities at the Soltis Center
Student Activities
6 miles from Volcan Arenal
Salsa Dance Lessons