

Growing into a Fulbright

UE's Matheson earns stay in Thailand

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Nicole Matheson was so homesick, tears streamed down her face nearly every day the first month of her freshman year at the University of Evansville.

Now she's headed for Thailand.

A little tough love from her mother, Deborah Matheson, helped send her on a road to discovery.

"Her mom came to me at the welcoming picnic and said, 'I'm leaving. Nicole is crying her eyes out, but she's not coming home with me,'" said UE women's soccer coach Mick Lyon.

"Four years later, who would think she would be going to Thailand for a year? It's a pretty amazing development."

Matheson, who played wide midfielder

and defender for the Aces, has been selected for a Fulbright Fellowship. She is one of five individuals in the world awarded a Fulbright to Thailand this year.

"I've grown immensely the past four years," said Matheson, a native of Hermitage, Tenn., about an hour southeast of Nashville.

"Playing soccer definitely helped. The last four years I've built some awesome relationships. The (UE) nursing faculty has really helped me grow and I gained confidence in myself. I'm stepping outside my comfort zone and that's helped me get to where I am right now."

Matheson, a nursing major who graduated magna cum laude from UE last Saturday, will be studying transcultural nursing in Thailand. She will be taking courses in Thai language and culture as well as in nursing.



In her research proposal, Nicole Matheson stated that she wanted to immerse herself in a completely different culture.