intersections

a guide to the quotes, sources, and contributors

Wopo Holup, Project Artist
Rona Ostrow, Catalogue Editor

LEHMANN COLLEGE
The City University of New York
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**The Plaza Intersections** (please reference the plaza walkway map on pages 14-15)

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“Great idea,” translation of Chinese character created by Zhao Mengfu (1254–1322)

Detail from a Yuan Dynasty handscroll, *Anecdotes from the Life of Wang Xizhi*, ink on paper.

—*Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City*
The owl sculpture atop the new Main Gate. Beyond the entrance are the walkway and plaza.
The “Intersections” project, with its blending of the wisdom of the past and human yearnings for the future, is an appropriate addition to Lehman College at this moment in our history. This year, as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of Lehman's founding, we look back on a relatively short period of time in American history when rapid advances in technology, science, and other fields have significantly quickened the pace of our daily lives. Lehman’s Distinguished Professor of English, Billy Collins, who served most recently as Poet Laureate of the United States, noted in an address at our convocation a few years ago that the nature of poetry — and the nature of a college education — require us to slow down and provide an invaluable time for quiet reflection and introspection.

We hope that Lehman College’s new plaza and walkway will invite those same pasttimes and reaffirm their importance to all visitors, and most especially to our students, who heroically balance the responsibilities of work, family, and academic life. In their moments between classes, or on their way to their jobs or their homes, may this plaza beckon to them and persuade them to pause. Here, surrounded by many voices, across many ages, cultures, and disciplines, may they take to heart this message created specifically for them by the project’s artist, architects, and builders and by all the members of the Lehman community who contributed to its formation. And may they seek—and find — their rightful place in the wondrous cycle of knowledge and aspiration laid out before them.

—Ricardo R. Fernández, President
Herbert H. Lehman College

As you walk along the new Intersections walkway and plaza at Lehman College, you will encounter quotations, scientific formulae, and visual displays contributed by the Lehman College community and others. The words and symbols come from many areas of our global society, branches of knowledge, and the span of human history—from pre-historic times to the Space Age. Some of these selections will be familiar to you, while others may require some explanation.

Words and visual representations are arranged around six key themes: the Heavens, I, We, Words, Time, and Opposition. The selections are significant in themselves and in the way they intersect with others. This catalogue provides background information about each of the selections etched in bluestone as well as a list of print, web, and CD-ROM references that correspond to numbers following the text. For more information, please visit the Lehman College Library and the World Wide Web for the sources listed on the last page of this catalogue.

—Rona Ostrow, Chief Librarian
Herbert H. Lehman College
This work of public art is about wisdom and the interplay of old and new ideas. The owl is an ancient symbol of wisdom. My owl sculpture, perched on the wall at the new Main Gate, complements an older owl located high on Gillet Hall, to the left as you enter the gate. This old owl and a desire to combine the distinctive old and new styles of campus architecture provided the basic concepts for the Intersections project.

This was a collaborative effort with members of the Lehman College community, who responded generously to an invitation to participate in the project’s development. Academic departments, faculty members, and others contributed quotations, equations, and visual symbols relating to profound thoughts or great achievements in their disciplines. As the words and symbols came in—from individuals, departments, the Art Gallery, the Library, and the President’s Office—they seemed to cluster around six main themes: The Heavens, I, We, Words, Time, and Opposition.

The new entrance includes a walkway and plaza. The walkway features horizontal strips of etched bluestone with inscriptions that illustrate a brief history of signmaking, from ancient cave drawings to a Space Age pictograph. The walkway leads from the Main Gate to the plaza, where inscribed, horizontal and vertical strips of bluestone crisscross. The intersecting quotations suggest a conversation between the speakers, a collaboration of ideas—in short, wisdom.

I am indebted to the Lehman College faculty whose contributions to this project were indispensable. I would especially like to thank René Rotolo, Director of Campus Facilities; Professors Herbert Broderick, Bertrade B. Ngo-Ngijol Banoum, and Gary Schwartz of the selection committee; John Boone, text designer; Ambray Gonzales, studio assistant; Bill Gross of Signs, Etc., sandblasting; Jon Lash, Shelton Jacocks, and Dave Martin of Johnson Atelier, metal sculpture; and Michele Meyers, text editor. I am grateful to Rona Ostrow, Chief Librarian, and Barbara Cardillo, Publications Manager, for their work on the catalogue. I would also like to thank two New York City firms, Fox and Fowle Architects and Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architecture, for their essential role in creating the larger context for my work.

Please let me express also how very much I have appreciated the opportunity to participate in this public art project with, and for, Lehman College. It has been a wonderful, absorbing experience for me professionally, personally, and—as you will see on the pages of this booklet—for members of my family and friends, who were captivated by the project as well.

—Wopo Holup
Caves at Lascaux and Les Trois Frères. Circa 15,000 BCE

Pre-historic cave drawings, discovered in 1940 in the Lascaux Grotto of Dordogne, France. The discovery of Les Trois Frères in the Pyrenees revealed yet another series of Paleolithic cave drawings dating from 13,000 to 11,000 BCE.

—Selected by the Committee (3, 18)

Pyramid Mathematics from the Ahmed Papyrus. Circa 2500 BCE

In their study of pyramids, the Egyptians used the property of similar triangles, which is the basis of trigonometry.

—Selected by the Committee (15)

“The mountain rests on the earth the image of splitting apart.” Circa 1100 BCE

The I Ching, a book on divination and fortune telling, is possibly the oldest of the Chinese classics. It is widely available in English translation as The Book of Changes. It contains a cosmology or theory of the universe that involves humanity and nature in a single system of two great cosmic forces, the Yin and the Yang.

—Selected by the Committee (18)

“Oh, fragile child of earth, ash of ash, dust of dust, express and write that which thou seest and hearest.”

HILDEGARD VON BINGEN (1098–1179) was educated at the Benedictine cloister of Disibodenberg and became prioress there in 1136. A Renaissance woman before the Renaissance, she was a writer, painter, composer, and thinker before women routinely did such things. Her Scivias (1141–1152) consisted of 26 visions that were prophetic, symbolic, and apocalyptic in form.

—Selected by the Committee (8)
The first equation is for water, one of the Earth’s most important substances. The discovery that water was a compound of two elements, hydrogen and oxygen, was critical to the development of modern chemistry. The second equation is for the combustion of glucose sugar. This reaction is the source of energy for most living organisms, including humans. The third equation expresses a fundamental mathematical relationship that comes from physical chemistry. It relates the change in the Gibbs Free Energy (ΔG) to other fundamental thermodynamic parameters, the change in enthalpy (ΔH), the absolute temperature (T), and the change in entropy (ΔS). It can be used to predict if a chemical reaction will proceed spontaneously and is a measure of how far a chemical reaction is from equilibrium.

—Selection and text by Professor Marc Lazarus, Chemistry

The Rite of Spring by Igor Stravinsky. First few measured bars, 1913.

IGOR STRAVINSKY (1882–1971), a Russian immigrant to the United States, was a leading spirit in modern music for more than 50 years. His early work, The Rite of Spring (Le Sacre du Printemps), caused a near riot when it was first performed and now it is an accepted part of the standard literature of music. Stravinsky’s biting dissonance, primitive repetitions, new orchestral sounds, and savage rhythms, with constantly changing time signatures, established him as the most adventuresome composer of his day.

—Selected by Professor Gheorghe Costinescu, Music (7)

Plaque attached to Pioneer 10. Carl Sagan, 1972

CARL SAGAN (1934–1996) was a Brooklyn-born astronomer who advanced the understanding of life in Earth’s earliest atmosphere. He was best known for bringing science to the lay audience through books and the popular television series “Cosmos,” which he co-produced and hosted. Pioneer 10 was the first Jupiter probe launched by the United States (1972).

—Selected by the Committee (18)
“But it does move!”

GALILEO GALILEI (1564-1642), Italian astronomer and physicist, discovered four moons around Jupiter on January 7, 1610, through a homemade telescope. “E pur si muove!” is the remark attributed to Galileo after he was forced to recant his theory of planetary movement before the Inquisition in 1633.

—Selected by the Committee (1, 18, 23)

**Jupiter and Moons**

Bronze Inlay by WOPO HOLUP

Galileo’s discovery of the moons around Jupiter, now known as Ganymede, Callisto, Io, and Europa, was a great contribution to science. In our era, the Cassini spacecraft, on its journey to Saturn, made a “fly by” of the giant planet Jupiter, and the spacecraft named “Galileo” began exploring Jupiter in 1995. (9, 23)

“Women hold up half the sky.”

CHINESE PROVERB, attributed to Confucius and popularized by Mao Zedong.

—Selected by Professor Emerita Charlotte Morgan-Cato, Black Studies and Women’s Studies (11, 14)

“Heaven is like an egg, and the earth is like the yolk of an egg.”

CHANG HENG (78–139) was a Chinese scientist, scholar, poet, inventor, and writer. Mathematics in relation to the heavens was his forte.

—Selected by Wopo Holup, Project Artist (5)
“The moon has set, and the Pleiades; it is midnight, and time passes, and I sleep alone.”

SAPPHO (circa 610–580 BCE) was a celebrated lyric poet of the Greek island of Lesbos. One of the leaders of an informal association of women, she wrote on themes of love, hate, and jealousy.

—Selected by Professor Gary Schwartz, Lehman Scholars Program (8)

Sine and Cosine

Trigonometry is the study of triangles, angles, and their relations. There are six trigonometric ratios associated with an angle: sine, cosine, tangent, cotangent, secant, and cosecant. These are useful in determining the unknown angles of the sides of triangles based on known ratios. In antiquity, trigonometry was successfully used by surveyors and astronomers. The illustration shows the unit circle definition of sine and cosine.

—Selected by Professor Christina Sormani, Mathematics and Computer Science (18)

“One swallow does not a summer make.”

ARISTOTLE (384–322 BCE) was an ancient Greek philosopher and scientist whose writings have influenced both Western and Eastern thinking. In his literary work Poetics, Aristotle treats the difference between tragedy and comedy, argues for the value of imitation and the benefit of catharsis, and presents a number of arguments that have influenced Western drama and literature through the ages.

—Selected by Professor Stefan Baumrin, Philosophy (4, 8)

“The sky is vast enough for all birds to fly without colliding.”

YORUBA PROVERB. The Yoruba are an African people of southwest Nigeria. The several faiths of the Yoruba share a similar structure, described by E. Bolaji Idowu as “diffused monotheism.” That is, an omnipotent creator-god rules the universe and many lower gods have a specific domain of rule. The creator-god is alternatively known as Olorun, “owner of the sky,” and Olodumare, “the almighty.”

—Selected by Professor Bertrade B. Ngo-Ngjol Banoum, Black Studies (20, 29)
“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

U.S. astronaut NEIL ARMSTRONG (1930–) said these words on July 20, 1969, as he became the first person to step onto the lunar surface. In the 21 hours and 37 minutes that Armstrong and fellow astronaut Buzz Aldrin spent on the moon, they collected soil and rock samples, took photographs, and deployed scientific instruments while millions watched on television.

—Selected by the Committee (1, 18)

Dogon tribal diagram of orbit of Sirius B around Sirius.

The DOGONS OF MALI were masters of astronomy and observers of the universe. They lived in mountainous regions south of the ancient Malian city of Timbuktu. Their chief was called Hogon, meaning “one knowledgeable in astrology and astronomy” or “astronomer priest.” The Hogon was believed to control the cosmic rhythms of the stars.

—Selected by Professor Bertrade B. Ngo-Ngijol Banoum, Black Studies (20)
“I think, therefore I am.”

RENE DESCARTES (1596-1650) was a French philosopher and mathematician whose analytical method of thinking focused on how we know what we know. His invention of coordinate geometry prepared the way for advances in modern mathematics. One of his goals was to provide a rational basis for the religious or spiritual by creating a philosophy as rigorous as mathematics. Although his dualist account of mind and body is no longer popular, it provides the counterpoint to contemporary views that promulgate physical determinism of thought and action.

—Selected by Professors Stefan Baumrin, Philosophy, Irene Leung, Geology and Geography, and Kevin Sailor, Psychology (18)

“'I am the greatest.’”

MUHAMMAD ALI (1942–) has been called the greatest boxing champion ever, winning the heavyweight title three times. Born Cassius Clay, he became a Muslim during the American war in Vietnam and refused to be drafted into the armed forces on religious grounds. His 1967 conviction for violating the Selective Service Act was overturned in 1971 and he was allowed to resume his boxing career.

—Selected by Professor William Seraile, Black Studies (18)

“'Thou art that.’”

The Upanishads are a collection of treatises dealing with broad philosophical problems. They record the views of Hindu teachers and sages who lived in India as early as 1000 BCE and flourished around 600 BCE. The texts form the basis of much of later Indian philosophy. Because they represent the final stage in the Vedic tradition, the teachings are known as the Vedanta, “conclusion of the Veda.” In some traditions, the name Upanishad suggests sitting at the feet of the teacher.

—Selected by the Committee (1, 8)
“I am the people, the mob, the crowd, the mass.”

CARL SANDBURG (1878–1967) was an American poet, historian, novelist, and folklorist. His poetry often eulogized American workers and democracy, as evidenced by *Smoke and Steel* (1920), *Good Morning, America* (1928), and *The People, Yes* (1936). The selected quote is from *Chicago Poems* (1916).

—Selected by the Committee (1, 8)

“I am somebody.”

The Reverend JESSE JACKSON (1941–) is a civil rights activist, minister, and political leader who was active as a young man in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and was with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the day he was killed.

—Selected by the project artist, Wopo Holup (18)

“I am because you are.”

The Reverend DESMOND TUTU (1931–) is a South African Anglican bishop and social activist. In 1984 he was appointed first black Anglican bishop of Johannesburg and also won the Nobel Peace Prize. In 1986 he was appointed archbishop of Cape Town and head of the Anglican Church in southern Africa. Bishop Tutu spoke these words sometime around 1988, according to his former press secretary, John Allan, now of Trinity Church, New York City.

—Selected by the Committee (18, 35)

“...sea floor, I”

SHARON OLDS (1942–) is a popular American poet who served as New York State Poet from 1998–2000. She is known for her intense, personal style and subject matter. This quote, from the poem “It” in *The Gold Cell* (1987), reads as follows:

“Always I am stunned to remember it,
as if I have been to Saturn or the bottom of a trench in the sea floor, I
sit on my bed the next day with my mouth open
and think of it.”

—Selected by the Committee (26)
“Be not afraid of life. Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.”

WILLIAM JAMES (1842–1910) was an American philosopher and psychologist. He was a leader in that most American school of philosophy, Pragmatism, which stresses that the value of any idea or policy is based entirely on its usefulness. This quote is from The Will to Believe (1897).

—Selected by Professor Sandrea DeMinco, Lehman College Library (18, 28)

“I will not compromise with my conscience.”

HERBERT H. LEHMAN (1878-1963) served four terms as Governor of New York State and two terms in the U.S. Senate. He was the first Director General of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), which led to the establishment of UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, and other social agencies of the world organization. Lehman College was formally dedicated in Governor Lehman’s name on March 28, 1969. In February 2003, to celebrate the 125th anniversary of his birth, the College honored his legacy with a symposium that included a paper by Dr. Duane Tananbaum, Chair of the Lehman History Department. The paper dealt with two examples of Governor Lehman’s refusal to compromise with his principles, despite political consequences. The first occurred in 1937; as Governor, he opposed the plan of his friend, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, to “pack” the Supreme Court with liberal judges. The second was in 1950; then-Senator Lehman voted against popular legislation, inspired by the Cold War, because he believed it violated constitutional rights.

—Selected by The Lehman College Community (18)

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”

SOCRATES (469-399 BCE), an ancient Greek philosopher, is best remembered for the Socratic Method. He devoted himself to inquiry into the right conduct of life. After he was brought to trial and condemned to death on charges of introducing strange gods and of corrupting the youth, Socrates ended his own life in prison by drinking hemlock.

—Selected by Professor Tomohisa Hattori, Political Science (4)

“Knowledge about human virtue ought to be sought only where it could be evidentially persuasive, which was to say, in human time, in history itself and not outside of it in a timeless absolute.” (See photo on page 9.)

This quote by the scholar TETSUO NAJITA (1987) refers to the ideas of the Japanese philosopher, Ito Jinsai (1627–1705), who found logical fault with the view that moral virtue coincided with social hierarchy as fixed in cosmology.

—Selected by Professor Tomohisa Hattori, Political Science (10)
“We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

PREAMBLE TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION (1787). The U.S. Constitution is the oldest written constitution among the major nations of the world and the first to specifically limit the powers of the federal government over its citizens. The Constitutional Convention, which met in Philadelphia in 1787, consisted of only 55 representatives.

—Selected by the Committee (18)

“Let the squares be our palettes, the streets our brushes.”

VLADIMIR MAYAKOVSKY (1893–1930) was the leading poet of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the early Soviet period. He was also the father of Lehman College Professor Patricia Thompson. In 1993, the College celebrated the centennial of Mayakovsky’s birth with a three-day “culture circus” that included an academic conference, poetry readings, an art exhibition, and a performance of Mayakovsky’s play, “The Bedbug.”

—Selected by Professor Patricia J. Thompson, Specialized Services in Education (8, 13)

“I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved, by the term Natural Selection.”

CHARLES DARWIN (1809–1882) was the English biologist who developed the theory of evolution which he published in 1859 in On the Origins of Species by Means of Natural Selection.

—Selected by the Committee (1, 18)
“History balances the frustration of how far we have to go with the satisfaction of how far we have come.”

This quotation has been attributed to U.S. Supreme Court Justice LEWIS F. POWELL, JR., but there is some question as to whether Justice Powell actually made the statement. ERNEST GREEN, one of the students who integrated Little Rock High School in 1957, used these words in a speech in April 1998.

—Selection and text by Professor Duane Tananbaum, History

“We the peoples…”

CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (1945). The United Nations officially came into existence on October 24, 1945, when the required number of nations had ratified its Charter. The preamble of the Charter sets forth the aims of the organization. The Charter states its principles and purposes, defines its membership, and establishes six departments, also called organs. (See photograph on page 20.)

Selected by Professor Bertrade B. Ngo-Ngijol Banoum, Black Studies (18)

“If we must die, let it not be like dogs hunted and penned in an inglorious spot while round us bark the mad dogs.”

CLAUDE MC KAY (1890–1948), a Jamaican-born writer, became the first and most militant voice of the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. His Home to Harlem (1928) was the most popular novel written by an African American up to that time. He also wrote an autobiography, A Long Way from Home (1937), and the study Harlem: Negro Metropolis (1940).

—Selected by Professor William Seraile, Black Studies (8, 18)
“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.”

The Reverend Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (1929–1968) was an American civil rights leader and one of the great orators of our time. Inspired by the belief that love and peaceful protest could eliminate social injustice, Dr. King led many of the great marches against segregation in the South in the 1960s, and in 1964 became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. These words are from his most famous speech, delivered before a huge crowd in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963.

—Selected by the Committee (1, 18, 35)

Untitled Drawing, 1950

JACKSON POLLOCK (1912–1956) was an American artist whose imagery derived from diverse sources, including Navajo sand painting and Asian calligraphy. During the 1930s and early 1940s, he worked for the Federal Arts Project and assisted the revolutionary Mexican muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros. Pollock’s style evolved from a dark, turbulent form of regionalism to a more freely rendered abstract expressionism. During the next decade, he developed his hugely influential “poured” paintings by dripping and flinging intricate layers of paint all over his canvases.

—Selected by the Committee (24)

Owl Wing, Bronze Inlay

WOPO HOLUP, creator of “Intersections,” at the new Main Gate of Lehman College, has an impressive list of public art projects to her credit: “Common Ground,” Brooklyn-Queens Expressway at Northern Boulevard; “River that Flows Two Ways,” along the promenade at Historic Battery Park in Manhattan; “Liberty’s Foundation,” New Jersey Transit Stations in Jersey City; and “New Growth Forest,” at the Philadelphia Zoo, to name just a few. (See cover illustration and photo on page 20.)
“Art is long, life short.”

HIPPOCRATES (circa 460–377 BCE), ancient Greek physician, is known as the Father of Medicine, but he did not write the Hippocratic Oath, which sets forth the obligations, ideals, and ethics of physicians. This quote is from Hippocrates’ *Aphorisms*: “Life is short, the art long, timing is exact, experience treacherous, judgment difficult.”

—Selected by Professor Sally Webster, Art (4, 18)

“Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its waters. Power concedes nothing without a demand.”

FREDERICK DOUGLASS (1818–1895) was born into slavery in the State of Maryland. During the course of his remarkable life, he became internationally renowned for his eloquence in the cause of liberty and served the U.S. government in several official capacities. As a stationmaster on the Underground Railroad, Douglass directed hundreds of former slaves to freedom in his adopted home city of Rochester, New York.

Selected by Professor Bertrade B. Ngo-Ngijol Banoum, Black Studies (1, 18, 25)

“Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains.”

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU (1712–1778) was a French philosopher whose writings on government, literature, and education have had a profound influence on modern thought. His book *The Social Contract* (1762) argues that no laws are binding unless agreed upon by the people. This idea deeply affected French thinking and became one of the major forces that brought on the French Revolution some 30 years later.

—Selected by Professor Richard Blot, Specialized Services in Education (1, 18)
“Life’s field will yield as we make it, a harvest of thorns or flowers.”

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE (1749–1832) is widely recognized as the greatest writer of the Romantic period in Germany. His stature derives not only from his literary achievements but also from his often-significant contributions as a scientist.

—Selected by Professor Dominick Basile, Biological Sciences (34)

“For all at last returns to the sea—to Oceanus, the ocean river, like the everflowing stream of time, the beginning and the end.”

RACHEL CARSON (1907–1964) was an American biologist and scientific writer with an ability to communicate her concerns to the masses. *The Sea Around Us* (1951) was a best seller, and her prophetic and controversial *Silent Spring* (1962) created worldwide awareness of the dangers of pollution.

—Selected by the Committee (18, 32)

“In Africa, whenever an elder dies, a library goes up in flames.”

AMADOU HAMPATÉ BÂ (1901–1991) is a distinguished Malian poet and scholar of the African oral tradition and pre-Colonial history. He made this statement in 1960 at a UNESCO meeting as he emphasized the importance of acknowledging cultures with an oral tradition.

Selected by Professor Bertrade B. Ngo-Ngijol Banoum, Black Studies (31)

“You must say words, as long as there are any… You must go on, I can’t go on. I’ll go on.”

Irish author, critic, and playwright SAMUEL BECKETT (1906–1989) won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1969. He wrote in both French and English about essential issues of the human condition—existence and communication. He relocated to Paris in 1937 and was a member of the French Resistance during World War II. Between 1946 and 1949 he produced the major prose narrative trilogy: *Molloy* (1951), *Malone Meurt* (1951), and *The Unnamable* (1953), from which this quote is taken. Beckett is perhaps best known for his play *Waiting for Godot* (1952).

—Selected by Professor Richard Holody, Social Work (8)
“When power leads man toward arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations.”

In 1960, JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY (1917–1963) became the youngest man ever elected president of the United States. As he led the nation through a tense time in the Cold War, President Kennedy is remembered for his leadership during the Cuban missile crisis and his famous “Ich bin ein Berliner…” speech at the Berlin Wall. He used federal troops to forcibly integrate Southern schools, signed a nuclear test ban treaty, and set the United States on its quest to reach the moon. He was assassinated on November 22, 1963.

—Selected by Professor Betsy Shevey, Theatre (18)

“Festina lente.”

CAESAR OCTAVIUS AUGUSTUS (63 BCE–14 AD) was the nephew and successor of Julius Caesar in ancient Rome. This Latin quote, which translates as “hurry up slowly,” is a reminder of the importance of being deliberate in actions and of thinking things through before acting on impulse.

—Selected by Dr. Ricardo R. Fernández, President of Lehman College (4)
“E=mc²”

ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879–1955) presented his formula E=mc² in the fourth of five scientific papers that forever changed mankind’s view of the universe. Einstein’s theories of relativity led to new ways of thinking about time, space, matter, energy, and gravity. This formula, which stands for “energy equals mass times the speed of light squared,” shows that a small particle of matter is the equivalent of an enormous quantity of energy. Einstein, of German-Jewish ancestry, became an American citizen in 1940 following the Nazis’ rise to power in Germany.

—Selected by the Committee (1, 18)

“Turtle Petroglyph”

A boulder with this turtle image on it was found on a Bronx River bank behind the present site of the Ruth Rea Howell family garden. Archeologists have determined that the faintly visible carving dates from 1000–1600, which makes it the earliest public art in the Bronx. The turtle design may represent a clan of the Lenape (Delaware) Indians, the native Americans who once lived in this area. The rock may have served as a trail marker, designating a hunting territory or a nearby spring. In Lenape myth, the earth was viewed as an island surrounded by water. The carapace, or upper shell, of a turtle formed an island or dome supporting the earth from below.

—Selection and text by Susan Hoeltzel, Lehman College Art Gallery

“People wish to be settled: only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them.”

RALPH WALDO EMERSON (1803–1882) was an American poet, essayist, lecturer, and the leading exponent of New England Transcendentalism. Transcendentalists believed in the essential unity of all creation, the innate goodness of humankind, and the supremacy of insight over logic and experience for the revelation of the deepest truths.

—Selected by Professor Carl Mazza, Sociology (8)
“Happiness is not in getting what you want but in wanting what you get.”

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE (1749–1832) is widely recognized as the greatest writer of the Romantic period in Germany. His stature derives not only from his literary achievements, but also from his contributions as a scientist.

—Selected by Professor Eleanor Campbell, Nursing (34)

“More light!” (Goethe’s last words.)

—Selected by the Committee (34)

“You cannot step twice into the same river.”

HERACLITUS (circa 535–475 BCE) challenged humanity to understand the discourse of nature. This philosopher of ancient Greece maintained that wisdom lies not in great learning but in the awakening of the soul from the slumber of its private wants and opinions to an awareness of the common world order. This quotation expresses his belief that all is in a state of flux.

—Selected by Professor Richard Isaac, Mathematics and Computer Science (4)

“Expect surprises.”

The full quote is: “Expect surprises and the unexpected. Be prepared to be surprised.” It was delivered in a 1996 sermon by the Reverend JAMES CALLAWAY, JR. at Trinity Church, located at the tip of Wall Street in lower Manhattan, near the fallen towers of the World Trade Center. King William founded Trinity Church in 1697 as a branch of the Church of England. In 1705 Queen Anne donated 120 acres of Manhattan real estate that became Trinity’s patrimony.

—Selected by the Committee (21)

“No time like the present.”

MARY DE LA RIVIERE MANLEY (1663–1724), an English author and satirist, was one of the first women to earn a living as a writer. After publication of The New Atlantis (1709), in which she chronicled the private vices of Whig ministers, she was arrested for libel but escaped punishment. She collaborated with Jonathan Swift on Tory pamphlets and, in 1711, succeeded him as editor of the Examiner.

—Selected by the Committee (8, 16)
“…What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.”

These are said to be the last words of CROWFOOT, the Blackfoot chief, spoken on April 25, 1890, as he lay dying in his teepee overlooking the Bow River. The words were credited to Crowfoot by the historian John Peter Turner in The North-West Mounted Police: 1873-1893 (1950).

—Selected by the Committee (1, 2)

“If I see further than others it is because I stand on the shoulders of giants.”

Sir ISAAC NEWTON (1642–1727) was an English physicist and mathematician. A chief figure of the scientific revolution of the seventeenth century, he laid the foundations of calculus, extended the understanding of color and light, studied the mechanics of planetary motion, and discovered the law of gravitation.

—Selected by Professor Irene Leung, Geology and Geography (18)

“Power Divider”

ERNEST WILKINSON invented the Wilkinson Splitter in 1969. It was instrumental in making circuit board technology a reality. The splitter directs an equal flow of electrons in two directions. It splits the electron’s path, amplifies it, and recombines it—thereby getting twice the amplification at the recombined point. Brian Hutchison of Agilent Technologies created the splitter pictured here on April 14, 2000.

—Suggestion and text by Al Holup, the artist’s brother, of Agilent Technologies

“The readiness is all.”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (1564–1616) is often called the English national poet and is considered by many the greatest dramatist of his time. This quote is from Hamlet, one of Shakespeare’s greatest tragedies. The full quote reads: “Not a whit, we defy augury; there’s a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, `tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come; the readiness is all.”

—Selected by Professor Jack Kligerman, English (8, 18)
“To be, or not to be.”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (see page 23). This quote is also from Hamlet (1600–1601).

—Selected by Professor Ursula Hoffmann, Languages and Literatures (8, 18)

“In this world there is right and wrong, and that distinction is not difficult to make.”

MARK WAID (1962–) is a prolific writer and creator of comic books. Since 1984 he has worked on almost every major comic book series, including X-Men, Captain America, Superman, Batman, JLA, Flash, Avengers, and Archie.

—Selected by Professor Daniel Patanella, Psychology (17, 19)

The Pantheon

The Romans’ mastery of building techniques and the manipulation of space reached its summit in the Pantheon, a masterpiece of architecture, aesthetically and structurally. The architect who built it for Hadrian in about 125 AD found the ideal form for a temple dedicated to the gods of the cosmos. Perfectly round, of unprecedented proportions for such a shape, its internal diameter is precisely equaled by its height.

—Selected by Wopo Holup (12)

“To every action there is always opposed an equal reaction.”

Sir ISAAC NEWTON (see page 23).

—Selected by Professor Christina Sormani, Mathematics and Computer Science (18)
“Life is a hymn. Death is a hidden form of life.”

JOSÉ MARTI (1853–1895), Cuban poet and patriot, lived and worked in New York from 1880 to 1895. He wrote extensively about U.S. literature, culture, and politics. The quote is from an essay on Walt Whitman, published in El Partido Liberal (Mexico, 1887).

—Selected by Professor Oscar Montero, Languages and Literatures (8)

“You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.”

GOSPEL OF JOHN 8:32. After the Crucifixion, John, who was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, won early converts to Christianity with his message of resurrection and salvation. These words about truth and freedom have been widely used in many contexts over the ages.

—Selected by Professor Ruby Neuhaus, Health Services (18)

“Many stories ago there were two gods who were Ik’al and Votal. Two were one single one. When one turns the other could be seen, when the other turns the one could be seen.”

Mexican folk tale popularly incorporated into the mythology surrounding Emiliano Zapata’s life in The Story of the Questions or The Real Story of Zapata.

—Suggested by the artist’s friend, Dr. James Cornehls (36)

“Tierra y Libertad.”

EMILIANO ZAPATA (1879-1919) was a champion of agrarianism and hero of the Mexican Revolution. After futile negotiations with landowners in 1909, Zapata and a group of peasant farmers forcibly occupied land that had been appropriated by the haciendas and distributed it among themselves. By his actions, Zapata made the Mexican Revolution the first land-reform revolution of the twentieth century. The words “tierra y libertad” (land and liberty) became the calling card of a social and economic revolution that redistributed millions of acres of communal lands to peasant farmers and played a large role in ending the feudal system of land ownership and tenancy of the haciendas.

—Suggested by the artist’s friend, Dr. James Cornehls (18, 36)
Image from Codex Zouche-Nuttal. Bronze Inlay.

This image is drawn from the Codex Zouche-Nuttal, a book handpainted by native artists before 1519 in the mountains of southern Mexico. The image is a place sign for the town of Tilantongo, known in Mixtec as “Nuu Tnoo Huahi Andehui,” which means “Black Town Temple of Heaven.” The image can be directly read in Mixtec with the black and white frieze meaning Black Town and the temple with star/eyes in the roof meaning Temple of Heaven.

—Selected by Professor Bruce Byland, Anthropology (37)

“A great truth is one whose opposite is also a great truth.”

NIELS BOHR (1885–1962), a foremost scientist of the twentieth century, won the Nobel Prize for applying the quantum theory to atomic structure. In 1913 he combined the concept of the nuclear atom with the quantum theory of Max Planck and Albert Einstein, departing radically from classical physics. The Danish-born Bohr was of Jewish ancestry and fled the Nazi control of Europe. He eventually escaped to the United States, where he served as an adviser on the Manhattan Project. In 1957 he received the first United States Atoms for Peace Award.

Suggested by the artist’s son, Matt Brannon (18)

Uncertainty Relation in Equation Form

WERNER HEISENBERG (1901–1976) was a German physicist who won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1932 for his work on quantum mechanics. He developed the uncertainty (or indeterminacy) principle, the concept that the behavior of subatomic particles can be predicted only on the basis of probability. Newton’s Laws of Motion, therefore, cannot be used to predict accurately the behavior of single subatomic particles.

—Selected by Professor Christopher Gerry, Physics and Astronomy (18)

What is significant is how we die, fulfilled or ignorant.

LEONARD LIEF, founding President of Lehman College, began his career as an English teacher. This quote was from a lecture by Dr. Lief on the Shakespeare play King Lear.

Selected by the Lehman College Community
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