Connecting research in lowland and highland tropical environments

Center Director
Dr. Eugenio Gonzalez
eygonzalez.soltis.center@tamu.edu

Faculty Ambassador
Dr. Chris Houser
chouser@tamu.edu

Soltis Center for Research and Education
San Isidro, Costa Rica

Soltis Center for Research and Education
San Isidro de Peñas Blancas
Apdo 80-4417 Fortuna
San Carlos, Costa Rica

Tel +979.862.7934 (In USA)
Tel +506.2461.9890 (Costa Rica)
The Soltis Center for Research and Education in north-central Costa Rica was established in January 2009 to support research, education and outreach in Costa Rica and throughout Central America. The Center is located in San Juan de San Isidro de Peñas Blancas, about three hours northwest of San Jose. The modern facilities of the Center include dorms, a cafeteria, wet and dry labs, classrooms, a videoconference room and multiple use areas. The Center provides students and faculty with access to more than 250 acres of primary and second growth forests with an experimental watershed complete with a meteorological station, a canopy tower and weir dam.

The Center is adjacent to more than 50,000 hectares of protected forest in the Children’s Eternal Rainforest and the Monteverde Conservation Area. The Zona Protectora Arenal-Monteverde extends to the Center through a forest corridor that descends in elevation from 1,800 meters at Monteverde to 450 meters above sea level at the Center. This natural reserve has four major tropical life zones and includes more than 3,000 species of vascular plants and more than 400 species of resident and migratory birds.

At the regional level, the Center is located in the heart of the Peñas Blancas River Watershed, which extends over 40,000 hectares that transition from rainforest in the highlands to pastures and agricultural crops below the Center.

Programs currently using the Soltis Center
- Agricultural Economics and Leadership
- Biology
- Civil Engineering
- Counseling and Special Education
- Ecosystem Sciences
- Educational Leadership
- Engineers Without Borders
- Geography
- Geology and Geophysics
- Public and Rural Health
- Social Work
- Tropical Ecology