

Bloom Bar Blossoms

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BLOOM BAR BLOSSOMS

This September, about 150 female students on Dordt's campus gathered on a Saturday morning for an event called the Bloom Bar.

Hosted by Residence Life staff, the Bloom Bar was an opportunity for girls to enjoy each other's company while creating a small flower bouquet, eating a free continental breakfast, and listening to a message from Pastoral Care Assistant Gail Ashmore ('13) about flourishing in faith during college.

The attendees crafted bouquets using flowers from Holland Flower Farm, a local farm near Sioux Center. Jade Moret ('15) is the founder of the company. Moret sees flowers as a providing a special connection to the Creator.

"It's been a highlight of my fall to share the bounty of the harvest we have been blessed with during our growing season," she says. "And for the women at Dordt to get to come together in community, be blessed with devotions by Gail, and chat over coffee while arranging a bud vase of flowers to take back to their room—in my mind, that's a perfect Saturday morning."

While the event allows girls to gather and take home a beautiful vase of flowers, the Bloom Bar also works as the kick-off event for women on campus. The beginning of the school year is busy, and it becomes easy to get distracted by classwork, friendships, and other activities. The event encouraged girls to start off the year with fellowship.

"An event like the Bloom Bar offers a time to be refreshed and blessed by



BAILEY MORET ('20)

Bloom Bar attendees put together bouquets of flowers, enjoyed a continental breakfast, and listened to a message from Campus Ministries on flourishing in faith during college.

good conversation, food, and of course, flowers," says Ally Veldhuisen ('20), a learning community area coordinator at Dordt.

Ashmore spoke about the importance of being oriented toward Christ in everyday life. She described how our natural tendency is to look for answers to life's problems in the world, rather than abiding in Christ. Relying on God frees us from the pressure of fixing everything by ourselves and living up to expectations.

Sophomore Annabella Mosher enjoyed attending the Bloom Bar for its sit and stay structure.

"I enjoyed getting to eat breakfast and sit at a table with girls I had not really talked with before," Mosher says. "The event was set up in a great way for making connections."

"It's been a highlight of my fall to share the bounty of the harvest we have been blessed with during our growing season."

— Jade Moret

together to rest and have fun. Upcoming events this year include broomball, the Gingerbread Battle, Paint and Plant, and more. Monthly events are hosted and planned by Residence Life, with help from Resident Assistants.

"My hope with every event that my Residence Life team plans is that it encourages community growth

and connection. This goes for wing hangouts and more," says Veldhuisen. "I love seeing so many women from all over campus gathering to have fun or just simply be together. I think it's a sign of a flourishing community when students are excited to attend events and engage with one another."

MADDIE KOBES ('25)



BAILEY MORET ('20)

The Bloom Bar was sponsored by Residence Life and Campus Ministries.