

# GROWING WITH HONG KONG

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The University and Its Graduates - The First *90* Years

**A Convocation Project**



**The University of Hong Kong**

**Hong Kong University Press**

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**The University of Hong Kong**

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## **Mace**

*The mace, which is made of gilt silver inlaid with green and rose jade, is carried in University processions as a symbol of the Chancellor's authority.*



# Overview



An early Chinese map of the Pearl River Delta before Hong Kong had become a British colony

What is in a university?

A university enjoys unique fame and status because it is there to serve the advancement of knowledge; but what distinguishes a university from a pure research institute is that it has students, and hence graduates. This is perhaps the essence of John Henry Newman's *The Idea of a University* (1852), that it is about "the culture of the intellect" and the "real cultivation of mind". Such notions, ancient as they are, have even more relevance today in a knowledge society where people thrive beyond boundaries of disciplines, occupations, organisations, geography and nations.

These ideals underpin the compilation of this monograph. The artificial division into chapters, based on professions, should not mask the pervasiveness, versatility and diversity so conspicuously demonstrated by generations of graduates of the University of Hong Kong. Their footprints are all over the public and private sectors, among officialdom and advocates, entrepreneurs and the populace, and across rival political affiliations. It is also not unusual for a HKU graduate to have



*The Victoria City built by the British after 1841: the Central District in early 20th century*

gone through several occupations, served a variety of communities and worked across organisations of different cultures. But it is in transcending “characteristic excellences”, again quoting Newman, that HKU graduates have made the most impact at different stages of Hong Kong’s economic, social and political developments. And that is what a university is about.

The ceding of the fishing island to Britain in 1842 marked the beginning of the end to the Qing Dynasty in China. It was Sun Yat-sen, an alumnus, who put the final nails to the coffin of the monarchy, coincidentally in 1911 when the University was formally established in the colony, succeeding the College of Medicine (founded as early as 1887). The first and oldest university in Hong Kong was born in paradoxical circumstances, and has lived the past 90 years with a miraculous intertwining of cultures and ideologies.

As such, the University has never developed as a pure colonial apparatus. The University, modelled after red-brick autonomous academic institutions, highlights freedom, diversity and integrity. The liberal campus life and the diverse learning experiences have nurtured graduates

who carry with them the missions of the time, and have given them the enormous capacity to accommodate new ideas, new challenges and new ventures. They have thus become key actors in the dramatic development of Hong Kong.

In the early years until the 1950s, HKU graduates served Hong Kong as professionals, as medical doctors and engineers in particular, but they also emerged as the handful of prominent community leaders with local upbringing. During the economic take-off from the 1960s through to the early 1980s, HKU graduates were the privileged intellectuals. As civil servants, teachers and other professionals, they were instrumental in building the infrastructure for a cosmopolitan city which then became part of the “East Asian Miracle”.

In recent years, more HKU graduates have risen to the helms in private enterprises that harbinger and champion the knowledge economy. But many are also crucial players, movers and shakers, before, during and after the change of Hong Kong’s sovereignty. Together with the people of Hong Kong, and with graduates from other institutions, local and



*Hong Kong in the early 1960s, looking from the West side of the Island*

abroad, they now face the daunting task of bringing Hong Kong through the challenges of the new economy and new polity.

What then are the “characteristic excellences” among HKU graduates? Read through the chapters and a few themes unfold. Commitment stands out as the most prominent characteristic: commitment to the community and commitment to self-fulfilment. With commitment comes the determination many HKU graduates have in navigating the arenas, transcending political regimes and surfing economic fluctuations. With that they dare to lead at difficult times in sophisticated institutions. With that they champion social movements and advocate social justice.

HKU graduates are cosmopolitan. The multicultural nature of the University has made an essential impact on its graduates who, with their privileged positions in society, have in turn shaped the cosmopolitan culture of Hong Kong. Conversely, Hong Kong has provided the fertile soil for HKU graduates to grow in their cosmopolitan orientations. Hong Kong is a place where traditions and philosophies cross, where East and West meet, and this is typified by HKU and its graduates.



*Hong Kong in the early 1970s*



*HKU students, 2001*

HKU graduates have demonstrated unusual comfort and ease in moving across cultures and over the international arena. The liberal education at HKU is reflected among its graduates in their liberal thinking and characteristic openness. They have learnt to accommodate diverse opinions, conflicting interests and even rival ideologies. They enjoy exposing themselves to the unexplored, breaking through the status quo and taking on the risks in pioneering and innovating. As such, HKU graduates are unconventional, at times even controversial. As such, they sail through changes and sometimes herald trends. They are keen in preserving their own cultural heritage, but are equally known for challenging cultural bounds.

HKU graduates are perhaps more individualistic than intellectuals in other Chinese communities. Their confidence could easily be mistaken as arrogance. But in the bosoms of HKU graduates live the ideals of commitment, loyalty and even sacrifice, qualities that have long been expected and respected as virtues among Chinese intellectuals. These are the very qualities HKU graduates treasure.

Such “characteristic excellences” are also what Hong Kong society cherishes. Growing with Hong Kong, the life-history of HKU graduates



has also rendered this monograph a document of Hong Kong's development, not only its up and downs, but also its evolving dreams and values. Indeed, HKU graduates are part of the intellectual mosaic that has made up Hong Kong.

HKU has been privileged, and with this comes a distinct sense of duty and responsibility among its graduates. At this juncture, when Hong Kong is repositioning itself within China and redefining its role in the global community, so are HKU and its graduates. We face a new era where privileges are redistributed, achievements short-lived and confidence challenged. With the tradition of excellences and most of all commitment, the next generations of graduates must now scale new heights in order to brave the new world in front of them.

A monograph like this necessarily indulges in the past. But the past is no guarantee – even though it may serve as guidance, oracle or inspiration – for the future. As a testimony of graduates' impact from the oldest tertiary institution in Hong Kong, this monograph will serve to illuminate the future, and shed light on the meanings and idea of a university, in particular the University of Hong Kong.



*Beijing celebrating the Hong Kong handover, 1997*

Chapter

1



# The Changing Profiles



## *The Beginning*

At the turn of the twentieth century, rising aspirations of Chinese students both on the mainland and in Hong Kong resulted in a growing demand for university education. Many went abroad to study in Europe, America and Japan. At one time, there were about 13,000 Chinese students being trained in Japan, but that number subsequently fell to 3,000 by 1912. There was also an increasing number of institutions based on Western models being established in China itself.

Frederick Lugard, the Governor of Hong Kong (1907-1912), actively pursued the establishment of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) to serve as a British university in Hong Kong for China. The purpose of setting up the University was clear – to provide a British-style university education for Chinese students so as to assist in the modernisation of China. Lugard's idea fired the imagination of a Parsee, the merchant and broker Hormusjee Nowrojee Mody who made a preliminary offer of HK\$150,000 for the erection of the first buildings and the endowment of a university in 1908. The year before this offer, the College of Medicine had received the gift of \$50,000 from another local merchant, Ng Li-hing 吳理卿, to erect new anatomy laboratories and other buildings. Lugard wished to incorporate the College in the new University and acted as a mediator between it and Mody's representative. On March 3, 1908, the decision was finally taken to amalgamate the College with the University on the site where the Main Building now stands. A new general committee charged with the organising of a university was first convened in March 1908. It gave birth to an endowment fundraising sub-committee which became effective in March 1909. The first foundation stone was laid in March 1910. The University of Hong Kong was incorporated by ordinance on March 30, 1911 and the first building was opened in March 1912. Thus was the University born in a line of "Marches".

In short, HKU evolved from the Hong Kong College of Medicine founded in 1887. Since the founding of the University in 1911, the number of faculties has grown from two, Medicine and Engineering, to ten by the year 2001. Many non-faculty teaching and research centres have also been set up. There were only 23 graduates at the first Congregation in December 1916. Since the 1960s, there have been significant increases in the number of degrees awarded (Figure 1). By the year 2001, the University had produced a cumulative number of over 90,000 alumni, supplying a sustained, highly educated pool of manpower to serve Hong Kong. This role has evolved with the changing political, economic and social environment of Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland and the international arena during the past 90 years.



*Central District, 1919*



*Hong Kong, 1912*

### The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony



*Laying of the Foundation Stone, March 16, 1910: Frederick Lugard is about to lay the foundation stone of the Main Building, heavily hovering over the feet of two dignitaries in the front row. The Chinese Provincial Delegates are there, led by Wei Han, who is at the left of the stone; Ho Kai 何啟 is at the right.*

### *Pre-War Years*

In the pre-war years, about one-third of the HKU students came from Guangzhou (then Canton) and northern China and another one-third from the British and Dutch colonies in Southeast Asia. Many came to HKU because it was *the* international institution in the region. In those years, HKU graduates were among the few privileged intellectuals when they returned to their place of origin and had become celebrated because of their contributions. In Malaysia (then Malaya), for example, quite a few HKU graduates were honoured as Tan Sri and Puan Sri because of their distinguished merits to their nation.

The University initially was committed to training doctors and engineers for China. In the first cohort of 54 undergraduates, 37 were in the Faculty of Engineering and the remainder in the Faculty of Medicine. When the Faculty of Arts was established in 1913, one of the original purposes was to “train men for the higher grades of the Chinese civil service”. That purpose was “defeated by the unsettled conditions in China”, as the University openly admitted in 1922. After the 1911 Revolution, China entered an era of warlords from the 1910s to 1930s. During that time, there was an expectation for the University, echoed by Cecil Clementi, Governor of Hong Kong and Chancellor of the University in 1935 that “the University of Hong Kong should become during the course of the 20th century a famous seat of Chinese learning”.

After the Japanese invasion from 1937 to 1945, the country plunged into a civil war until the People’s Republic of China was founded in 1949. Some graduates took up key positions in new China. They were mostly professionals who brought to China state-of-the-art technology and knowledge in the West. With a patriotic fervour, they

pledged to contribute to China's strengthening and modernisation, but often could do so only under all kinds of suspicions that their "Western" studies were somehow working against the communist regime.

Basic science subjects have been taught at HKU since 1912 but the Faculty of Science was not formally launched until 1939. By the late 1930s, it was recognised that the University's primary role was to train doctors, engineers and teachers for Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. Locally, the graduates of the pre-war era laid down the foundation for localisation of these professions. They represented the elite, often acting as Chinese community leaders under the colonial rule in addition to their professional roles.

During the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong from 1941 to 1945, the University stopped its teaching and research activities. But the staff, graduates and undergraduates did not stop making contributions to Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland; they participated in the defence of the territory and were involved in relief work especially on the mainland.

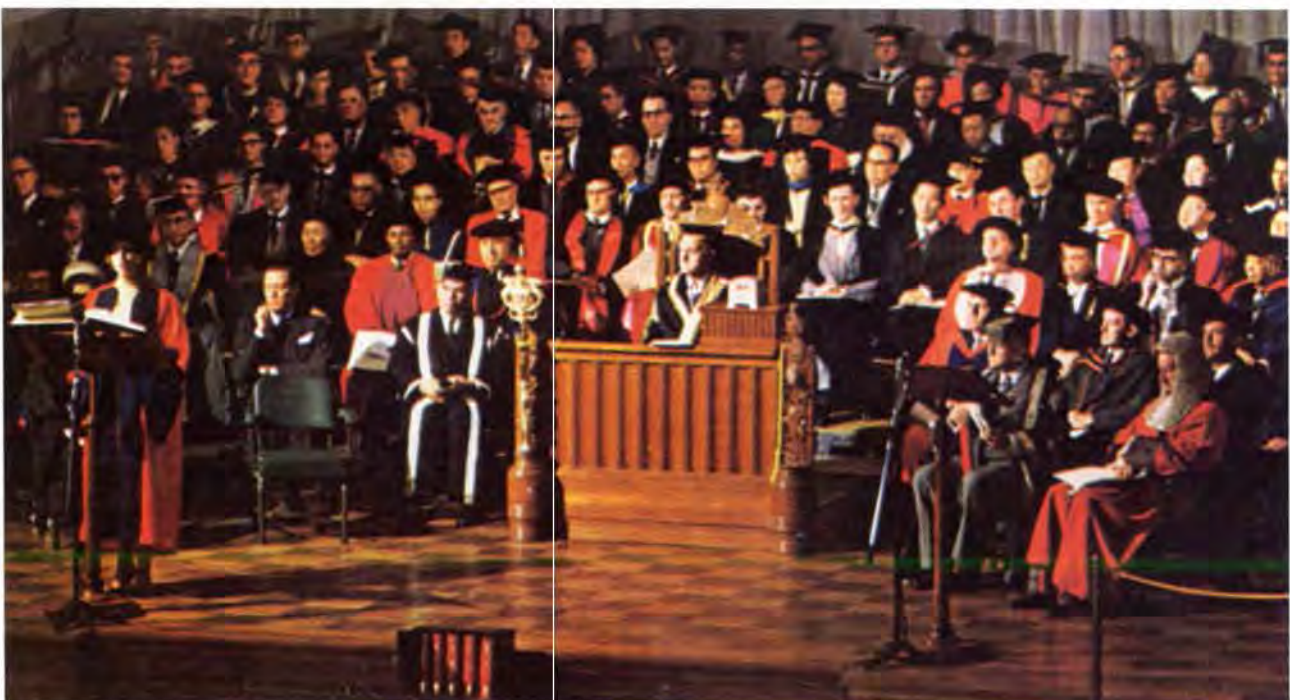
### From the 1950s to 1970s

HKU resumed normal operation in 1948 after the ravages of the war. The following two decades saw the influx of refugees from the mainland. The post-war baby boom also drove up the population, creating problems and opportunities for Hong Kong. Demand for housing, utility, transportation, education and medical care escalated.

Being the only university in the colony, HKU provided a steady supply of doctors, engineers, architects, teachers, social workers and administrators to help build the basic physical and social infrastructure. In 1950, it started offering professional training for architects. Recognising the need of Hong Kong people for continuing education in a changing society, HKU also established the Department of Extra-mural Studies in 1956. In the medical field, the University supplied only about 16 doctors a year up until the Second World War. After the war, the number increased to 60, and further to 150 in 1970 in order to meet the medical needs of a booming population. It remained the only source of supply of locally trained doctors in Hong Kong until 1980 when The Chinese University of Hong Kong established



*Frederick John Lugard was born of missionary parents on January 22, 1858 in India. By the time he arrived as Governor of Hong Kong, his work and exploits in Africa on behalf of the British Army, the British East Africa Company, the Royal Niger Company and the Colonial Office, were legendary.*



*The 57th Congregation marked the climax of the University's Golden Jubilee Anniversary, 1961*

its own medical faculty. With these three decades from 1950 to 1980, medical graduates from HKU manned the medical and health services in Hong Kong, supported by new breakthroughs in medical research and clinical procedures achieved in their parent Faculty of Medicine. The baby boom and population expansion owed a lot to the improvements brought about by this medical workforce to the local health conditions, with dramatically reduced infant and other mortality rates. Some HKU alumni, especially medical graduates, also took the lead in relieving the population pressure by introducing family planning and birth control measures. The well-established Faculty of Engineering continued to supply manpower for development of infrastructure. Many engineering graduates in the 1950s and 1960s have become leaders in the field, both in the public and private sector.

The late 1960s witnessed developments in the training for two new professions in Hong Kong. In 1967, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Department of Social Work were established, admitting students majoring in social work. They provided the much-needed manpower for the expansion of social services in the decades to come. Likewise, the Department of Law was set up in 1969 and thereafter provided the first locally trained lawyers.

After the 1967 Riots, many changes occurred in the socially and culturally 1970s. Among them were the provision of more social services, the setting up of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), increasing autonomy of local professional bodies, emergence of a local culture (e.g. music, television, film) and the maturation of the local media. The 1970s was an era of wealth accumulation and internal consolidation. HKU graduates played important development roles in every fabric of the community. They also contributed a great deal as professionals to the development of new towns, housing estates (both public & private) and major infrastructure.

Within the University, there was increased student participation in student and social movements. The grant and loan scheme launched by the government for students in need also provided young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds the means to acquire tertiary education. This development changed the character of the University from an elitist to a more grass-root educational institution.

Economically, Hong Kong gradually transformed itself into a manufacturing centre, with service industries beginning to develop. The Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering was set up in 1973 and provided many graduates to serve the fast growing manufacturing industries of the time.

### **The 1980s to the Turn of the Century**

The 1980s was an era of great opportunity, fuelled by the mainland's open-door policy espoused since 1978. Hong Kong once again became the window to China for international trade as re-exports boomed in the mid-1980s. Container terminal operations expanded rapidly and medium/small sized enterprises flourished. Some HKU graduates took the lead in exploring investment opportunities in China. This started a trend of outward processing and re-defining the economic relationship between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland. An increasing proportion of HKU graduates joined the manufacturing and services sectors to provide high value-added services (e.g. management, marketing, and design) while production lines moved



*Central District, 1965*



*Hong Kong, a metropolitan city, 1990s*



*Hong Kong, the past and the present*



*Hong Kong University students, 1990s*

into the mainland. At the same time, globalisation of trade in services (not just trade in goods) became an international agenda item. Hong Kong was fast becoming an international financial and services centre.

At HKU, the 1980s saw the commencement of the training in dentistry. It started offering dental degrees in 1980 and set up the Faculty of Dentistry in 1982. The Faculty remains the only local training ground for dentists. In 1984 three Schools either resumed or were upgraded to Faculty status: Architecture, Law and Education, reflecting the growing importance and separate academic and professional identity of the three professions within HKU and the community at large. The Department of Computer Science and Information Systems was also set up in 1988 to strengthen training in information technology which had assumed growing significance since the 1980s.

Unlike their predecessors who mostly joined the Civil Service, the educational or social services sectors, graduates of the 1980s had more diverse career paths: A much higher proportion joined the manufacturing, financial and services sectors. For example, from the early 1980s to 2000, the percentage of first-degree graduates joining the community, social and personal services sectors (mainly comprising government, medical, dental and social services sectors) fell from 65 per cent to 33.7 per cent. However, for the same period, there were increases from 4.7 per cent to 9.5 per cent for the manufacturing sector, and from 18.6 per cent to 40.4 per cent for the financial, insurance and business

services sectors. There were similar increases in the transport and wholesale sectors (Figure 2). These graduates were ready to fuel the multi-faceted development of Hong Kong during this period and their contribution to the city's development was widespread.

Against the backdrop of economic prosperity, non-materialistic ideals began budding in the 1980s. Concern for the environment emerged. In response to this, the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management was established in 1980

to meet the needs and provide leadership in this field. This spurred the study of urban design and the introduction of a Master of Urban Design programme in 1988. HKU graduates have taken, and will continue to take, the lead in championing sustainable development in the decades to come. Other HKU graduates became leaders in politics, forming political and pressure groups in this era. They have laid the foundation for the formation of political parties, which have taken on greater political significance since the 1990s.

By the turn of the century, Hong Kong had become a full-fledged service-based economy and is evolving into a knowledge-based society. The economic ties between it and

China have become more interwoven due to increasing two-way investments. Many China enterprises have been listed on the local stock exchange as a means to raise capital. In the latter part of the last decade, Hong Kong also experienced political transition and the Asian financial crisis.

This rapidly changing political, economic and social environment has presented challenges to local society. In the face of the needs of a knowledge-based society for continuing education, the University transformed its Department of Extra-mural Studies into the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE) in 1992, making it the largest local tertiary institution of continuing education. In order to develop a flagship business studies programme in Asia, the School of Business was formed in 1995 by merging with the Department of Management Studies.



*Student life in the 1990s*

In 1997, the University also began a major restructuring of its curriculum to incorporate problem-based learning and cross-curricula activity. For example, the University now offers mixed degree programmes of Bachelor of Business Administration in Law and Bachelor of Social Sciences in Government and Laws. A new emphasis has been placed on language enhancement, IT literacy, cross-cultural sensitivity and bridging the gap between the arts and sciences.



Over 700 students set off for global exchange, 2002

In recent years, there have been new innovative programmes in various fields. In 1999, the Journalism and Media Studies Centre launched the first graduate degree course – Master of Journalism, dedicated to the training of news professionals. The programme seeks to prepare participants not only for the

professional world, but also to become standard bearers in a fast-changing media environment shaped increasingly by commercial pressures and revolutionary technology development.

Also with the speedy development of technology and business as changing in “Internet time”, the Faculty of Engineering of the University offered a pioneering programme of Master of Science in E-Commerce and Internet Computing in 1999. It aims to address the importance and interest in this burgeoning and fast changing area with half of the modules taught by instructors from all over the world.

Venturing into the fast-growing Chinese mainland saw another recent initiative in 1999 by the School of Business which began offering an MBA (International) programme together with the School of Management of Fudan University in Shanghai. Targeting executives based in Shanghai, the programme aims to provide advanced management education with a multi-disciplinary approach and an international perspective with emphasis on the Asian region. Other areas of significant mainland-Hong Kong collaboration include Traditional Chinese Medicine, Material Science, Genome and Molecular Biology, Social Work and Education. HKU graduates play leading roles in all these fields.

Compared with previous decades, the 1990s was a period of fast development in HKU’s curriculum. There were only three new Bachelor’s Degrees and five new Higher Degrees in the 1970s, increasing to ten and six respectively in the 1980s and significantly to 37 and 41 in the 1990s (Table 1). Many of

these increases were in the Faculty of Engineering, signifying a high degree of specialisation in this area of professional training.

In response to the government’s promotion of community and continuing education after 1997, SPACE also set up the Community College in 2000 to provide broad-based, credit-based programmes offering an alternative education path for secondary school leavers. In 2001, the School of Business further amalgamated with the School of Economics & Finance to form the Faculty of Business and Economics



Linking the past to the present: the portrait of Cecil Clementi, then Governor, has been hung on the wall of the Loke Yew Hall since 1930. The oil painting survived the Japanese occupation with minor damage.



so as to reposition and fortify its provision of business and economics education in the face of the new economic environment after 1997.

In the 1990s, HKU graduates continued to strive for social justice and ideals. Some led in the fight for human rights and freedom of the press. Many are leaders of the first political parties in Hong Kong. Our graduates in the legal profession are particularly active in this area. Concern for the environment continues to grow. The need for more experts in this area led to the establishment of the Department of Ecology and Biodiversity under the Faculty of Science in 1994.

A major feature in the student profile of the 1990s is the high proportion of postgraduate students. In the 1970s, postgraduate degrees accounted for about 6.7 per cent of the total number of degrees awarded. This rose to 15.7 per cent for the 1980s and 25.7 per cent for the 1990s (Figure 1). In 2002, there are around 6,000 postgraduate students as compared with 9,000 undergraduates. Among them, around 1,700 are in research programmes, i.e. PhD and MPhil. This signifies an increasing emphasis on research in the University's mission, and hence a shift towards more postgraduate studies.

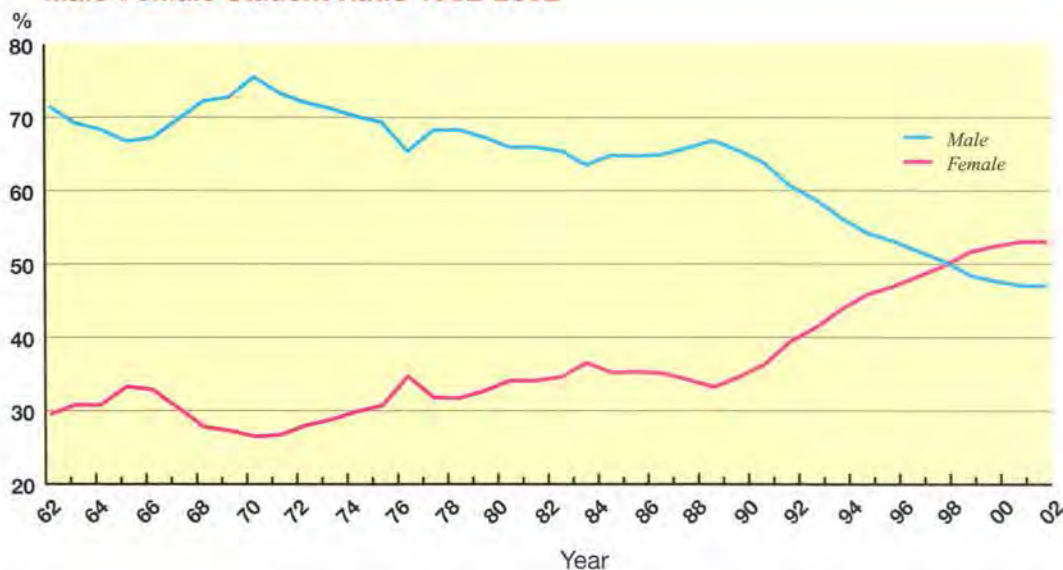
Around 30 per cent of the research postgraduate students are non-local students, coming from 215 nationalities. Around 15 per cent of the undergraduate student body do not come from local mainstream schools. The percentage of non-local students is on the rise. With around 40 per cent of the academics who are of non-Chinese ethnic origin, the University is now best placed to reinforce its role as an international university in the region.

Looking ahead, Hong Kong is repositioning itself as a city in China and redefining its role in the global community. China itself is changing very quickly and is likely to undergo ever more spectacular reforms in view of its accession to the World Trade Organisation. This is amidst changes in the local economy and polity. In 2002, over 80 per cent of the workforce are in the service sector. The year 2002 also saw the introduction of a new governance structure and hence the emergence of a new political culture. The University is facing new challenges unprecedented in Hong Kong's history, so are its graduates.



*Graduands of the new Master of Conservation Class of 2002*

### Male-Female Student Ratio 1962-2002





Chapter



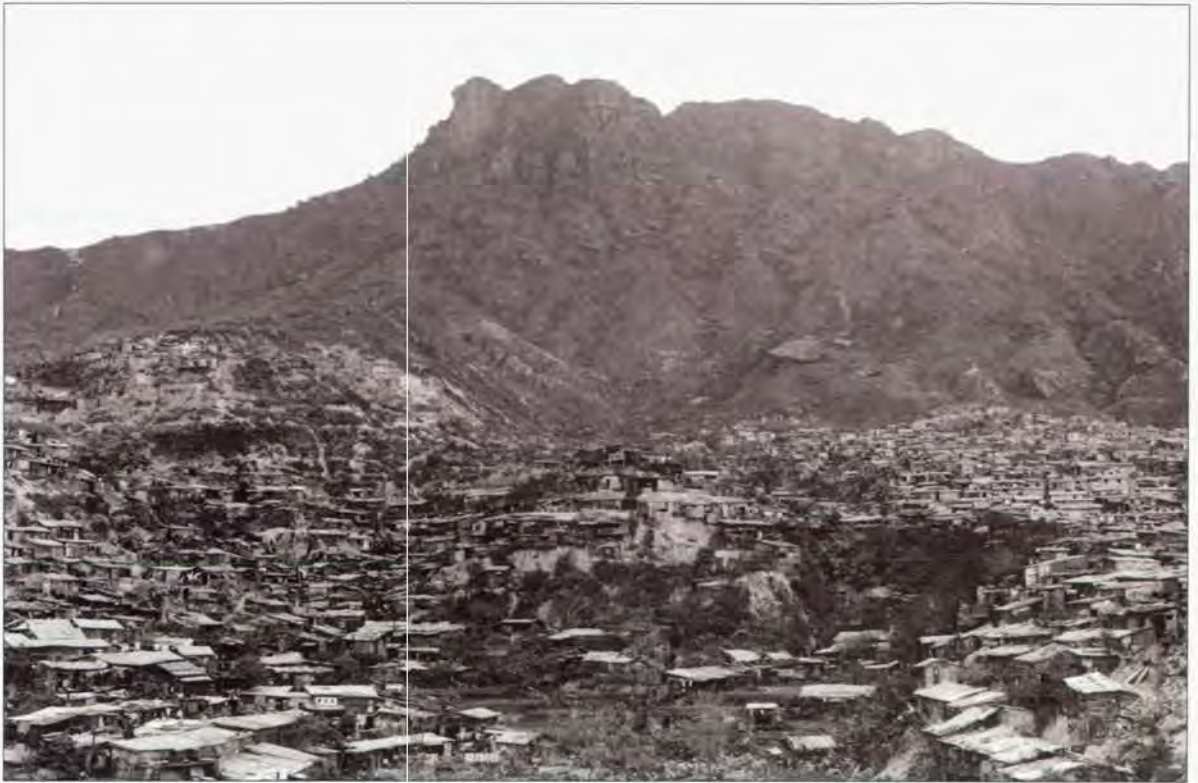
# Opportunities, Rights and Care

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.



*Tung Wah Group of Hospitals: Inauguration, 1971*

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.



*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.

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 in the early 1970s



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.)

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.



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

### 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

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.



Frederick Yu Sak-kwong



The 1966-67 riots

### Youth Services

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 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 梁魏戀賢 (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 Po-king 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(Gen) 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 文洪礎 (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.



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

### 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



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



*Typical post-war Hong Kong working class family*



*Ng Man-lun in an RTHK programme*

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.

## *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.

### 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



*Lee Jark-pui*



*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*