

- home
- News Journal
- entertainment
- homes
- cars
- jobs
- classifieds
- directory
- MY News Journal

www.delawareonline.com
The News Journal



2400 Governor Printz Blvd.
 Wilmington
 302-762-5777

729 Dawson Drive
 Delaware Industrial Park Newark
 302-737-8460

TODAY IS Thursday, September 25, 2003

[HOME](#)
[The News Journal](#)

- Local
- Business
- Sports
- High School Sports
- Life & Leisure
- Opinion
- U.S./World
- Technology
- Obituaries
- Celebrations
- Traffic
- Weather
- School closings
- Government
- Births
- Lottery
- Police news
- Archive
- Delaware Info
- Forums
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Delaware Directory](#)
- [Help](#)

Local News from The News Journal

Kermit the Frog was a Terrapin

By **STEPHEN MANNING**
 Associated Press
 09/25/2003

COLLEGE PARK, Md. -- Christine Force got her first Kermit the Frog doll when she was 2 years old, the start of an obsession with all things green.

"People walk into my room at home and think it is a 12-year-old's room. It's all Kermit," the University of Maryland student said, wearing a green Kermit T-shirt her mother found in New Jersey. "I collect anything with Kermit."

Force will now get to see her childhood hero every day following the unveiling Wednesday of a statue of Kermit and his creator, university alumnus Jim Henson.

A parade-sized Kermit balloon, green cupcakes, lollipops and about 300 people were on hand to dedicate the statue that shows Henson and his most famous character deep in conversation on a marble bench.

The stage master behind "The Muppet Show," a variety show that aired during the late 1970s and the man who populated "Sesame Street" with the likes of Bert and Ernie and Big Bird had a major impact on popular culture and children, said university President C.D. Mote Jr.

"Perhaps no University of Maryland alumnus had a greater impact on the world than Jim Henson," Mote said.

Henson spent much of his childhood in Maryland and started his first puppet shows on WTOP-TV in Washington as a high school student in 1954.

He later went to the University of Maryland, and started the show "Sam and Friends" on WRC-TV during his freshman year. He graduated from Maryland in 1960.

In the mid-1960s, Henson collaborated with public television producers to create the children's show "Sesame Street." In 1975, production began on "The Muppet Show," which introduced characters such as Miss Piggy and Fozzie Bear.

Henson later took the Muppets to the movies, producing six feature films, the first of which was "The Muppet Movie." His later ventures included a cartoon series titled "Jim Henson's Muppet Babies" and another puppet show, "Fraggle Rock."

Henson died in 1990 and Wednesday would have been his 67th birthday. His wife, Jane, who also went to the university, said Henson was "a special part of the mid-20th century."

"The way he expressed his joy and tenderness through the puppets and on TV was very special," she said.

For Tim Daniel, a 19-year-old university sophomore from College Park, Jim Henson's Kermit had a much more simple effect on his

need help? have questions? 



AP/LESLIE E. KOSOFF

Deirdre Suddeth, of Lanham, Md., and son Seamus Porter share a seat with Jim Henson and his popular puppet creation, Kermit. The University of Maryland dedicated the statue Wednesday.

U.S. & World News >>
 updated every 30 minutes

from  digital

S P O N S O R S



Advanced search

- [Subscribe now](#)
- [Auctions](#)
- [Coupons](#)
- [Interact](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Contests](#)

life.

"I like Kermit. He's green and he's small. Children like small, funny green things," Daniel said. "He always made me feel happy."

To send flowers, click here

ESSENTIALS

- [Weather](#)
- [Traffic](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Celebrations](#)
- [Government](#)
- [Births](#)
- [Lottery](#)
- [Police news](#)

SPECIALS

[SPACE.COM](#)
News and info about our universe!

[INTERACTIVE TOWN HALL](#)
Participate in government!

[PRIME LIFE](#)
For the mature Delawarean

[DELAWARE WOMAN](#)
Articles, archives, and more for women of the First State

[DELAWARE PARENT](#)
Special section for families

Printer-friendly format

E-mail this article

The New Fun of **Football Fever** Enter your picks online every week! Sponsored by: **MODELL'S** Getta Go To Mo's

Good thing we actually write this stuff down.

[TOP OF PAGE](#) [\[HOME\]](#) [\[NEWS JOURNAL\]](#) [\[ENTERTAINMENT\]](#) [\[HOMES\]](#) [\[CARS\]](#) [\[JOBS\]](#) [\[CLASSIFIEDS\]](#) [\[DIRECTORY\]](#) [\[HELP\]](#) [\[TO ADVERTISE\]](#) [\[CONTACT US\]](#) [\[SEARCH\]](#)

Copyright ©2003, The News Journal. Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) (updated 12/19/2002)