A global alumni network, transforming lives

We are very proud of our alumni – so many of whom go on to play a significant role in the world and continue to contribute to the life of the University in areas such as student mentoring, graduate employment, fundraising and governance.

Our alumni value their time at Reading and are very strong advocates of our University. This is reflected in their incredibly generous donations of time and money. Since the Annual Fund was established in 2004, over £3 million has been raised from over 6,000 donors. All of the money donated by our alumni supports the next generation of students.

‘I am working for BBC Radio 1 as their in-house film critic. I’m absolutely thrilled to have been offered this opportunity and I can’t think of a more perfect job. Reading gave me the opportunity to study English and Film & Theatre alongside each other and provided me with a wealth of knowledge about film and the analysis skills which are fundamental to my job.’

Rhianna Dhillon, film critic, BBC Radio 1, BA English and Film & Theatre, 2008–2011
Reading alumni enter all walks of life and many rise to the top of their professions

Notable alumni include

**Arts and literature**

- Paul Barnes, designer and typographer
- Simon Bell, theatre director
- Keith Bosley, British poet and language expert
- Joe Cornish, acclaimed landscape photographer
- Charles Etton, author (Mr Toppit)
- Robert Gilmor, ornithologist, wildlife artist, author and illustrator
- Simon Gudgeon, leading contemporary sculptor
- Kathleen Hale, artist and children’s author (Orlando, the Marmalade Cat series)
- Clare Henry-Bruno, art critic
- Professors Clyde Hopkins, painter (former Head of Painting at Chelsea College of Art and Emeritus Professor)
- Elspeth Hussey, CBE, author (Flame Trees of Thika)
- Claire Lizzimore, theatre director
- Mike Nelson, installation artist (twice nominee for the Turner Prize)
- Cornelia Parker, sculptor and installation artist, (Turner Prize nominee)
- Michael Rosen, author
- John Simpson, Chief Editor, Oxford English Dictionary
- Richard Wilson, installation artist (twice nominee for the Turner Prize)

**Business and institutions**

- Jane Barker, Chief Executive, Equitas Holdings, formerly Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the London Stock Exchange
- Linda Bennett, CBE, founder of LJ Bennett, Veuve Cliquot Business woman of the year of 2005
- Professor Stephen Blackmore, CBE, Regius Keeper, Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh
- Dame Lynne Brindley, DBE, Chief Executive, The British Library
- Nick Candy, co-founder and partner of the high end property development company, Candy & Candy, London
- Alison Carruthers, Chair, Land Securities
- Sue Clayton, Executive Director – Capital Markets, CB Richard Ellis
- Peter Dawson, Managing Director, Brixton plc
- Charles Graham, CEO, Europa Capital Partners
- Nicky Kinnaird, MBE, founder of Space NK Cosmetics
- Tan Sri Dato Mohd Rashdan, Chairman of Telekom Malaysia
- See Lian Ong, FRICS, President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

**Education**

- Professor Janet Beer, Vice-Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University
- Dr Kenneth J Edwards, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester
- Christine Gilbert, CBE, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector and Head, OFSTED
- Professor Bernard Moulden, former Vice-Chancellor, James Cook University, Australia
- Professor Peter Slee, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Huddersfield
- Professor John Stoddart, former Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University
- Professor Sir Tim Wilson, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire

**Law, government and politics**

- Professor Ru’fai Ahmed Alkali, People’s Democratic Party, Nigeria
- Dr António Aboitiz, Minister of Agriculture, Indonesia
- Lord William Bradshaw, Spokesperson for Transport, Liberal Democrats, House of Lords
- Valerie Caton, British Ambassador to Finland
- Belay Ejigu Begashaw, Earth Institute of Columbia University and former Minister of Agriculture for Ethiopia
- Sir Simon Cass, KCMG, CVO, British Ambassador to Iran
- Mike Hanson, MBE, former Director General, HMRC
- The Hon Edmund James, former Prime Minister of Dominica and former Leader of the Opposition
- Baron Livsey of Talgarth, CBE, former Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Wales
- Mike Penning, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport
- Mark Prisk, MP, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise
- Hugh Robertson, MP, Minister for Sport and Olympics
- Jim Sturman, QC
- Dame Patricia Symmonds, GCM, DBE, Barbadian politician and member of the Senate of Barbados

**Media**

- Julian Barratt, comedian and writer (The Mighty Boosh)
- Colin Brown, British Film Commissioner, UK Film Council
- Adrian Butchart, award-winning British screenwriter and film producer (writer of the ‘Goat!’ movies)
- Damian Collier, producer, entrepreneur and business consultant for film, television and stage (taking ‘War of the Worlds’ to the international stage)
- Rhianna Dillon, film critic, BBC Radio 1
- Pippa Greenwood, gardening broadcaster
- Bunny Guinness, gardening broadcaster
- Peter Hall, motoring journalist
- Richard Holmes, noted military historian and broadcaster
- David Howe, President, Sci Fi Channel
- Baroness Pike, DBE, former MP and Chairperson Broadcasting Complaints Commission

**Music**

- Arthur Brown, rock and roll singer
- James Chapman aka ‘Maps’ (Nominated for a Mercury Music Prize)
- Jamie Cullum, jazz musician
- Timothy Dean, Chorus Director, Royal Scottish National Opera
- Andy Mackay, composer, Roxy Music
- Martin Noble, British Sea Power, indie rock band
- Edmund Rubbra, composer

**Science**

- Professor Sir Peter Crane, IRS, former Director, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew
- Dr Dragan Marušič, Slovene mathematician
- Professor Debby Reynolds, CB, former Chief Veterinary Officer, Defra
- Dr Geoffrey Schild, CBE, former Director, National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC) and former Chairman, WHO Advisory Committee on Influenza Vaccines
- Professor Tim Wheeler, Professor of Crop Science; Head of the Crops and Climate Group for the Walker Institute; Principal Investigator in the NERC-National Centre for Atmospheric Science; his research has been cited in all the major climate change assessments of the last decade

**Sport**

- Cath Bishop, rower, Olympic Silver medallist
- Michael Bollingbroke, Chief Operating Officer, Manchester United
- Adrienne Cahalan, Yachtswoman
- Tony Clarke, Team GB Hockey player and Olympian
- James Cracknell, rower, Olympic Gold medallist
- Ric Evington, rower, Olympic Silver medallist
- Adrian Ellison, Olympic rowing champion
- Debbie Flood, rower, Olympic Silver medallist
- Alex Gregory, rower, MBE Olympic Gold medallist
- Garry Herbert, cox, Olympic Gold medallist and commentator
- Molly Hide, captured English Women’s Cricket team for 17 years
- Philip Hobbs, leading racehorse trainer
- Will Hoy, British Touring Car Champion
- Alistair Mackintosh, Chief Executive Officer, Fulham Football Club
- Beth Morgan, English Women’s Cricket Team
- Philip Nash, Director, Liverpool Football Club
- George O’Grady, Chief Executive, PGA European Tour
- Polly Vacher, MBE (first woman to fly solo around the world and land on all seven continents)