

## **A NITE of Celebration**

By Kim Dunbar

On Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Cambridge College students, faculty, and college administrators gathered to celebrate the end of the 2007 National Institute for Teaching Excellence (NITE) program. While outside the weather was steamy and traffic was backed up for miles, there was plenty of good humor inside Lombardo's ballroom in Randolph, MA.

"Each journey has its own rewards, and I hope that you are ready to reap those rewards," President Mahesh Sharma told the students, as they dined on lobster, steamers and other summer foods like barbecued chicken and corn on the cob. "I hope that you enjoyed yourselves and your time with your classmates. I also hope that you have learned from each other and will take what you have learned here back to your classrooms and apply it to your schools," President Sharma added.

The many staff and faculty members who contributed to making NITE a successful program were recognized by President Sharma for their hard work and dedication. He also called attention to a group of student visitors from Sweden. "Cambridge College should be called the International NITE program," he said, after introducing the members of the Swedish group. The group, consisting of 12 Swedish teachers and professors—five from St. Eskil high school, and seven from Mälardalen University—attended NITE to observe Cambridge College's proven method for teaching English as a second language. The group from Mälardalen University is also planning a NITE-like program of its own in Sweden, a one-week program they hope to introduce next summer.

"Goodbyes are filled with wonderful memories," said NITE Director Dr. Jo-Ann Testaverde. "The word commencement is used at graduations because it truly means a new beginning. I hope you enjoyed the learning experience and will take what you have learned to become better professionals."

After her speech, Dr. Testaverde kicked off the entertainment for the evening by introducing the local a cappella group, Overboard. The group serenaded the crowd with many popular selections and got the audience involved, singing and dancing with students and faculty. After Overboard's performance was concluded, the dancing began in earnest as students and faculty crowded the dance floor for more fun.

The celebration was an appropriate ending to a great summer of learning. And while the academic lessons that were learned throughout the five-week program were shelved for the evening, the new friendships that were formed seemed like they would never be forgotten.