

OU grad following in hero's footsteps

By Susan Simpson Staff Writer

Moshe Gutman was just 10 years old when he first sought employment at Microsoft, hoping to follow in the footsteps of his childhood hero Bill Gates.

He didn't get the job. But 13 years later, he's poised to make his own mark in software industry — and has grabbed the attention of Microsoft.

Gutman is one of 24 Americans — and the only Oklahoman — who will compete June 10-17 in Microsoft's Imagine Cup contest, which will award cash prizes to the best student software developers.

Students complete tasks that involve the theme, "Imagine a world where technology enables a better education for all." If Gutman's team, which includes three other regional finalists, wins the national contest, they'll split \$12,000 and compete in an international competition in South Korea.

As a regional winner, the University of Oklahoma student has been offered an internship at Microsoft, which he's considering, along with planning to start his own software company after graduating in December with a master's degree in computer science.

"Bill Gates has always been a role model to me, someone I looked up to," Gutman said. "I felt like I was following in his footsteps."

Gutman already has seen commercial success. He helped lead a team of students and professors that developed global positioning software that OU campus police use from laptops in their patrol cars. That technology now is being marketed to other law enforcement agencies. Gutman said he aims to make software user-friendly. "Computers today are too hard to use," he said. "It should be as easy as driving a car. It should be natural." John Antonio, an OU professor who mentors Gutman, said Gutman has a bright future. "He's not just a good student," he said. "He loves the discipline and the challenges."



Moshe Gutman