

Lewis Takashi Pearson

Job Title(s)

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Coordinator of the Undergraduate Program in Philosophy
Co-director of the *Living Your Call* Program

Office Contact Information

University of Saint Francis
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Areas of Specialization

- Ancient Greek Philosophy (especially Plato)
- Ethics (history of, theoretical, applied)

Areas of Competency

- Augustine of Hippo
- Thomas Aquinas
- Søren Kierkegaard
- American Philosophy
- Asian Philosophy (specifically, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism)
- Philosophy of Religion
- History of Western Philosophy
- Logic

Education

- Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2002-2009
- Christian Brothers University, Memphis, Tennessee, 1996-2001
- University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee, 1996-2002
- Summa Cum Laude (Graduate, Undergraduate)
- Honors Diploma Recipient (Undergraduate)
- Degrees:
 - Ph.D. in Philosophy (Baylor University, 2009)
 - M. A. in Philosophy (Baylor University, 2004)
 - B. S. in Biology (Christian Brothers University, 2001)
 - B. A. in English (Christian Brothers University, 2001)
 - B. A. in History (Christian Brothers University, 2001)
 - B. A. in Mathematics (Christian Brothers University, 2001)
 - B. A. in Religion and Philosophy (Christian Brothers University, 2001)

Awards

- Finalist (1 of 4) for the Leepoxy Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Saint Francis, 2013
- Presidential Scholar, Baylor University, 2002-2009
- Stipend & Full Tuition Award, Department of Philosophy, Baylor University, 2002-2009
- Baylor University Department of Philosophy Travel Award, April 2010
- Baylor University Department of Philosophy Travel Award, December 2009
- Baylor University Department of Philosophy Travel Award, December 2008
- Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award for 2008, Baylor University Graduate School
- Baylor University Graduate School Travel Award, April 2006
- Margarette J. Sather Outstanding School of Arts Graduate Award, Christian Brothers University, 2001
- Outstanding History Student Award, Christian Brothers University, 2001
- Recognition of Merit by the American Association of University Professors at Christian Brothers University, 2001
- 2001 Western Tennessee Academy of Science Conference: Best Paper in Section
- Crane Vision Fellowship for Ophthalmic Research, 2000

Presentations

Conference Presentations

- One of three presenters in the “Cocurricular Initiatives for Vocation Formation” concurrent session at the 2015 NetVUE Conference “Sustaining the Theological Exploration of Vocation,” held at St. Louis Union Station Hotel, St. Louis, MO. March 27, 2015.
- “Being All Things to All People.” At the Biennial Meeting of the Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers, held at Baylor University. October 4, 2014.
- “Gird Your Loins: Reading Kierkegaard and Job.” At the 2013 Baylor University Symposium on Faith and Culture, *Kierkegaard: A Christian Thinker for our Time?*. November 1, 2013.
- “Problems for Christians Who Want to be Modal Realists.” Presented with David Alexander (Huntington University) at the Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Conference, held at Georgetown College in KY. April 6, 2013.
- “If That Were True, I’d Know It Already!: Democratic Presumption and Democratic Despair.” Presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers, held at Union University. Conference Theme: Virtue and Moral Formation. October 6, 2012.
- “Is Franciscan Leadership Political?” Panel presentation with Thomas Schneider (Political Science, University of Saint Francis) and Richard Kyte (Philosophy, Director of the D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership). Presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities Summer Symposium at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI. June 14, 2012.
- “Thomas Aquinas on the Theological Virtue of Hope.” Presented at *Hope: A Conference on the Theological Virtues*, held by the D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo University. March 31, 2012.
- “The God of Universals, Particulars, and Literature” (Looking at Homer and Tolstoy with the help of Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger). Presented at the *Midwest Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature*, held at the University of Saint Francis. September 24, 2011.
- “Faith as a Prerequisite for Knowledge.” At *Faith: A Conference on the Theological Virtues*, D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership, Viterbo University. April 1, 2011.
- “Thrasymachus the Bloodthirsty, Socrates the Murderer: Confessions of a Killer in Book V of Plato’s *Republic*.” At the University of Texas at Tyler “Sophocles to Sondheim: A Student/Faculty/Community Conference,” April 7, 2006.
- “Community and When it is Not: Reflections in Literature” (Looking at Tolkien and Dostoevsky). Presented at the *Annual Ethics Across the Disciplines Conference*, “Community: Living with Conflict in Art, Politics, and Religion,” held by the D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo University. April 20, 2002.
- “The Role Of GABA In Synaptogenesis Between Horizontal Cells And Photoreceptor Cells In The Mammalian Retina.” Coauthored with D. A. Johnson and M. E. C. Fitzgerald. At the 2001 Western Tennessee Academy of Science Conference.

Public Lectures

- “Hearing through all the Noise: How to Hear God’s Call in an Age of Distraction.” Part of the University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology Public Lecture Series. August 27, 2015.
- “Demons and Watchers: Killing the Life of the Mind.” Part of the University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology Public Lecture Series. August 28, 2014.
- “C. S. Lewis from a Catholic Perspective.” Invited panel discussant for the Forester Lecture Series panel discussion, *C.S. Lewis: A Celebration of His Life, His Works, and His Continued Impact 50 Years After His Death*, Huntington University. November 22, 2013.
- “‘I’m Not Religious But I’m Spiritual’ and Other Odd Things We Say.” Part of the University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology Public Lecture Series. August 29, 2013.
- “Sacrificing Truth for Comfort.” Public lecture given as part of the University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology Public Lecture Series, 2012-13. January 20, 2013.
- “Faith, Reason, and Some of their Modern-day Counterfeits.” Public lecture given as part of the University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology Public Lecture Series, 2011-12. October 8, 2011.
- “Of What Use are Philosophers?: Addressing Age-Old Misconceptions.” Inaugural presentation of the University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology Public Lecture Series, 2010-11. October 17, 2010.

Guest Lecturing/Colloquia/Panel Discussions

- Invited panel discussant for “Why You Should Care About Martin Luther King, Jr.,” an Interdisciplinary Roundtable Discussion (along with Dr. Thomas Schneider representing Political Science and Dr. Douglas Meador representing Economics) on the occasion of the University of Saint Francis’ annual “Acting on a Dream: A Day On, Not a Day Off” Martin Luther King, Jr. observance. January 23, 2013.
- Guest lecturer on the ethics of cadaver dissection for Dr. Matthew Hopf’s Mammalian Anatomy and Physiology I Lab, September 26, 2012; Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab, September 20, 2010.
- Invited panel discussant for “King and Labor: The Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike,” an Interdisciplinary Roundtable Discussion (along with Dr. Thomas Schneider representing Political Science and Dr. Douglas Meador representing Economics) on the occasion of the University of Saint Francis’ annual “Acting on a Dream: A Day On, Not a Day Off” Martin Luther King, Jr. observance. January 24, 2012.
- “Justice and the Soul in Plato’s *Republic*, Book IV.” Invited guest lecturer for the Huntington University Fall 2011 class on Ancient Philosophy. September 19, 2011.
- “Force, Persuasion, and Wizardry: A New Triad Discovered in Plato’s *Republic*.” Philosophy and Theology Departmental Seminar Colloquium Presentation. September 8, 2011.
- Guest lecturer on Thomas Aquinas’ political thought for Dr. Tom Schneider’s POLI 306: Catholic Political Thought. March 29, 2011.
- “Pacifism and Just War in the Christian Tradition.” Invited guest speaker for the Huntington University Philosophy Club. March 23, 2011.
- “Can a Theist Be a Modal Realist? Some Considerations.” At the Baylor University Department of Philosophy Graduate Student Colloquium for Prospective Students Weekend, March 2004.
- Discussion Leader and Moderator on Artificial Intelligence and *The Matrix* in association with the Christian Brothers University Chapter of the Mathematical Association of America. November 1999.
- Panel Speaker, M. K. Gandhi / Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Panel Discussion on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Gandhi and the 30th Anniversary of the assassination of King, held by the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence at Christian Brothers University. April 1998.

Writing**Journal Publications**

- “How a Non-Franciscan Discovered a Personal Love for St. Francis: Three Lessons Learned from the AFCU Franciscan Studies Online Certificate.” In progress. Slated to be submitted to the AFCU Journal (Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities) by October 2015.
- “Force, Persuasion, and Wizardry: An Overlooked Triad in Plato’s *Republic*.” Submitted to *Ancient Philosophy* in January 2015. Editor feedback August 2015: Revise and resubmit. Currently revising.
- “Community and When It is Not: Reflections in Literature.” In *Analytic Teaching: The Community of Inquiry Journal*. Vol. 23, No. 2. April 2003. 41-44.

Book Chapters

- “Vulcans Without Chests: Spiritual Disorders Portrayed in *Star Trek*.” In *Science Fiction and the Abolition of Man*. Under contract with Pickwith Publications. Expected publication date early 2016.

Book Reviews

- Review of Kevin K. Durand’s *Footnotes to Plato: An Introduction to Philosophy*. In *Teaching Philosophy* 33:3, September 2010.
- Review of Ralph McInerny’s *Praeambula Fidei: Thomism and the God of the Philosophers*. In *Religious Studies Review*, Vol. 36, Issue 2, June 2010.

Editing

- Copy editing, formatting, cover art, book design, and preface for *The Stone Maiden and Other Tales, 2nd Ed.*, by Robert J. Krog. Lulu Press. 2011.

Grant Writing

- Chief narrative writer (with Lynne Frazier, Natalie Wagoner) for a Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) Professional Development Award proposal. March–May 2015. Award proposal was successful: \$9,970 awarded.
- Chief narrative writer (with Lynne Frazier, Matt Smith, Josh Stagni) for “Living Your Call,” a grant proposal for The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) NetVUE Program Development Grants. November 2011–September 2012. Grant proposal was successful: \$42,000 awarded.

Service to the University

- “Fellowshipping with Students and Each Other.” Organizer and panel chair for four panel workshops given for USF Employee Development Day. October 6, 2015.
- Co-director of *Living Your Call* Program, a vocation discernment program at USF. May 2015–Present.
- Ad hoc member of the 2015 Employee Development Day Committee—added because of my role as co-director of the Living Your Call program, after receiving a NetVUE Professional Development Award for enhancing Employee Development Day. July–October 2015.
- Session moderator for “Dorothy Day and the Liturgy” and “Dorothy Day and the Church.” At the “Dorothy Day and the Church: Past, Present, and Future” Conference, University of Saint Francis. May 13-14, 2015.
- Driver and usher for the Dorothy Day Conference at USF. May 14, 2015.
- USF Faculty Senate, Alternate Senator for the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. 2014-16.
- “Living Your Call.” Presentation to the USF Student Leader Mini-Retreat. August 21, 2014.
- Represented the University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology at the Fort Wayne–South Bend Second Annual Diocesan Men’s Conference. February 22, 2014.
- Member of the USF Institutional Review Board (IRB) for expertise in ethics, Canon Law of Roman Catholic Church, Franciscan Values, August 2013–August 2016. Secretary for 2013-2015.
- Member of the search committee for filling the Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy position (2013-14) in the Department of Philosophy and Theology, July–August 2013.
- Co-planner and co-facilitator (along with Campus Ministry Director Josh Stagni) of the *Living Your Call* Faculty/Staff Summer Workshop. July 8-11, 2013.
- Director of the Undergraduate Program in Philosophy. June 2013–Present.
- Director of the Liberal Studies Program. May 2013–August 2014.
- Team Member on and a Project Leader for “Living Your Call: Discerning and Developing Your Vocation,” a vocation discernment program at the University of Saint Francis, funded by a Program Development Grant from the Council of Independent Colleges Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE). December 2012–May 2015.
- Web Manager for the Department of Philosophy and Theology. August 2010–Present.
- Secretary for departmental meetings, Department of Philosophy & Theology. August 2012–2014.
- Discussion Moderator for the *Catholicism: A Journey into the Heart of the Faith* DVD Daily Lunch series, hosted by the Department of Philosophy and Theology for USF Main Campus faculty and employees. October 2012–April 2013.
- At-large member of the Green Campus Committee, 2012-15. Secretary for 2013-14.
- Faculty representative on the Registration Task Force, 2012-13.
- Member of the School of Arts and Sciences faculty contingent visiting Eagle Tech Academy at Columbia City High School to talk with their faculty and students about their work and status as a “New Tech” High School. January 10, 2013.
- Co-planner (with Sr. Jacinta Krecek, OSF) of the Department of Philosophy and Theology’s annual departmental faculty retreat, Spring 2012.
- Non-tenured member of the Promotions and Tenure Committee, 2011-12.
- Member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Fit. This committee’s charge, given by the Faculty Forum in response to a Faculty Issues Committee request, was to report on the nature of academic freedom, tenure, institutional fit, and institutional mix at the University of Saint Francis. 2011-12.
- Represented the University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology at the Fort Wayne–South Bend Second Annual Diocesan Men’s Conference. February 18, 2012.
- Designed 18 posters for the departmental advertising campaign to promote majors in philosophy, theology, and ministry. August–September 2011.
- Member of the School of Arts and Sciences faculty contingent visiting Viking New Tech at Huntington North High School to talk with their faculty and students about their work and status as a “New Tech” High School. March 16, 2011.
- Member of the committee that revised the Bachelor of Liberal Studies Degree, and created the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and the Associate’s Degree in Liberal Studies. September 2010.

Service to the Community (Local, Church, Professional)

- “Philosophy and Science.” Workshops on faith and reason for Catholic School Mission Day at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, IN, at the request of the Office of Catechesis of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne—South Bend. October 9, 2015.
- “Christ the Ultimate Encounter-ist.” Kick-off presentation for *Theology on Tap* 2015-16 “Living a Culture of Encounter” series at Calhoun Street Soups, Salads, Spirits in Fort Wayne, IN. September 17, 2015.
- Area VI representative, Board of the Woodhurst Community Association. December 2014–Present.
- “Science and Religion: Twin Brothers, Not Bitter Rivals.” Workshops on faith and reason for Catholic Mission Day at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Marian High School in Mishawaka, Indiana, at the request of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. September 22-23, 2014.
- “Encouragements for a Catholic Education.” Presentation for St. John the Baptist School teachers In-Service day. August 11, 2014.
- Member of the Catholic Culture Team at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. July 2014–June 2015.
- “Virtue and Manliness in Today’s Culture.” Presentation for *Theology on Tap* at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Kalida, Ohio. June 11, 2014.
- “Not Walmart” (From Consumers to Communicants). Invited presentation for “Wayfarer: Faithfest 2013 Diocesan Youth Rally,” Lakeview Middle School in Warsaw, IN. October 27, 2013.
- Committed adorer at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, IN. October 2012 – April 2013.
- Member of the University of Saint Francis Team participating in the Fort Wayne Women’s Bureau “Walk a Mile In Her Shoes” 5th Annual Walk to Raise Community Awareness of Sexual Assault and Gender-Based Violence. September 22, 2012.
- Invited panelist for the “Medieval Characterization” project for the Global Perspectives (World History & Language Arts) course of Viking New Tech, Huntington North High School. February 28, 2012.
- Invited panelist for the “Imperialism and Global Expansion” project for the Global Perspectives (World History & Language Arts) course of Viking New Tech at Huntington North High School. May 4, 2011.
- Session chair for “Colloquium: Plato – Philosophical Methods.” At the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. April 1, 2010.
- Session chair for “Beauty and Reality in Theology, Knowledge, and Language.” At the Lilly Fellows Program National Research Conference, “The World and Christian Imagination,” Baylor University, November 10, 2006.

Continuing Education

- Participant in the 2014 BAPT Summer Seminar: Analytical Thomism Workshop, led by John Haldane at the Moreau Seminary Campus of the University of Notre Dame. May 19-23, 2014.
- Participant in the *Collegium* 2013 Summer Colloquy at the University of Portland. June 14-21, 2013.
- Earned an Online Certificate in Franciscan Studies from the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities / University of St. Francis (Joliet, IL).
 - Course One: Understanding Franciscan Origins & Values I. September–October 2012.
 - Course Two: Understanding Franciscan Origins & Values II. October–November 2012.
 - Course Three: Franciscan Spirituality and Evangelical Life. January–February 2013.
 - Course Four: Franciscan Tradition in Art & Literature. February–March 2013.
- Participant in the Philosophy of Physics Reading Group at Huntington University. Directed by Dr. David Alexander (Philosophy), with Dr. Jonathan Bratt (Physics), Dr. Matthew Wright (Mathematics), Dr. Ruth Nalliah (Chemistry), and Jonathan Krull (Philosophy). September 2012–April 2013.

Philosophy Work Experience (Lists of classes taught and syllabuses available upon request.)

- Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Saint Francis (USF), Department of Philosophy and Theology, December 2015–Present.
- Assistant Professor of Philosophy, USF, August 2010–December 2015.
- Instructor of Summer Enrichment Classes for the Postulants and Novices of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mount Alverno Motherhouse, Mishawaka, Indiana, July 2014 and June 2015.
- Instructor of Record (with permission from USF), McLennan Community College, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. August 2008–Present.
- Instructor of Record, Baylor University, Department of Philosophy, August 2004–May 2010.