

Dr Peter Carter OBE lecture: Leadership in Challenging Times - 23 June 2011

On Thursday 23rd June, alumni, students and staff from across the University came to Birmingham Business School to gain insight from Dr Peter Carter OBE on 'Leadership in Challenging Times'. Dr Carter, General Secretary and Chief Executive of the [Royal College of Nursing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_College_of_Nursing), studied for both his MBA and PhD at the University and returned to campus to deliver the closing keynote speech of the ADEPT Careers week for Postgraduate Researchers.



Using his personal experiences of both working within the NHS and as CEO of the world's largest professional union of nurses and health care support workers, Peter discussed the qualities and practicalities of good leadership. Focussing on two major challenges currently facing the UK's health service, the £20 billion savings required within the NHS and the launch of the new Health and Social Care Bill, which will radically alter the way in which services are administered and delivered, Peter gave an insight into both how the RCN is responding as an organisation and how it is supporting its members to successfully lead their services through these difficult times.

Peter interspersed his talk with some fascinating footage of nursing within the 1930's and a great piece of social media highlighting the need to continually innovate, particularly when faced with external challenges. A message that was strongly conveyed throughout the talk was that sometimes the most appropriate and right decisions are not always the easiest decisions to make and, as a leader, it is important to make the best choices for your organisation or team at all times. Doctoral Researcher, Wilber Sabiti (School of Biosciences), commented "Peter's speech was great, it highlighted qualities of good leadership of which I learned the value of evaluation, quality assurance and taking action on objective assessment of results however unpopular that may be. An Institution whose leadership listens to stakeholders and ensures systematic re-evaluation of their services, innovation and quality of service delivery is better placed to withstand times of economic challenges."

The talk was followed by an interesting Q&A session and a drinks reception, which offered all guests the chance to network and continue their discussions on the theme of leadership.

As a University we are delighted to be able to offer our alumni the opportunity to attend events such as this. We send the majority of event invitations by email so make sure you keep us informed of any changes in your contact details. You can update your details at any time at www.your.bham.ac.uk or by calling +44 (0)121 414 2773.

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Displaying 1 to 7 of 7

