

Sarah Rose Bishop

Summary biography for the Parmigiani Spirit Award

Nationality: South Africa

Date of Birth: 05.09.1989

University: University of Cape Town, Cape Town

University course: Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy

Rowing club: University of Cape Town Rowing Club (UCTRC)

Bishop joined the University of Cape Town Rowing Club when she started at university in 2009. She was one of three women's athletes in the club. By August 2009 Bishop had been elected the women's captain for the following season with the mandate to revitalise women's rowing at the University of Cape Town Rowing Club (UCTRC).

By the second season Bishop had brought the numbers from three to 30 active women rowers. Bishop's contribution to UCTRC was one of the main reasons UCTRC won the Club of the Year at the University Sports Awards. The club has now won the award three consecutive times.

Sarah Bishop approaches every task and challenge with immense determination that leaves her peers in awe. Sarah has had a significant impact on various facets of sport. She has successfully been able to redevelop the women's division at the UCTRC, assisted in the rebirth of a junior rowing club, embarked on a development programme for under-privileged athletes, as well as having had a significant impact on student governance.

At the University of Cape Town Bishop is the chairperson of the University's Student Sports Union. Under her leadership she has galvanised all sports clubs across the university and help change the image of sport at the university. Bishop is also vice-chairperson of the Student Representative Council and an elected member of the University Student Assembly.

As the Development and Transformation Officer on the University Sport South Africa Rowing Executive, Bishop has worked at transforming South African university rowing in terms of social redress for the past history of discrimination. This has seen a substantial increase in 'persons of colour' competing at university events.

Bishop has managed to balance her academic and sporting involvement and social life. She has obtained a Bachelor of Science in physiology and biochemistry and is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy. Throughout this Bishop has continued to row, training seven times a week during the season.

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