

A Mississippi native, Wesley Ellis first came to Mississippi University for Women in the spring of 1993. He quickly became involved with the student run newspaper *The Spectator*. He spent the next few years serving as photography editor, page designer, columnist and general manager.

After graduating from the W in 1998 with a B.S. in communications, Ellis spent the summer in Acadia National Park in Maine, honing his skills in outdoor photography. He returned to Mississippi that fall to work as a staff photographer with the *Starkville Daily News* and the *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*.

With an award-winning career that began here at MUW, Ellis has photography credits that include *The New York Times*, *Associated Press*, *USA Today*, *Site Selection Magazine*, *stateline.org*, and *Newsweek*.

In January 2000, he was asked by newly elected Governor Ronnie Musgrove to join his staff as photographer. Two years into this administration, Ellis has expanded his role beyond that of photographer to include duties as webmaster and press office advance coordinator.

Ellis opened his own studio in November 2000 to handle his growing number of commercial and portrait clients. He is now involved in the development of a web site for Mississippi-based photographers to exhibit work that may have met obstacles with traditional mediums. The site is scheduled to launch in the fall of 2002.

Ellis lives in Forest, Mississippi with his wife Lea Ann, a 1997 MUW graduate, and their daughter Maggie. An avid golfer and outdoorsman, he serves as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 63 in Forest.