

Background

Gamma Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau Rush University College of Nursing

- Robust chapter with 455 active members
- Celebrating 40th year
- Associated with a premier academic medical center.

Gamma-O-Rama

- Monthly educational nursing forum
- Bridges the academic and practice environments.
- Provides regular opportunities for *scholarship dissemination*.
- Established in 2008 - 10 year history!

Additional Opportunities

Gamma-O-Rama provides opportunity to:

- Engage members
- Recognize individual member contributions to nursing practice and education
- Recruit nurse leaders and potential student candidates
- Develop nurse leaders
- Gain volunteer experience
- Demonstrate the chapter's commitment to lifelong learning.

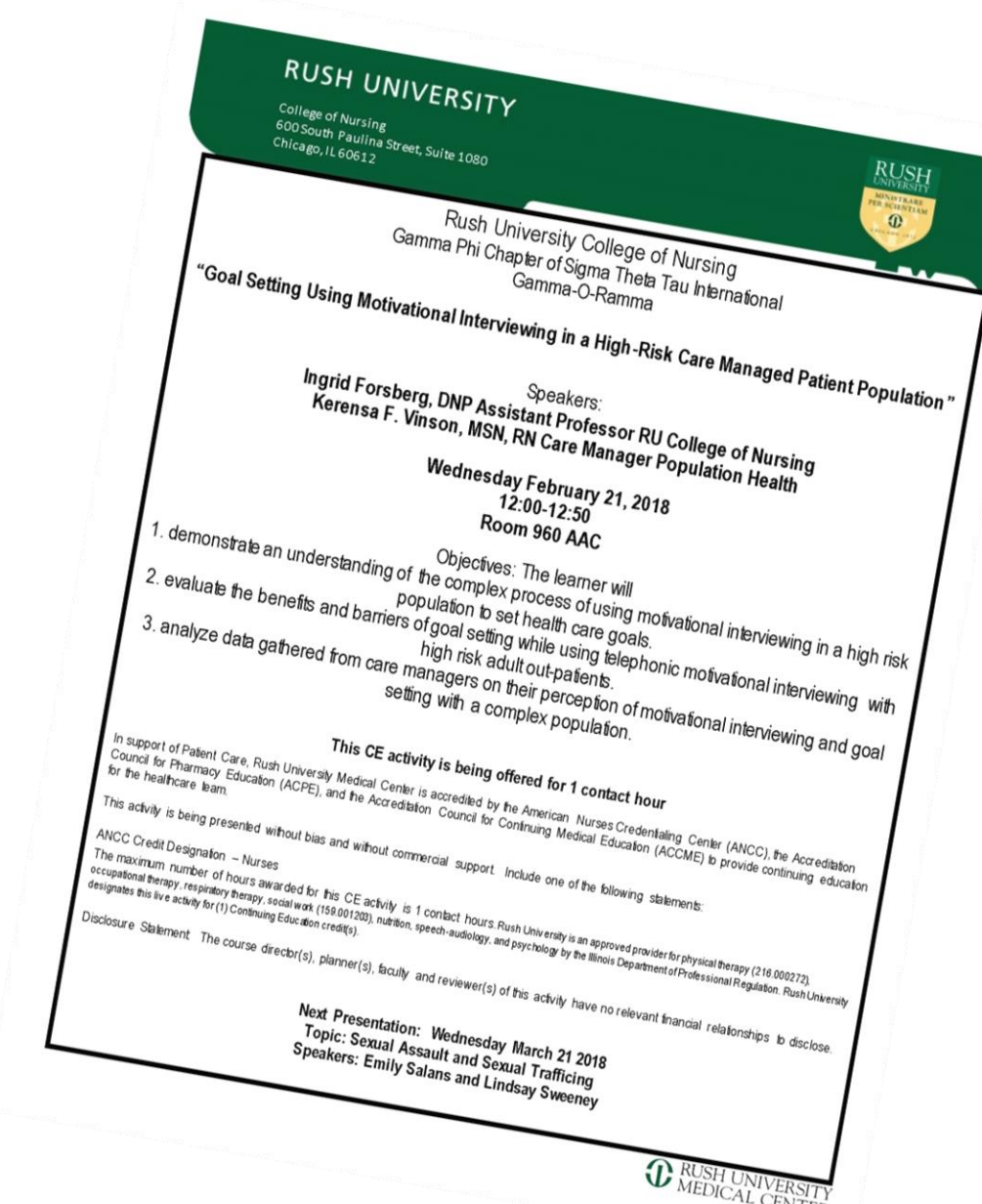
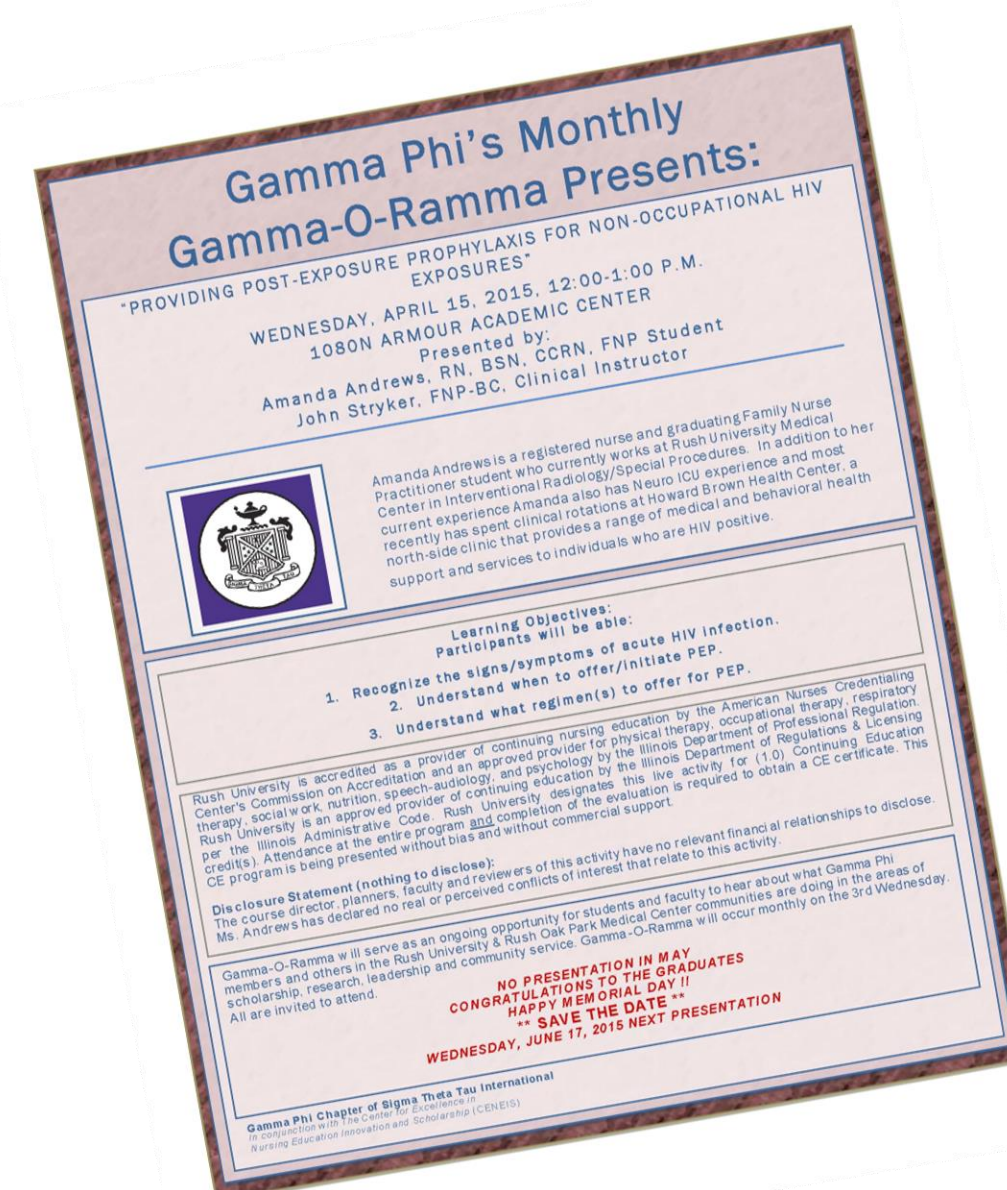
These opportunities represent criteria for the Chapter Key Award which the Gamma Phi Chapter has been awarded 10 times.



Tips for Success

Gamma-O-Rama is a success:

- Average of 25 attendees per month.
- Program evaluations consistently rated greater than 4 on a 5 pt. scale



Chapter leaders attribute this success to several factors:

- **Gamma-O-Rama** is branded
- Consistency - programs offered 8 to 10 times a year always on the third Wednesday at noon
- Varied speakers - nursing faculty, practicing nurse leaders, DNP and CNL students
- Supports all speakers - seasoned as well as new or first time speakers
- Varied topics address United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
 - grant funded work
 - evidence-based initiative
 - innovative academic programs
 - successful community programs
 - global volunteer projects
 - collaborative work between DNP and PhD – prepared nurses
 - issues surrounding diversity (a recent standing-room only offering).
- Free continuing education hours for attendees
- Each session offered at the main medical center and our community partner

How to Replicate

The Board of Directors should designate a separate committee to manage the program.

Committee members are responsible for:

- Recruiting speakers
- Sending out flyers (electronic and display in house) to all chapter members and well as targeted audience members depending on the topic
- Introducing members at the forums
- Sending completed attendance record and CE forms to continuing education office

Each of these responsibilities, in addition to presenting at the forum, are opportunities for leadership.

Future Considerations

For sustainability, **Gamma-O-Rama** needs to evolve Ideas include:

- Teleconferencing the sessions to the expanding healthcare system
- Presenting collaborative work with community members
- Adapting to a lunch & learn format and provide lunch for attendees
- Conducting a members' needs/interest assessment for future topics

Conclusion

Translating research and integrating scholarship into practice are expectations of Sigma, as symbolized by the lamp of knowledge in the society coat-of-arms.

Gamma-O-Rama is an exemplary strategy to:

- Promote Sigma values,
- Engage members, and
- Grow nurse leaders.

