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## For USU graduate, hard work, passion key

Education » Bennett was keynote speaker.

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**Logan** » Sandy resident Bradley Hintze had a number of reasons to feel proud during the USU graduation ceremony Saturday morning in the Dee Glen Smith Spectrum. Being one of the most accomplished members of Utah State University's graduating class is an obvious one. Hintze's triumph over a debilitating ailment, cerebral palsy, that bends his neck, twists his limbs and impairs speech and handwriting could be even more compelling.

Parents Les and Shaunne told the youngest of six children he could accomplish anything. At USU, where he started as a horticulture major in 2003 and finished with a biochemistry degree Saturday, Hintze learned it was true.

"Your station in life doesn't really matter -- it's passion. Your choices are yours," Hintze said. "Mostly it's a lot of hard work and determination that get me where I want to be."

Hintze was part of nearly 2,250 graduates who got their final lesson on campus Saturday. The graduation ceremony's keynote speaker, Sen. Bob Bennett, was sometimes emotional as he recounted the highs and lows of America's history.

"Your assignment, and you must chose to accept it whether you want to or not, is to ... make sure you perpetuate America's idea," Bennett said, highlighting the ideas described in the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Gettysburg Address.

For his part, Hintze will continue groundbreaking research on protein structures this summer in mentor Sean Johnson's lab at USU. In the fall he'll begin a Ph.D. program at Duke University.

While Hintze said an abiding belief in God, a stubborn streak and unique life experiences have provided wisdom beyond his 26 years, he also realizes he is just hitting his stride.

In 2007, Hintze completed the LOTOJA race, a 13-hour, 206-mile tandem bike ride from Logan to Jackson Hole. Hintze said his internal drive to overcome challenges also compels him to climb mountains.

Being part of a Nobel Prize winning team isn't beyond his imagination.

When he travels to Washington, D.C., next week to share his scientific discoveries with lawmakers on Capitol Hill, Hintze will see Bennett again.

USU President Stan Albrecht told the large audience that the nation's economy will recover and better times are ahead, with help from the class of 2009.

"A distinguished faculty has prepared you. Respected alumni have gone before you," Albrecht said to the graduates.

"You will play a role in helping make it so."

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