

ACCOUNTING LEADERSHIP TOMMY BUTLER

When Tommy Butler began as a student at Mississippi College, he had no idea that he would one day become an accountant. A pre-dental major at the start, he quickly realized that science was not his calling. With the help of Dr. Gerald Lee, Tommy decided to switch to the School of Business as an accounting major.

As the managing partner of Mississippi operations for HORNE, LLC, Tommy says he is really not in the debit/credit side of accounting business but is in the people business. HORNE has over 550 team members many of whom are in the Mississippi Economic Unit. “The most challenging part of my work is finding the best and brightest to join the firm and keeping them focused on providing the best client service that a firm can offer,” says Tommy. As a leader at HORNE, Tommy uses a team approach to meet his clients’ needs. He works to coordinate different skill sets and skill levels in a way that matches the needs of the client. He says Horne’s team members are its biggest assets, and because of that, he must grow and nurture those team members.

Tommy has been a CPA for more than 25 years and has served in various leadership positions within the Mississippi Society of CPAs. Over 15 years ago, he served on the task force that was responsible for establishing the current quality control rules for accounting in Mississippi. He also served on the Society’s Legislation Committee as chairman. “That committee recently has been

instrumental in getting a new law passed which helps govern CPAs as they perform services in different states,” says Tommy. “It has helped to standardize the laws between states so that CPAs can practice in other states with a more consistent application of policies and procedures.”

He has also been actively involved in the community – from participation in city government to organizations such as the Madison County Foundation, Junior Achievement and the Juvenile Diabetes Association. In 1990, he was elected to the City of Madison Board of Alderman where he served for eight years. “I am very proud of my service to the city and continue to see the results of what was put into place in the way of good planning and zoning,” Tommy says. “The city has grown in a controlled manner while enforcing the highest architectural and land use zoning, and is now recognized across the nation for its high quality and standards.”

Tommy says MC provided him with a great foundation to grow from, not only through the technical skills and people skills required to perform at a high level as a CPA, but also through helping him grow as a Christian. Dean Marcelo Eduardo adds, “Tommy’s leadership at HORNE and in the community sets an excellent example for our current accounting students. We are proud to have Tommy as an alumnus and as a friend of the School of Business.”

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