



**Blacksburg
Rotary Club**
Rotary International
District 7570

March 2011

Blacksburg Rotarians Host Group Study Exchange Team from Bolivia

The Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange (GSE) program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for businesspeople and professionals between the ages of 25 and 40. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits in paired areas of different countries. This year the Rotary Club of Blacksburg helped to support the Bolivian Exchange team of five men who had a strong interest in electrical engineering and computer programming.



On a windy day the group stopped at an overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

While in Blacksburg, team members experienced our culture, our shopping malls and our restaurants, observed our business practices, and developed personal and professional relationships. The group met and made presentations to the local Rotary Clubs, describing their individual professions, their families, and their home country. The exchange team toured the Blacksburg Kroger South Main Street store, the Kroger Warehouse in Salem, and the Virginia Transportation Museum in Roanoke. The group explored the Blue Ridge Parkway touring the Chateau Morrisette Winery, danced to the music at the Floyd Country Store, hiked



Club Member Michael Abraham with GSE team members on a hike to the Cascades.



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the Cascades and picnicked on hot dogs. The team spent time on the Virginia Tech campus and toured the Corporate Research Center, learned about the entrepreneurial VT Knowledgeworks program, visited the Weather Service facility and Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine. After a week in the New River and Roanoke Valleys the team traveled on to their next host club in Nelson County.

Our District 7570, which has 84 clubs and runs from the eastern Tennessee area of Bristol up to Winchester, sent reciprocal teams to Australia and Bolivia at the end of March. Blacksburg Rotary Club member Michael Abraham is the Team Leader for USA to Bolivia GSE that runs the end of March until early May. For each team member, the Rotary International Foundation provides the most economical round-trip airline ticket between the home and host countries. Rotarians in the host area provide for meals, lodging, and group travel within their district.

For more information on Rotary's Group Study Exchange program see

<http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/Fellowship/GroupStudyExchange/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

About Rotary: Rotary International is a global network of community volunteers united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Founded in 1905 in Chicago, today there are approximately 1.2 million Rotary club members in over 33,000 Rotary clubs. The Rotary Club of Blacksburg (www.blacksburgrotary.org) began in 1978 and today consists of over 110 members who meet at noon on most Thursdays at the Blacksburg Country Club.

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