"I’m the kind of student who prefers spending time in the field, rather than the lab,” explains Neah, “and geology, particularly marine geology, offers those opportunities in abundance. Especially the opportunity to spend time at sea.”

A professor suggested that she get in touch with Dr. Leslie Sautter, who specializes in marine geology at the College. That meeting led Neah to get involved in Sautter’s sea floor mapping project. “This turned out to be an incredible opportunity,” Neah says.

Working as an intern for Sautter, she spent a summer making frequent trips to sea to help monitor the equipment used in mapping the sea floor off coastal South Carolina. And that experience led her to get involved in a different sea floor program the following summer, out of the University of Washington.

“I served as a student aide, meaning I was on board helping monitor the activity of the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) that we deployed on dives. We had to stand four-hour watches and log everything that happened, all the different life forms that we spotted and whatever the ROV was doing.”

For Neah, this was ideal experience. "I’m also interested in working with film and we were getting lots of footage from the ROV on that project. I used that to produce some live broadcasts that were used as an education tool for the College’s marine geology class.”

Neah plans to continue researching and learning marine geology. “I can go into the oil industry, or focus on environmental awareness. I’ve always wanted to communicate my excitement about science to others, and this major is preparing me to excel at that.”