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Staying Connected: The Value of Durham College Alumni Events

As college years quickly come to an end, involvement with your alma mater gradually fades to make way for the challenges of a new post-graduate career. The Durham College alumni task force, however, is actively planning, coordinating, establishing connections, and brainstorming to maintain graduates' engagement and connection. These events carry memories and shared moments, from the puck drops of the Oshawa Generals Hockey Night to the thought-provoking DC Talks and the laid-back respite time of the Summer Social.

The journey begins with the Alumni Hockey Night held every year, this year being extra special with Don Lovisa marking his last year as President. It was an emotional moment when Linda Flynn, Associate Vice-President of Development & Alumni Affairs, stood by his side as the puck dropped. This event created lasting connections and unforgettable moments.

From a fun sports night to thought-provoking and inspiring discussions by DC alumni thought leaders in various industries; DC Talks emerges as an event for inspiration. This year, featuring distinguished alumni over five decades in the journalism field, these talks delve into relevant issues, providing a platform for continuous learning. Attendees will find themselves engaged in thought-provoking discussions, expanding their knowledge base and gaining insight into their respective careers.

As the weather gets warmer, the alumni task force is once again hard at work organizing their annual summer social; a laid-back outdoor event where alumni can gather, share memories, and laughter in a casual setting.

A testimonial from Ana Pautassi, graduate of the journalism and print broadcast program, shares her advice, " "Sometimes having options makes us feel stuck for fear of choosing wrong. If you are excited, and happy and can feel it in your soul that the decision you are making is right for you - DO IT! Don't let other people's opinions or views of you hold you back from the things that light your soul."

These events also serve as a catalyst for professional growth, with alumni leveraging these connections for mentorship, job opportunities, and collaborative ideas.

Brad Camus, graduate from the business administration marketing program and now vice-president of operations at the Search Engine People, gives this lasting piece of advice, "I am a proud member of the DC Alumni. It's been over 12 years since graduation, but I still draw daily from my in-class learning, field placement and extracurriculars. DC set the foundation for me to pursue a University Degree and a career in Marketing I have come to love. Over the years, I've adopted three principles: don't let others outwork you, always help your peers, and never stop learning. #DCProud."

It is not uncommon that alumni memories deteriorate over time due to life's hectic schedules, including work and family obligations. The Durham College Alumni Association serves as a bridge. The advantages go well beyond the short-lived moments of an occasion; they show up as enduring relationships, career advancement, and a feeling of community. As a result, alumni find themselves not just participating in events but also setting the standard, and together, they are leading the way!