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Coastal Ecology of the Bahamas:

Think of warm, aqua blue waters, coral reefs, gentle breezes, and white sand beaches that stretch on seemingly forever. Just off the coast of Florida, stretching lazily across the Tropic of Cancer, this island chain has been surprisingly unmarred by development until recently.

Biologists Dr. Kathleen Sullivan Sealey and Lester Flowers are developing powerful new tools to examine the effects of growing coastal development on the plants and animals living nearby. You will contribute to the sustainable development of these scenic isles.

Hunting for Caterpillars:

Caterpillars have developed a bizarre armory of defenses to protect themselves from both predators and parasites. Some eat and then use plant toxins to keep parasites off; others bungee-jump out of harm’s way. Understanding why one caterpillar is a diner and the other is dinner is an important part of conserving forests and other habitats. Working in one of the world’s richest tropical rainforests, you will help sort out the tangle of defense and offense.

Assisting members of Dr. Lee Dyer’s research team, you’ll switch between collecting caterpillar species and their host plants; labeling and observing them back at the lab; and chemically analyzing plant and caterpillar toxins.

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