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**Alexander Vesey** is a Professor in the Faculty of International Studies at Meiji Gakuin University and Chair of the Department of Global and Transcultural Studies. His Ph.D. and subsequent early research centered on a reevaluation of the functions of Buddhist clerics in Tokugawa period village society. Since he joined Meiji Gakuin in 2008, his focus has shifted towards modern Japan, and he is particularly interested in assessing the impact of globalization on Japanese Buddhists and their communities. His most recent article, “Praying for Team and Corporation: Integrating Sport, Religion, History, and Prestige at a Prayer Temple for the Seibu Lions Baseball Team” (2024), looks at the relationship between a Buddhist temple and a professional baseball club.