

Phi Alpha Theta and the History Club

The Chi Gamma chapter of Phi Alpha Theta and the History Club are the two university-sanctioned organizations on the Clarion University campus that promote history-related activities among the student body and recognize academic achievement within the discipline. Although distinct in their purpose, both organizations work together closely to plan events, fund-raisers, and social gatherings for their members, many of whom belong to both groups.

Phi Alpha Theta Phi Alpha Theta is one of the oldest national honor societies in America, founded in 1921 at the University of Arkansas, and is a charter member of the Association of College Honor Societies. As of 2002, there were over 850 active chapters throughout the United States, with over 270,000 initiates since the honor society's inception. In the words of the national headquarters, Phi Alpha Theta is "a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of History through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among Historians. [It seeks] to bring students, teachers and writers of History together for intellectual and social exchanges, which promote and assist Historical research and publication by [its] members in a variety of ways."

The Chi Gamma chapter at Clarion University received its charter in 1976. At present, it includes over twenty active members, and several graduates who continue to participate in the chapter's endeavors. Every year the elected officers plan a variety of activities including guest speakers, movie nights, day-trips and overnight trips of historical interest, participation in the regional PAT student conference, social gatherings, fund-raisers, and community service. To see the full slate of activities planned for the 2002-2003 academic year, click on the link below.

Requirements for membership include a minimum QPA of 3.10 in all history courses, 3.00 in all other courses, and 12 credits in history. Initiates must pay a one-time, lifetime membership fee of \$50 (\$40 goes to the national headquarters; \$10 stays in the local chapter). Initiates receive a beautiful membership certificate at the annual banquet hosted by the chapter each April; a one-year subscription to the official journal of the society, *The Historian* free membership in the History Club of Clarion University, and all other privileges associated with membership.

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