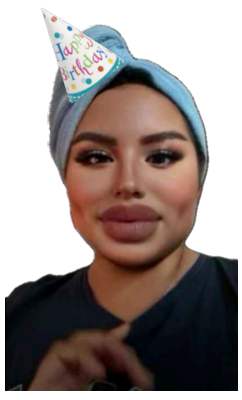
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UConn's Newest Influencer

Jacob Crumb

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UConn student and icon, Jacob Crumb. Crumb can be frequently found at UConn Late Night singing karaoke.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @JCRUMB05 ON INSTAGRAM

If you've been to the University of Connecticut Student Union on a Friday night from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at any point this spring, there's a good chance that you've seen Jacob Crumb. If you haven't seen him, you've still probably heard him. Better known as "JCrumb," originating from his Instagram username, a video of Crumb singing karaoke at UConn Late Night went viral around campus in February, garnering over 40,000 views.

A few weeks later, a video entitled "Things I learned at the UConn Breakdancing Club" broke 100,000 views, quickly cementing Crumb as a campus celebrity.

"One of the people that I've also transferred in with from my community college, we were at Putnam Dining Hall and he was like, 'Yo, your video got like 20,000 views or something.

"It's time for me to build another legacy."

JACOB CRUMB

You're getting famous over here," Crumb said. "I'm like, 'Oh, God, no.' I was not expecting that."

However, before Crumb became a household name among UConn students, he began his college career over an hour away from Storrs.

"Transitioning from Greenwich High School to Connecticut State Community College Norwalk, one of the most definite things that I wanted to do is to be here at Storrs," Crumb said. "Do or die, no matter what."

Crumb said that the goal has always been to attend UConn.

"I was born in Stamford. I grew up along the UConn Stamford campus," Crumb said. "I wanted to be a UConn student since like, day one of my life. Now that I'm here, having all these kind and amazing people beside me here through my college journey, I want to give back to them."

In his first semester in Storrs, Crumb quickly assimilated into the campus community and became a focal point for many. Quickly becoming involved in organizations such as the Breakdancing Club and the Husky Ambassador Program, Crumb had his sights on Late Night before the spring semester even began.

"I actually did a little bit of research on it before I transferred over here," Crumb said. "In December, I was checking out the Late Night [Instagram] page. I was like, 'Oh, they got karaoke. This should be fun.'"

Crumb said his social media success came to him by accident, as he was simply looking for a way to get more people to come to Late Night and spread awareness for the weekly event.

"I showed up every Friday for karaoke," Crumb said. "I'm like always over there. The idea of me posting karaoke stuff on social media was, I was like, 'You know what? I'm going to post myself singing and then let's see what happens from there.'"

That social media following has grown to over 1,000 followers in the past month on Instagram and is now just a few followers away from 1,500 at time of writing. In response, Crumb began to post trivia questions about himself so that his followers could get to know him better.

"The UConn community is awesome, I'm not going to lie to you about that," Crumb said. "I didn't expect to have a fan base until one night during Late Night, this guy brought a whole colored picture of me. That made me laugh because that was actually one of my thumbnails in one of my Instagram videos."

Crumb has started holding autograph sessions in the Union Street Market area of the Student Union in recent weeks, printing photos and handing them out with messages to those he is signing for. While these sessions originally only occurred during Late Night, he expanded the operation as demand grew.

"Now that I'm here at UConn, I [can] be who I am," Crumb said. "One thing that really sticks out to me the most is to give back. Having a fan base, you know, having connections to my community college. I want to give back to this UConn community."

Crumb has also gained attention for his recognizable outfits, whether that be the Adidas track suit he wears to breakdancing events or his now trademark suit.

"I started wearing a suit," Crumb said. "I was like, "Let's see how this goes,' and then people started recognizing me out of nowhere."

The suit originated at a UConn women's basketball game, Crumb said.

"The reason why I wear a suit to basketball games and hockey games is because I'm about to witness greatness, so I'm going to treat it like it's a formal event," Crumb said.

While Crumb's natural confidence and charisma, along with his serious singing skills, have allowed him to get where he is now, he also gave credit to the students who host Late Night every week.

"I would have to thank the UConn Late Night crew," Crumb said. "[...]Without their hard work, I don't know where I would be in this situation today," Crumb said.

At the end of Late Night a few weeks ago, Crumb saved 10 of his autographed photos for the Late Night staff, per their request.

Outside of his fellow students, Crumb also said that memories of his late father figure help him to be as ambitious as he is today.

"[In high school,] I was going through rough periods of time," Crumb said. "COVID happened during my sophomore year. What really got me down is that, in May after the end of my junior year, my father figure passed away due to alcohol. That really got me down pretty badly.

So, once I got off the graduation stage at my high school graduation, I pointed up to the sky and said, 'I wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for my father figure.'"

Crumb said that experience also helped inspire his high school senior quote, something that he has surely lived up to during his time at UConn.

"The quote is, 'It's time for me to build another legacy,'" Crumb said.



Jacob Crumb singing at UConn's Late Night karaoke at the student union. Crumb has become a campus celebrity known for his unique outfits and talented voice.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @JCRUMB05 ON INSTAGRAM

UCONN'S 2026 UNDERGRAD COMMENCEMENT ▷SPEAKERS◁

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The University of Connecticut's commencement ceremonies are right around the corner. Each of UConn's 12 undergraduate commencement ceremonies will feature speakers with connections to UConn, from alumni who went on to have successful careers to large donors and those still involved with decision-making at the university. From Grammy winners to food and health executives, here are UConn's May 2026 commencement speakers according to UConn Today.

The College of Engineering's commencement, held in Gampel Pavilion on May 9, will feature 1984 mechanical engineering and materials science graduate Matthew Olander. He will be receiving an honorary doctorate of science. For 25 years, he's worked at General Dynamics Electric Boat, located in Groton, Conn. In 2025, he was appointed senior vice president of programs and planning at Electric Boat. He was inducted into the UConn Academy of Distinguished Engineers in 2023, serves on the College of Engineering Advisory Board and serves on the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology.

The School of Nursing will feature 1969 nursing graduate Elisabeth DeLuca, who will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters. DeLuca is now the new namesake of the nursing school after her $50 million donation last year, the largest donation UConn has ever received. The new nursing building under construction on the Storrs campus will also be named DeLuca Hall after the alumna.

During her career, DeLuca served as a medical-surgical and intensive care nurse at Bridgeport Hospital in Connecticut. She served as President of the Elisabeth C. DeLuca Foundation, an organization committed to "nurturing the wellbeing of individuals, families, and those caring for them by supporting their growth and health," according to its website. The school's commencement ceremony is on May 9 at the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Antonietta Boucher will speak at the School of Business' commencement ceremony on May 9 in Gampel and will receive an honorary doctorate of letters. After growing up in southern Italy and immigrating to Connecticut at 5 years old, she attended elementary school in Naugatuck, Conn., speaking no English at all. Eventually, she graduated from UConn with an MBA in 2002. She is a former Connecticut state senator and a 12-year state representative. She currently serves as First Selectwoman of Wilton, Conn.

At UConn, Boucher has served on the UConn Foundation board of directors and finance committee. She has also worked with the Nonprofit Leadership Institute and leads her own nonprofit, the Boucher Family Foundation. Boucher has written two books in the past year: "The Husky Effect: How UConn is Creating the Entrepreneurs of the Future," and an autobiography titled "Stone Doll: An Immigrant's Memoir from War-Torn Italy to the American Dream."

The School of Social Work's commencement speaker is Scot X. Esdaile, who will be receiving an honorary doctorate of laws. Esdaile is a lifelong New Haven, Conn. resident who has served as the president of the Connecticut NAACP for more than 21 years. As a civil rights leader, Esdaile championed abolishing the death penalty in the state, limiting the use of tasers and establishing the Minority Health Advisory Council.



Frank Filipetti working in a recording studio. Filipetti will be the 2026 commencement speaker for the UConn School of Fine Arts.
PHOTO COURTESY @TOONTRACK ON INSTAGRAM

While not a UConn graduate, Esdaile has worked closely with UConn and UConn Health on many initiatives, including the Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering, which focuses on trying to "regenerate complex tissue and organ systems," according to its website. The School of Social Work's ceremony is on May 9 at Jorgensen.

Kevin Burns, a 1986 engineering graduate, will speak at the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources' commencement on May 9 in Gampel. He currently serves as the President and Chief Operating Officer of Chobani, the country's number one yogurt brand. Burns is a member of the College of Engineering's Academy of Distinguished Engineers. He has established scholarships for UConn students as well. He will receive an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

Seven-time Grammy Award-winner Frank Filipetti will receive an honorary doctorate of fine arts as he speaks at the School of Fine Arts' commencement on May 9 at Jorgensen. Filipetti graduated in 1971 after earning a bachelor's degree in psychology. The Bristol, Conn. native is now a record producer, audio engineer and mixer on Broadway, including in shows "Wicked" and "The Book of Mormon." His most

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