REALIZING THE DREAM
by Eric Gondree

The 2016 Peace as a Global Language Conference in Nairobi held a special significance for me because I had been wanting to come to Kenya for twenty years, but had never been given the opportunity to do so.

The venue and facilities of the conference were comfortably set-up and I was pleased to hear from so many interesting speakers from around the region. I was also glad to listen to the audience's thoughtful questions in the discussion periods which followed every speaker. Although I had read a number of books and articles on politics and economic issues affecting Africa in the past, this brief conference became a real crash-course in the subject for me. I was able to learn so much just by listening to the participants' interactions and by meeting other conference attendees. Naturally, there is much about Kenyan politics that I do not know but I think I was able to come away with a good introduction to such issues as ongoing anti-corruption efforts, ethnic relations and human rights in and around the region. It also showed me how much I have yet to learn.

At the conference, I welcomed the chance to meet with students and educators from around Kenya during the breaks and late-afternoon events. I was particularly interested in one presentation about the involvement of women in Somali clan dynamics. This was a topic about which I was completely unfamiliar, and I learned a great deal. I was proud to have had a chance to deliver my own presentation on strategies for the effective implementation of computers into classrooms. I believe that Kenya is well-positioned to take advantage of the benefits to be brought by computing and information technology because of

the widespread use of English and the expansion of Internet connectivity through subsea fiber optic cables. In the process of doing research in preparation for my presentation, I learned much about computer use and Internet connectivity in east Africa as well as the kinds of issues affecting students and teachers wishing to integrate computers into African classrooms.

Due to my overwhelmingly positive experiences at the Peace as a Global Language Conference, I definitely see myself returning to Nairobi. I would like to thank everyone at the Management University of Africa for helping to organize this conference and for making this unforgettable experience possible for everyone who took part. This event piqued my desire to participate in future educational conferences and events around Africa when the possibilities arise.