

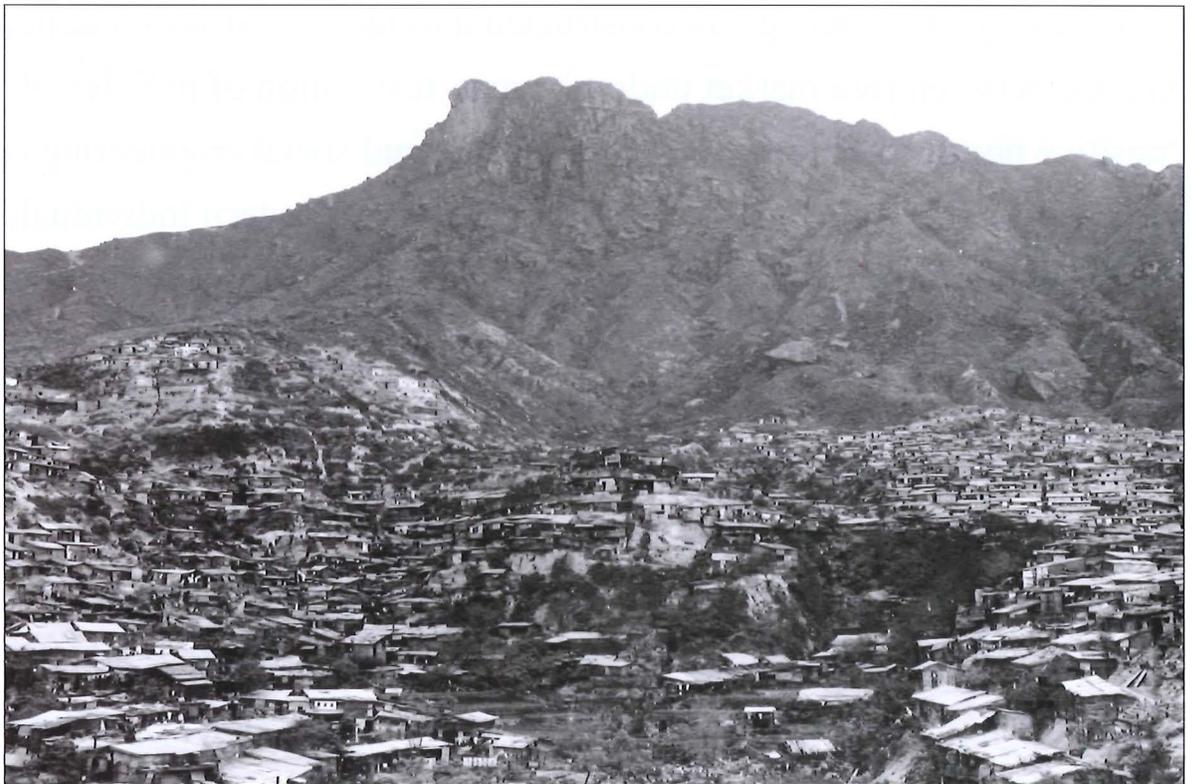
# Opportunities, Rights and Care

In the 1980s, following a period of rapid economic growth, Hong Kong emerged as one of the “four little dragons” of East Asia. However, Hong Kong was perhaps the first among East Asian economies that started to include, alongside the traditional family-based social fabric, a social or human dimension to its development. Individual opportunities and rights, which used to be a concern mostly in individualistic Western societies, became part of the local culture. These are realised in terms of developments in social concern, social policies, social welfare and social institutions. The University’s graduates have played active parts in Hong Kong’s development in all these dimensions.

In reality, Hong Kong has constructed a model that strikes a delicate balance between free market under the manifest notion of policies of “positive non-intervention” on the one hand, and social engineering on the other. It has also tried to strike a balance between Western individualism and Chinese collective behaviour. Such a model may provide important points of reference as well as lessons for the development of other societies at a comparable stage of transition. The University’s graduates, by virtue of the liberal education they received, have played and continue to play a pivotal role in building such a society.

In the past few decades, almost all global debates on social development have been played out in Hong Kong: the role of social welfare, the issue of social inequality and resource redistribution, protection of minorities and the deprived, human rights, and so forth. In each of these debates the University’s graduates have played their parts. They pioneered, advocated and championed causes uncommon and unfashionable at the time, often at some personal sacrifices to themselves.

Over the years, there have been dramatic changes in the demography, the economy and the polity of Hong Kong, and they have occurred in the context of the rapidly changing tide of global ideologies. The University’s graduates play critical roles in the negotiation between ideas, policies and social institutions. They play different roles: as officers, decision-makers, politicians or social advocates, either in their own professions or as second careers outside their normal occupations, sometimes as facilitators or defenders, at other times as opponents to existing social institutions. They stand for different, if not rival, ideologies. Common to them all, however, is the education they received at the University, which has inculcated in them an appreciation of Western ideas, without diminishing their own commitment to a Chinese society.



*Lion Rock and the  
foothill squatter  
area, 1960s*

Hong Kong is a predominantly Chinese society. In the 1870s, some prominent local Chinese set up the earliest voluntary social welfare agencies, including the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and Po Leung Kuk. From the 1900s to the pre-Second World War period, more welfare agencies were established, many of them were run by the church as part of its missionary work in the colony and involved the provision of temporary and emergency relief services and material assistance to the poor.

The establishment of the Social Welfare Department in 1958 marked the beginning of more serious government efforts in social welfare. Thereafter, government efforts were primarily in response to the social situations and demands of the 1960s to late 1970s, such as the riots of 1967, the baby boom of the 1960s, the growing prosperity in the 1970s and the ageing of the population beginning in the 1980s. As Hong Kong society became more affluent in the 1980s and 1990s, there appeared growing concern for the rights of minorities and the underprivileged.



*Tung Wah Group of Hospitals:  
Inauguration, 1971*



*Hong Kong in the post-war era saw the influx of Chinese immigrants.*

## Opportunities

### Rehabilitation

Mary Wong (née Suffiad) 王石崇傑 (BA 1941) was a pioneer in rehabilitation for the physically and mentally handicapped. Her involvement began in 1961 when she became the co-founder and Chairman of the Heep Hong Club for Handicapped Children (now Heep Hong Society). She also served as the Chairman of the Association for Volunteer Service (now the Agency for Volunteer Service). She was outspoken in pressing government for action in social welfare and urged voluntary agencies to better co-ordinate among themselves. She later became the Chairman of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1972.

In 1977, the government published the *White Paper on Rehabilitation*. It conceded the increased public concern for the needs and rights of the disabled. Since the 1960s, Harry Fang Sin-yang 方心讓 (MBBS 1949, HonLLD 1977), has been a key figure in raising public awareness of rehabilitation needs and in securing more facilities and services for the disabled.

### Harry Fang Sin-yang

The Orthopaedic Surgeon and Medical Superintendent (until June 2002, thereafter Adviser) of St Paul's Hospital until 2002, Harry Fang Sin-yang has made contributions to the profession as well as the community over the past 50 years. He is renowned for his commitment and contributions to the development of rehabilitation and welfare services in Hong Kong.

Fang had served as the Chairman of the Rehabilitation Co-ordinating Committee and Social Welfare Advisory Committee, the two top rehabilitation and welfare policy agencies in the government. During the period when he served as a member of the Legislative and Executive Councils in the 1970s and 1980s, he helped establish various rehabilitation facilities and organisations, including the Duchess of Kent Children's Orthopaedic Hospital, Margaret Trench Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically Handicapped, Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped, and MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre.



Harry Fang in the early 1970s

Fang also headed the Hong Kong Joint Council for the Physically and Mentally Disabled, the Riding for the Disabled Association, Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation, the Central Co-ordinating Committee of the International Year of Disabled Persons and FESPIC games for the Disabled Organising Committee. He had played an important role in securing funding for the development of rehabilitation services.

At the international level, Fang became President of Rehabilitation International in the early 1980s, President of FESPIC Games Federation and a consultant on Rehabilitation Planning and Development for the World Health Organisation. In recent years, Fang has also taken part in the training of rehabilitation personnel for China. He was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal by the HKSAR government in 2001 and the Paralympic Order by the International Paralympic Committee in 2002.



Harry Fang (middle) with Tse Tsun-him 謝俊謙 (BSc(Gen) 1970, BSc(Sp) 1971) (second right)



Harry Fang with Deng Pufang 鄧樸方 at the Third International Abilympics held in Hong Kong, 1991

### Chong Chan-yau

Among the success stories of minorities and the disabled in Hong Kong, that of Chong Chan-yau 莊陳有 (BA 1981) is probably the most widely reported and impressive. Born into a poor family of seven children, Chong lost his eyesight at the age of six. He went on to become an outstanding student at Ebenezer School, a school for the blind. During Secondary Four, he studied Mathematics in a normal school, the first blind student to do so. In 1978, he became one of the very few blind students admitted to HKU. (The first blind student was admitted to HKU in 1976.)



*Chong Chan-yau (left) during a visit to a mainland village recovering from earthquake*

After graduation, Chong obtained a scholarship to study for his Master in Information Technology Management at the London School of Economics and Political Science. On his return, he worked as a social work lecturer at Baptist University and was named one of Hong Kong's Ten Outstanding Young Persons in 1991, and became the first blind Administrative Officer in Hong Kong government in 1992. A year later, he joined Oxfam Hong Kong, an internationally regarded charity and relief organisation, and is now its Executive Director.

### Ex-offenders and Drug Addicts

Hong Kong has also faced social problems associated with offenders and substance abusers. The Society for the Rehabilitation of Offenders Hong Kong and the Society for the Aid and Rehabilitation of Drug Addicts (SARDA) were set up in 1956 and in 1961 respectively to help these two groups. One HKU graduate who has dedicated 25 years of service to the rehabilitation of drug users and ex-offenders is Frederick Yu Sak-kwong 余錫光 (BA



*Frederick Yu Sak-kwong*

1960). An accountant by profession, he joined the two voluntary agencies as Honorary Treasurer in 1976. He became Chairman of the former from 1978 to 1985 and the latter from 1985 to 1999. As a result of his advocacy and efforts, SARDA started providing counselling services to patients of methadone clinics in 1993. In 1998, he facilitated the establishment of a services company to provide employment opportunities for ex-offenders. Yu also successfully set up a centre for young drug abusers and a rehabilitation centre for women in 1997, each being the first of its kind in Hong Kong.



*The 1966-67 riots*

The riots of 1966 and 1967 greatly affected subsequent social development in Hong Kong. The riots prompted government's sensitivity to dissatisfaction and frustration amongst young people and led to a period of active promotion of social and recreational activities for their benefit.

### Youth Services

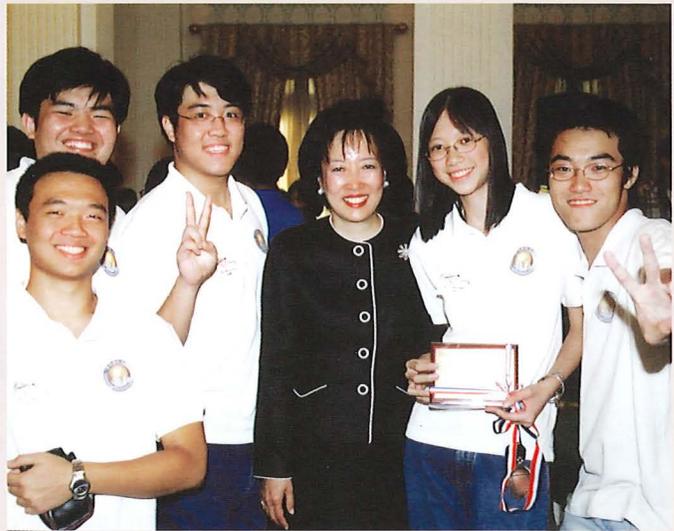
Youth services were given further momentum in the 1970s when juvenile delinquency was attracting much social concern. In 1973, Agnes Ng Mung-chan 吳夢珍 (CertSocSt 1961), an eminent social researcher and a professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, was commissioned by the government to conduct research for a report entitled *The Social Causes of Violent Crimes Among Young Offenders in Hong Kong*. The report became a blueprint for the 1977 *Green Paper on Personal*

*Social Work Among Young People in Hong Kong.* This has led to the subsequent decades of development and expansion of services for the young: youth outreach work, family life education, school social work and children and youth activities.

### Rosanna Wong Yick-man

A major provider of youth services through the turbulent years has been the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups set up in 1960. Rosanna Wong Yick-ming 王葛鳴 (BSocSc 1975) has become a representative figure in this field since joining the Federation as its Executive Director in 1980. She was the architect of many new initiatives, including youth exchange projects and overseas study tours, a Youth Research Centre and rehabilitation programme for mentally handicapped children and teenagers and day nurseries.

Wong has also had direct and significant impact on youth policies and services. She was the Chairman of the Commission on Youth and a member of UNICEF from 1986 to 1991. In 1994, she gave strong support to lowering the voting age of young people from 21 to 18. She has also been a member of the Executive Council for over twelve years. Among many other important positions in various policy advisory committees, relevant to youth was Wong's appointment to the Chair of the Education Commission in 2001. On another front, Wong is currently the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the World Vision Hong Kong.



*Rosanna Wong Yick-ming (third right)*

Justina Leung Ngai Mou-yin 梁魏懋賢 (MSW 1979) is known for her devotion to young people. She is the long-time Director of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (BGCA) which she joined in 1976. The Association was founded in 1936 to promote the welfare of youngsters in Hong Kong. Under Ngai's directorship, BGCA set up the first telephone hotline for children and introduced new services such as residential care and counselling for children and young people, and their first kindergarten and multi-service centre.

The only voluntary agency in Hong Kong providing residential care and special education for young girls and women at risk is run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. First established in Hung Hom fifty years ago, the Sisters have run various facilities including the Pelletier Hall and Marycove Centre. One of the Sisters who worked in this field was Sister John (Rufina) Pasion (MSW 1981). She served for over 30 years in both Pelletier Hall and Marycove Centre. She was Superintendent of Marycove Centre until poor health forced her into early retirement and is well remembered by all those who once were under her care. Sister Bernadette Yuen Hoi-fung 阮開鳳 (BSW 1992) succeeded Sister John Pasion as Superintendent of Marycove Centre until she was named District Superior of the Good Shepherd Sisters – China District, which covers various facilities for girls and women in Taiwan and Macau, including hostels for working girls and students, domestic violence shelters and crisis intervention centres. The incumbent Superintendent of Marycove Centre, Phoebe Chiu Lau Sin-hung 招劉倩虹 (MSW 1980), has worked there since her graduation.



*Justina Leung Ngai Mou-yin  
with children*



Father Peter Newbery (left, back) and the Youth Outreach

Another outstanding graduate involved in youth work is Father Peter Newbery 李文烈 (CertChinLang 1970, BSocSc 1981, MSW 1991) who founded a voluntary agency, Youth Outreach, about ten years ago. It provides all night outreach and crisis intervention services to young people on the street and is now one of the most successful agencies in the field.

Sister John, Sister Bernadette and Father Newbery are outstanding examples of those who have long been dedicated welfare workers of their religious congregation before acquiring their professional training and qualifications in social work at HKU.

## Rights

### Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity is perhaps a concept that is more readily acceptable in Western societies than others, but appeals to a free-market such as Hong Kong where competition is an essential feature. It also echoes the spirit of the Civil Examination in ancient China where equal opportunity, regardless of family background, underpinned the keen competition. However, discrimination against minorities and certain social groups was almost taken for granted and has never been tackled. For example, until 1975 female government employees received lower salaries than their male counterparts with the same experience and merit. There is accepted discrimination against pregnant women, the disabled, elderly and other minorities such as new immigrants and South Asian citizens.

The first battles for equal opportunity were fought by women with an awakening to the equal rights of women which occurred in the 1970s. Within the Civil Service, although woman civil servants received equal pay in 1975, they were not entitled to the same fringe benefits as their male counterparts. In 1979, the Association of Female Senior Government Officers was formed to fight for full parity. The first Chairperson of the Association

was Pauline Cheung Cheng Po-lin 張鄭寶蓮 (BA 1958). A year later, Anson Chan (née Fang) 陳方安生 (BA 1962, HonLLD 1996) became the Chairlady and served for three years. Three years later, female civil servants won the same fringe benefits as their male counterparts.

Outside the Civil Service, the story of feminism in Hong Kong started with expatriate women who founded the Hong Kong Council of Women and set up the first Women's Centre at Lai Kok Estate in Cheung Sha Wan. The 1980s saw the emergence of a group of locally educated women who were actively involved in student and social movements. Many of them were from HKU, such as Chan Poking 陳寶瓊 (BA 1980, CertEd 1982), Alice Ho Chi-kwan 何芝君 (BSocSc 1975) and Vera Lam Moon-hing 林滿馨 (BA 1981, CertEd 1983, LLB 1989, PCLL 1990). They formed the Association for the Advancement of Feminism in 1984, with Chan Po-king as the Founding Chairperson. Its Executive Secretary from 1989 to 2001 was Tsang Gar-yin 曾嘉燕 (BSocSc 1980). The Association focuses on policy



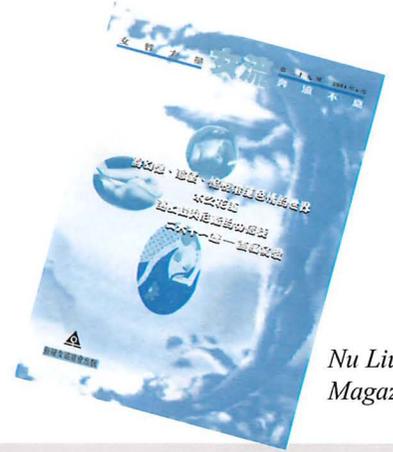
Young women in labour-intensive factories, 1960s



Pauline Cheung Cheng Po-lin

advocacy, public education and awareness, resources development, publication and free legal advice. It has launched signature campaigns for the provision of childcare services and the inheritance rights of female indigenous residents in the New Territories. They have also striven to make Hong Kong a signatory to the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*, which resulted in the setting up of the Women's Commission in 2000. Since 1987, it has published the magazine *Nu Liu* (女流).

In 1996, for the first time in Hong Kong's history, and perhaps a precedent in Asian jurisdictions, the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission institutionalised the concept of equal opportunities. Among the leading figures in this development is Anna Wu Hung-yuk 胡紅玉 (LLB 1974, PCLL 1975).



*Nu Liu*  
Magazine

### Anna Wu Hung-yuk



As student

Before her appointment as a Legislative Council member in 1992, Anna Wu Hung-yuk was a lawyer in intellectual property and commercial law. At that time, the Bill of Rights only covered public organisations. Wu succeeded in fighting for the extension of the Bill to include private individuals. She started drafting a private member's bill in 1994 on equal opportunities forcing the government to put forward its own bill in order to avoid embarrassment. Eventually, the Disability Discrimination and Sex Discrimination Ordinances were enacted in 1995 and the Family Status Discrimination Ordinance in 1996. In the same

year, the Equal Opportunities Commission was established to enforce the new Ordinances.

Wu was appointed the Chairperson of the Commission in 1999. In 2000, the Commission won a landmark court case about discrimination against job applicants for the disciplined services whose family members have a history of mental illness. The other famous controversial case in 2002 was against the Education Department which had segregated allocation of boys and girls to secondary schools.



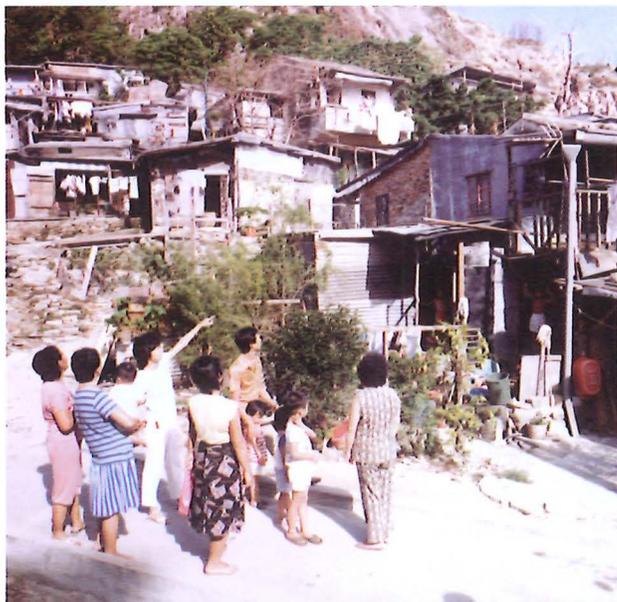
### Consumer Rights

Consumer rights were perhaps the first amongst citizens' rights that were formally recognised by the government. In 1974, the government set up the Consumer Council to protect the rights of consumers. The first Chairman was Kan Yuet-keung 簡悅強 (BA 1935, HonLLD 1973) and the Administrative Secretary was Ophelia Cheung Look-ping 張綠萍 (BA 1963). The latter post was eventually renamed Executive Director, and Cheung served in that position until 1985. During that period, she played a key role in turning the Consumer Council from a fledgling experiment into a mature and responsive consumer rights organisation. A whole new institution was established, with consumer centres, publications (*Choice* magazine), and advocacy in consumer legislation and public education. The Consumer Council is not only known internationally for the enhancement of consumer awareness, but also has a reputation for fostering a culture of honesty and fairness in a free market. Indeed, all past Council chairmen had been



Gallant Ho Yiu-tai and  
Ophelia Cheung Look-ping

HKU graduates: Lo Kwee-seong 羅桂祥 (BA 1935, HonLLD 1982) (1975-1980), Gallant Ho Yiu-tai 何耀棣 (BA 1965) (1980-1984), Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye 周梁淑怡 (BA 1965) (1984-1988), Martin Lee Chu-ming 李柱銘 (BA 1960) (1988-1991), Edward Chen Kwan-yiu 陳坤耀 (BA 1967, MSocSc 1971) (1991-1997) and Anna Wu Hung-yuk (1997-1999).



Squatter huts, mid-1970s

### The Underprivileged

There are other social groups in the Hong Kong community that are underprivileged, yet not knowledgeable, well-organised or vocal enough to have their voices heard. Community work is about helping these people to get organised, to articulate their needs, and to receive fair concern and recognition for their welfare. Joe Leung Cho-bun 梁祖彬 (BSocSc 1971, MA 1978, PhD 1990) was a trailblazer in local community work. He joined Yang's Social Services Centre as a community worker after graduation and was the first professional social worker to introduce a proactive social action model through organisation intervention. In 1971-72, with his intervention and encouragement, the Yaumatei boat dwellers organised and campaigned for their resettlement demands. It was a rather unprecedented radical action where an organised social group took to the street, and that was successful. Leung is now Head of the Department of Social

Work and Social Administration at HKU.

Another HKU graduate who advocates the rights of the underprivileged is Fung Ho-lup 馮可立 (BSocSc 1974, MSW 1978). He was the Director of the Society for Community Organisation (SoCo) from the late 1970s through most of the 1980s. SoCo was set up in 1974 as a pressure group very active in fighting for the rights of the underprivileged for re-housing, education, medical and health services and social welfare facilities. The organisation staged countless petitions and protests which were considered radical at the time. Fung was arrested in 1979 and was charged with unlawful assembly. Fung is now a social work professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Fung Ho-lup

### Labour Rights

It is undeniable that labour has been a crucial issue in the social development of Hong Kong whose economy has been built upon the labour of grassroot workers. In the 1950s and 1960s, labour unions were largely dominated by political influences from the Communist Party on the mainland or the Nationalist Party in Taiwan. Their objectives were largely political rather than economic. The riots in 1956 and 1967, both political in nature, had little effect upon mainstream labour relations. Until Hong Kong's last decade as a colony, employer-employee relations were often the envy of many. Apart from sporadic incidents, conflicts were often solved in peaceful negotiation.

The formation of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions (CTU) in 1991 marked a new turn. It was almost the first labour union to be free of political affiliations.



*Boat dwellers, early 1970s*

### Lee Cheuk-yan

One of its founders is Lee Cheuk-yan 李卓人 (BSc(Eng) 1978). In 1980, he joined the Hong Kong Christian Industrial Committee and campaigned for labour rights. He also helped found the Association for the Rights of Industrial Accident Victims. In 1990, he was one of the founders of CTU and has been its General Secretary since 1996. In the years since its establishment the CTU has grown into a respectable labour representative and is seen to be an ally of the Democrats.

In 1995, Lee was elected a Legislative Councillor and introduced a private member's bill to establish collective negotiation power for workers. The bill was passed in 1997, a historical event for labour rights in Hong Kong, though it was abolished after 1997's transition of sovereignty. By raising other private members' bills in the Legislative Council, he has also successfully brought about changes in labour laws that favour employees. These include the increase of workers' maternity pay and the lowering of minimum years of service for entitlement to long service pay.



### AIDS

The emergence of Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the 1980s was received largely with misunderstanding, ignorance and discrimination by the people of Hong Kong. Frederick Tong Kin-sang 唐建生 (BSocSc 1977) was one of the forerunners in fighting discriminations against HIV victims. He joined the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, set up in 1991, as its first Chief Executive and championed and pioneered the battle for the rights of HIV patients. Massive public awareness and education campaigns were launched, and were helped by young volunteers. Tong's efforts have helped dispel local fear and misunderstanding about HIV infection and foster a more receptive and positive attitude towards the disease. Tong is now with the Equal Opportunities Commission as Director of its Disability Division.



## Care

### Emergency Relief

Red Cross Hong Kong was set up in 1950 and was one of the earliest welfare organisations involved in emergency relief work. Cheng Tung-choy 鄭棟材 (BA 1939) joined the group in 1966 and later became its Chairman. He was instrumental in localising Red Cross Hong Kong and initiating the interflow with the Red Cross Society of China. He was also the key person in securing the organisation's high degree of autonomy after 1997.



*Cheng Tung-choy (right)*

Christine Fang Meng-sang 方敏生 (BSocSc 1980) joined the Hong Kong Red Cross in 1989 and was responsible for its youth and welfare services. In 1993, she became the Secretary General and launched its international relief programmes. Large-scale fund raising activities and mobilisation of resources in Hong Kong helped victims of disaster in Rwanda, Iran, China, Taiwan and other places. Fang has put Red Cross Hong Kong on the international map and has been instrumental in introducing international relief experience into China through exchange

programmes and advisory and consultancy services. She is currently the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

### The Elderly

There is an increasing demand for services from Hong Kong's growing elderly population. In part, this demand has been caused by the collapse of the nuclear family structure and the weakening of family bonds amongst the local population. St James' Settlement was one of the earliest voluntary agencies to provide services for the elderly. Michael Lai Kam-cheung 賴錦璋 (BSocSc 1970), after being the Superintendent of St Christopher's Home for 15 years, joined St James' Settlement in 1990 as the Director and launched an expansion in social services. Subsequently, he also set up two self-financing Homes for the Aged in 1993 and 1998 respectively.



*Christine Fang Meng-sang*



*Michael Lai Kam-cheung*



*Campaign promoting successful ageing*



*Po Leung Kuk, 1930s*

### Charitable Services

The Tung Wah Group of Hospitals is the oldest and largest charitable organisation in Hong Kong devoted to medical and health, education, and community services. Wang Tse-sam 王澤森 (BSc(Eng) 1941), Philip Wong Kin-hang 黃乾亨 (BA 1955) and Wilson Cheung 張威臣 (BArch 1969), were Chairmen of the group in 1957, 1971 and 1977 respectively. Leung Kam-fong 梁錦芳 (BSc(Eng) 1965) is currently its Chief Executive.

From the 1970s, HKU graduates have made significant impact upon one of the oldest local charity organisations, the Po Leung Kuk. Established in 1878, the Kuk primarily engaged in suppressing the abduction of women and children and providing shelter and education for victims. Several earlier HKU graduates served as members of the Kuk, such as Woo Hui Luk-yip 胡許綠葉 (MBBS 1934) in the 1950s, Dexter Man Hung-cho 文洪磋 (BSc(Eng) 1940), Edmund Tam Wing-fan 譚榮芬 (BArch 1956) and Chau Kai-heem 周啟謙 (BSc(Eng) 1952) in the 1960s.

The 1970s saw a number of graduates elected chairman of the Kuk. They included Gallant Ho Yiu-tai and Peter Li Ping-lam 李秉琳 (BA 1958). Christopher Chan Cheuk 陳爵 (BA 1964, MA 1967) and Jimmy Wong Chi-ho 王賜豪 (MBBS 1986) were Vice-chairmen in the 1980s and 1990s, while Lee Jark-pui 李澤培 (BA 1962) was Chairman from 1996-1997. They have also helped the Kuk expand its services in the fields of education, rehabilitation and welfare in recent decades.

### Family Planning and Sex Education

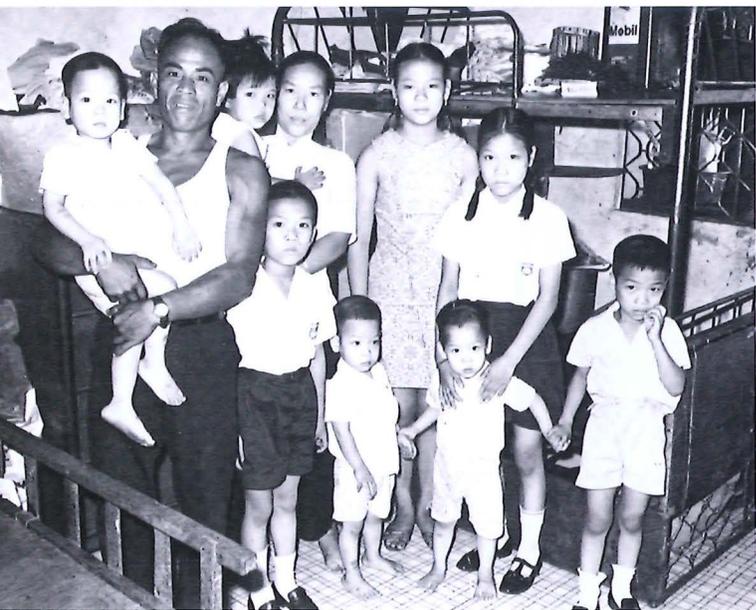
The 1960s were marked by the influx of illegal immigrants from China with the attendant population increases stretching social services and creating associated social problems. In 1962, within half a year the population increased by more than 300,000 people. The Family Planning Association (FPA), set up in 1950, was on hand to promote birth control and contain the population problem. The forerunner in birth control and family planning in Hong Kong was Daphne Chun Wai-chan 秦惠珍 (MBBS 1940, HonDSocSc 1972). She was a leading obstetrician and gynaecologist and a founding member of the FPA. From 1957 to



*Philip Wong Kin-hang (third right) accompanying Princess Anne at her visit to the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, 1971*



*"Two is enough" – promoting family planning in the 1970s*



*Typical post-war Hong Kong working class family*

1973, Chun was its President as well as the Chief Executive of Tsan Yuk Hospital, a major maternity hospital in Hong Kong. The period also saw the rapid expansion of the FPA from a small voluntary agency to a large and internationally respected association, the success of which could be reflected in the significant drop in the birth rate from over 35 percent in the late 1950s to 19 percent by the mid-1970s.

The next generation of HKU graduates also played an important role in family planning. Ma Chung Ho-kei 馬鍾可璣 (MBBS 1958) was the Chairman of the FPA from 1973 to 1978 and its President from 1983-1995. This period saw the further drop in the birth rate to eleven percent by the mid-1990s, the launching of the very successful “Two is Enough” publicity campaign and the introduction of many new services. These included pre-marital medical check-ups, youth advisory services, the opening of the Women’s Club, artificial insemination and gynaecological check-ups.

Sex is an issue in Hong Kong where Chinese traditional conservatism collides head-on with liberal Western thoughts. The breakthrough took place in the 1960s, when sex education was initiated by the FPA. Since then there has been a general trend towards liberalism, with social norms developing with time and supported by social institutions such as law and education. In 1986, sex education was formally introduced to schools through the publication of the Sex Education Guideline by the Education Department. One of the outstanding yet controversial figures in sex education is Ng Man-lun 吳敏倫 (MBBS 1971, MD 1992). Ng adopts a very open approach to sexuality, which often stretches and tests the tolerance of the local community. However, he is less known for his serious efforts in promoting sex education and research into Chinese sexology. He set up the Hong Kong Sex Education Association in 1985 and has been active in part-time study programmes and in the media. He is best known for his contribution to the RTHK series “Sex is Good” (性本善) starting 1988. His study of Sexual Behaviour in Modern China, conducted in 1989 and covering some 20,000 people, is often seen as China’s first “Kinsey Report”. An Asian Federation for Sexology was formed in 1992 with Ng as the founding President.



*Ng Man-lun in an RTHK programme*

## *Infrastructure*

### **Services Co-ordination and Management**

Hong Kong has developed a model where voluntary non-governmental-organisations (NGOs) play an essential role in the improvement of society. Apart from those who work on the frontline, there are infrastructural organisations that provide a platform to facilitate the work of NGOs. These include overarching associations and confederations of organisations. HKU graduates have provided leadership and played co-ordinating, planning and administrative roles in NGOs or in para-agency organisations.

In the voluntary welfare sector, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service is the confederation of social service providers. The Council, headed by Hui Yin-fat 許賢發 (BA 1960, DipSocStud 1961) who succeeded Mary Wong, has grown from 40 odd member agencies to over 270 in 2001, providing 85 percent of social services in Hong Kong. The Council has pivotal influence on social service policies.

### Hui Yin-fat



Hui Yin-fat joined the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in 1967 and was its Director from 1973 to 2001.

During this time, the Council has pioneered new types of social services in Hong Kong such as school social services and services for new arrivals. It also facilitated the establishment of various welfare agencies including the Hong Kong Family Welfare Society, the Association for Volunteer Services, Hong Kong Sports Association for the Physically

Disabled and the Hong Kong PHAB Association. Hui also actively advocated the expansion of training for social workers. There are now social work training programmes in nearly all the tertiary educational institutions.

Hong Kong has become known for the social services provided by NGOs. Hui was elected the President of the International Council on Social Welfare, reflecting Hong Kong's role in the international welfare scene. From 1990-2000, he was the Vice-President of the International Federation for Ageing and was instrumental in bringing about China's membership in the Federation.



*Hui Yin-fat (left) visiting a caged man*

The Social Welfare Department was established in 1958. Since the early 1980s, the Directorship of the department has always been filled by Administrative Officers. Among the better known were Anson Chan in the mid-1980s and Elizabeth Wong Chien Chi-lien 黃錢其濂 (BA 1959, DipEd 1960) in the late 1980s. The incumbent Director is Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor 林鄭月娥 (BSocSc 1980).

### Volunteer Services

Volunteer services can be seen as an exchange of good-will and recognition that facilitates social integration among society's members. Lee Jark-pui, a civil servant-turned businessman is a staunch supporter of volunteer services. He has been a Council Member of the Agency for Volunteer Service since the 1980s and has served as its Chairman since 1991, involving himself in many projects to promote the volunteering spirit in social services. At the international level, he is the Chairman of the Hong Kong China Committee on United Nations Volunteers and the Chairman of the Steering Committee on the International Year of Volunteers.



*Lee Jark-pui*

### Professional Education and Professionalisation

Professionalisation and professional standards are essential to social services where client satisfaction is the primary goal. In 1967, the Department of Social Work was established at HKU and admitted the first generation of social work students. Since then there has been a general development requiring formal training among social workers. This development has not been swift given the large number of practitioners who are not formally trained and the absence of a representative union.

Academics of the University form a hub of people with the same vision, with the desire to understand society and its problems, and with the liberty to play advocates, sometimes deviating from the norm, amidst sensitive conflicts of interest. They have trained



*HKU students visiting the poor, 1960s*

graduates to have a social conscience. Others have assumed crucial positions in either government advisory bodies or in the legislature, and have direct influence to social policies.

Over the years, there has been a general transformation of academics in the realm of social policies. Until the mid-1980s, they were mostly experienced practitioners with a passion directed towards their clients, but lacked the academic gravitas to assume leadership and influence over society.

The award of the first PhD by the Social Work Department of HKU to Nelson Chow Wing-sun 周永新 (BA 1969, DipSocWk 1970, PhD 1978) marked the beginning of a new generation of prominent local academics in the realm of social work and social policies. Chow's academic interests span social work, social policy and administration, social security and elderly services. He is known for his comprehensive knowledge on social policies in Hong Kong. He is also a columnist who is against a "welfare state". He has been instrumental in transforming the Department to one of academics with deep practical involvement.

A social work educator with extensive field experience, Cecilia Chan Lai-wan 陳麗雲 (BSocSc 1978, MSocSc 1984, PhD 1991) is a typical example of a field practitioner turned academic. She focuses on services for patients suffering from chronic illness and helped them form the Alliance of Patients Mutual Help Organisations. In 1994, she set up the Community Rehabilitation Network and many hospital patient resource centres, which encourage patients to support and help each other. She was granted the Outstanding Social Worker Award in the same year. She was the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of HKU, 1998-2001.

There are also many graduates working as academics in other local institutions in the realm of social work and social policies.

A milestone in the development of the social work profession was the formation of its own trade union, the Hong Kong Social Workers' General Union in 1980. Mak Hoi-wah 麥海華 (BA 1976, MSW 1978) and Joe Leung Cho-bun were the main initiators and were instrumental in the founding of the Union. The Union has played important roles in promoting the rights and interests of social workers in Hong Kong. Mak

served as the Founding President of the Union until 1988 and is also a core member of the Democratic Party and an academic at the City University of Hong Kong.

Another milestone was the Social Workers Registration Ordinance which came into effect in 1998. The Ordinance requires practising social workers to register as recognition of the professional status of social workers. A Registration Board was also set up to enforce the Ordinance. Patricia Chu Yeung Pak-yu 朱楊珀瑜 (BA 1968, MSW 1975) has chaired the Board since 1998.

### Social Analysts

Some graduates take the role of critics and analysts of socio-political issues and policies. Notable examples include Lau Siu-kai 劉兆佳 (BSocSc 1971) who is now Head of the Central Policy Unit of the SAR government (previously Associate Director of CUHK's Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies), Wong Siu-lun 黃紹倫 (BSocSc 1971) who founded the HKU Social Sciences Research Centre in



*Chow Wing-sun*



*Cecilia Chan Lai-wan (fourth left)*



*Patricia Chu  
Yeung Pak-yu*

1987 to promote academic research, and Lee Ming-kwan 李明堃 (BSocSc 1971) who is teaching at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Wong was appointed Director of the Centre of Asian Studies in 1996. His research interests include the study of entrepreneurship, business networks, migration, social indicators, and the development of sociology in China.

### Promotion of Social Work in China

There has always been a high level of social exchange between the mainland and Hong Kong. Social services are no exception. The Department of Social Work and Social Administration at HKU is a forerunner in the promotion of social work on the mainland. As early as 1985, Nelson Chow Wing-sun and Cecilia Chan Lai-wan were among the first social work educators teaching and conducting research at Zhongshan University in Guangzhou. Since 1985, Chan has also organised training programmes for social work teachers in China.

When Law Chi-kwong 羅致光 (BSocSc 1976, MSW 1981) was head of the Department, the China Study Research Centre was established in 1996 to provide data support for research on the mainland.

### Looking Ahead

Hong Kong has come a long way in establishing the notions of opportunities and rights in a society that is essentially Chinese. It has created a particular framework to add a human dimension to the aggressiveness that is demanded by competition. It has also created room for individuals to opt out or to lose out on such a competition, yet to survive as a respected member of the community. Although Hong Kong itself may feel unsatisfied with these developments, it has nonetheless created a model whereby a traditional East Asian community, collective and family-bonded, adapts itself to a modern society. Much of what has been developed in Hong Kong is now a model for similar societies around the region.

HKU graduates have been well placed in leading such developments. Their education has given them an open mind to move away from traditional values where necessary, yet to effectively defend tradition where it is right and good. They have made constructive compromises and arrived at new ways of developing society. It is notable that many HKU graduates have done so without the benefit of power. Their sustained will, their ability to organise and their tactics and talents in negotiation have all contributed to their achievements, which are often thankless.

Yet, Hong Kong must move forward. The ensuing decades that face the SAR will present other challenges. Society will be significantly changed with numerous small enterprises, an increasing number of self-employed white collar workers, and weakened family links, for example. The existing social ideologies and social institutions may require a thorough rethinking. These are the challenges that await HKU graduates.



*Social work in China*



*Law Chi-kwong*



*Pleading for better social service*