

## S-OIL CEO

## and NAU Alumnus

## Returns to NAU



*Ahmed A. Al Subaey spoke of energy interdependence and his time in Flagstaff*

*One of NAU's most distinguished alumni*

*returned to campus on February 24, 2009. Ahmed A. Al Subaey, who graduated in 1985 with a bachelor of science in electrical engineering, has achieved what few others are able to realize in their careers. Still not yet 50, Mr. Al Subaey now serves as the CEO of S-Oil, one of South Korea's largest and most profitable companies.*

The highlight of Mr. Subaey's visit was a campus presentation he delivered titled "The Challenge of Accelerating Global Energy Demand and Environmental Sustainability." More than 120 students, faculty and staff assembled in Gardner Auditorium to hear this talk, which was part of the W. A. Franke CEO Lecture Series. The event was cosponsored by the Center for International Education and the College of Engineering, Forestry and Natural Sciences. Some of the points Mr. Al Subaey made are generally well understood and accepted, including the projection that global energy demand will increase in the next 20 years, that most of the growth in global energy demand will come from non-OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation

and Development) countries, and that energy security is indispensable for economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Less widely understood, however, is that based on projections Mr. Al Subaey shared, renewables are currently the fastest-growing source of energy and yet, fossil fuels will still be the dominant source of global energy by 2030. In addition, notwithstanding the clamor for energy independence in the U.S., he believes that this will not lead to energy security. Mr. Al Subaey, in advocating energy interdependence, argued that by developing strong relationships between producing and consuming countries for the allocation of energy supplies and by collaborating across borders for renewable energy development, nations underscore their shared energy future and their responsibility to advance energy security.

Mr. Al Subaey talked fondly of his time in Flagstaff and described NAU as an ideal place for undergraduate study. He admitted that returning to NAU was a very emotional experience for him. He was impressed with all the changes that have occurred since 1985. He was hosted at a luncheon sponsored by the provost and met briefly with President Haeger. At the reception that followed the presentation, many students, faculty and administrators had a chance to speak with him. Just before leaving campus for an engagement in Tucson, Mr. Al Subaey met with a group of Saudi Arabian students and then with a group of Korean students.

NAU takes pride in the knowledge that Mr. Al Subaey is a product of its education and successes and knows that impressive achievements will serve as a model to all NAU students.