University of North Dakota APHN faculty members, Dr. Tracy Evanson and Professors Lucy Heintz; Alumnus, Joni Tweeten; and two current students, Debbie Swanson and Tammy Lockhart attended the APHA annual meeting in Boston, MA. Over 12,000 public health professionals from around the nation and globe were in attendance. The annual meeting is an excellent opportunity to hear presentations on cutting edge public health research, programs, and policy related issues, as well as network with other professionals. Two of our APHN students have written a brief synopsis of their experience:

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**Tammy Lockhart writes about her experience at the APHA Meeting:**

The conference, whose theme was *Think Global, Act Local*, opened with a bang featuring speeches by Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, Roe vs. Wade famed attorney Sarah Weddington, and the internationally acclaimed epidemiologist Michael Marmot and closed with a session that focused on the health and accomplishments that health advocacy has had on native peoples around the world. All of these speeches and presentations are available for viewing on YouTube (http://www.youtube.com/user/aphadc). The APHA also took this moment to launch its new strategic plan, logo, and tag line (*For science. For action. For health.*). Over the four days, the meeting offered more than 1,000 scientific/educational sessions and hundreds of exhibit booths showcasing the impact that public health research and advocacy have had on the lives of many individuals and families.

I attended a total of 13 sessions covering a wide range of topics, from public health nursing issues to the Affordable Care Act to health inequalities facing women and minorities. All of these sessions were informative, motivating, and thought provoking. However, the session previewing a rough cut of the upcoming PBS documentary series called *The Raising of America* was one that stood out the most for me. This documentary series is due to be aired on PBS in early 2014 and will be highlight the importance of early childhood education and how it leads to a healthier, safer, better educated, prosperous, and equitable nation. Besides attending the sessions, the nursing section sponsored a recognition luncheon and a 90th anniversary dinner that allowed me to network with nurses from the Public Health Corps, Boston Health Department, federal prison system, and professors from a couple of different colleges and universities.

I am proud to be a member of the APHA and its movement to help us become the healthiest nation in one generation. The next APHA annual conference is scheduled to be held in New Orleans, LA Nov. 15-19, 2014. Hope to see you there!!!

*Tammy Lockhart, RN, BSN*

*Advanced Public Health Nursing student*
Debbie Swanson works at Grand Forks Public Health. She was chosen to lead a Round Table Discussion about a TB outbreak at the APHA meeting in Boston:

I had the opportunity to present my APHN independent study findings at the annual meeting and expo for the American Public Health Association on November 4, 2013 in Boston, MA.

The title of my roundtable presentation was “Responding to a community tuberculosis outbreak: Public health nursing interventions”. The presentation was scheduled as one of seven hot topics in public health nursing in the track sponsored by the APHA Public Health Nursing Section. Participants moved from table to table every thirty minutes to hear presentations and discuss findings with the authors. This informal presentation style made it much less intimidating than a large audience and provided for some great dialog.

I encourage students in the APHN program at UND to submit abstracts of their evidenced based practice posters, theses, and independent projects for inclusion at the APHA annual meeting. It is a wonderfully stimulating environment where 12,000 public health professionals from the U.S. and even other countries come together to learn about research and practice on a wide variety of public health topics. The keynote speakers and scientific sessions will enrich your future career in public health.

When researchers and public health practitioners express interest in your topics, and share expertise collaboratively, it validates the great work done by graduate students. I felt honored to be part of the scientific sessions at APHA and contributing to public health science, action and health! For more information on next year’s annual meeting and expo in New Orleans, visit www.apha.org.

Debbie Swanson, RN, BSN
December 2013 Graduate of APHN Track