THE Webb SCHOOLS

MEDIA RELEASE

Alf Museum Welcomes New Curator

The museum also offers free admission for low-income families and a new college internships program

CLAREMONT, CA – The Alf Museum, a one-of-a-kind paleontology museum located at The Webb Schools in Claremont, has welcomed new curator Dr. Mairin Balisi, is offering free admission for low-income families and has launched a college internship program.

Balisi, who earned a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology at UCLA, is an expert in fossil mammal carnivorans, such as ancient cats and dogs.

Most recently, she worked as a National Science Foundation postdoctoral research fellow at the La Brea Tar Pits & Museum and concurrently as a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Merced.

"I really view the present as an extension of the past and as an early sign of the future. What we see in the fossil record are the roots of the present," Balisi said. "What I hope to bring to the Alf Museum is this perspective of continuity between the past, present and future."

During the academic year, Balisi will also teach paleontology courses through The Webb Schools Science Department, assist with after-school museum volunteering and mentor Webb students in advanced research courses.

Her arrival at the Alf Museum coincides with two other initiatives: A program that makes the museum free to low-income families and an internship program for students from area community colleges.

The access program is part of Museums for All. Families on food assistance programs will receive free admission for up to four people upon presenting their electronic benefits transfer (EBT) card. Read more about the program.

The internship program, launched on June 27 and running for seven weeks, provides an introduction to paleontology to four community college students and a mentorship opportunity to two area university students. Read more about the program.