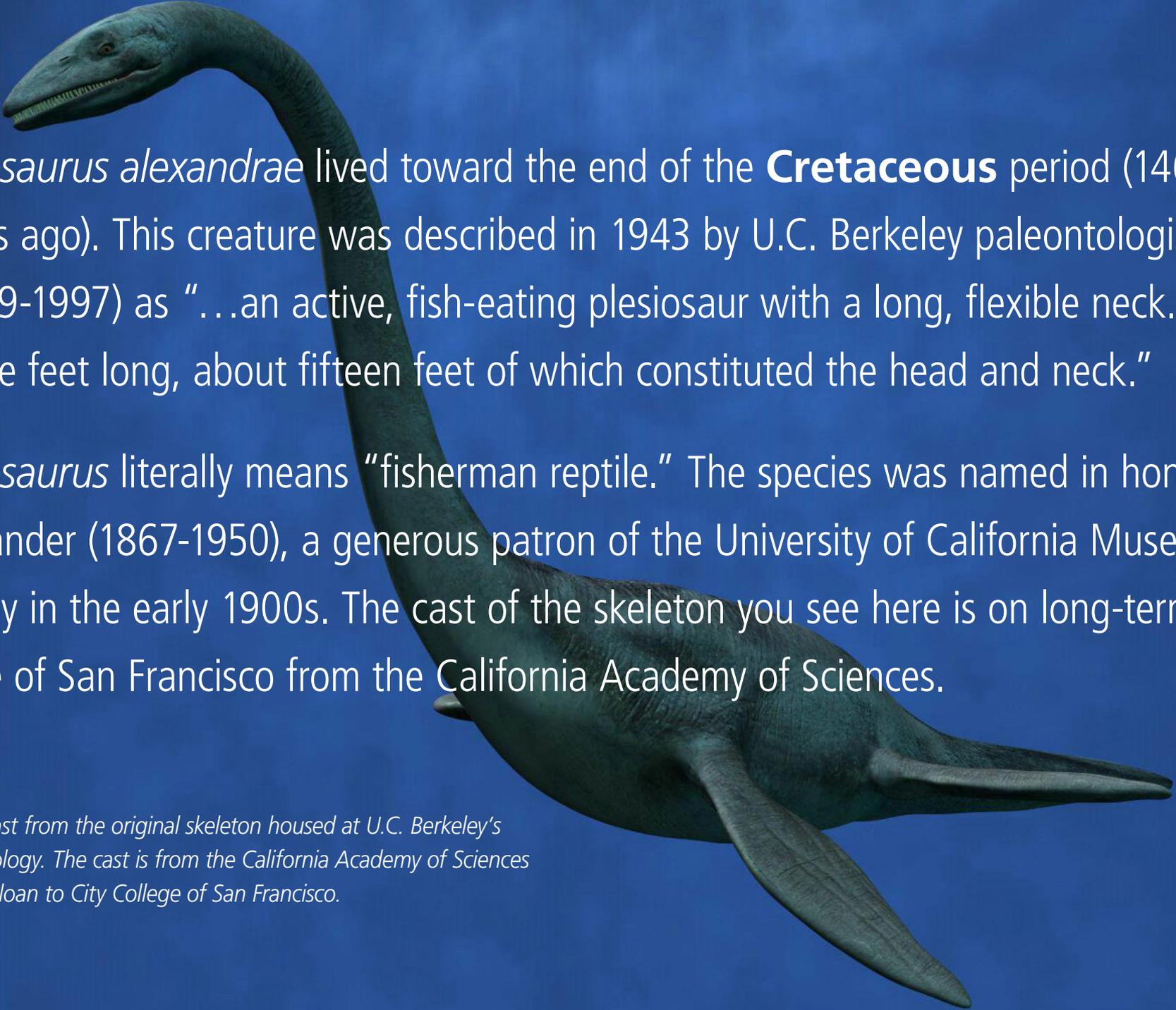
The background features a blue-toned illustration of a plesiosaur, a long-necked marine reptile, swimming in the ocean. The creature is depicted in profile, moving from left to right. Its long neck is extended upwards, and its body is covered in a pattern of dark spots. The water is a deep blue, and there are some darker, wavy shapes that suggest the movement of the creature or the texture of the water. A dark, semi-transparent banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

# CRETACEOUS SEA MONSTER

Plesiosaurs were large swimming reptiles that lived during the Age of Dinosaurs. The species displayed here is *Hydrotherosaurus alexandrae*. It was discovered in 1937 in the Panoche Hills in the southern Coast Ranges of California. It is one of the most complete plesiosaur skeletons ever excavated.

*Images are artist's depictions of Hydrotherosaurus alexandrae as it might have appeared swimming through the ancient ocean.*



*Hydrotherosaurus alexandrae* lived toward the end of the **Cretaceous** period (146 to 66 million years ago). This creature was described in 1943 by U.C. Berkeley paleontologist Sam Welles (1909-1997) as "...an active, fish-eating plesiosaur with a long, flexible neck. It was over twenty-three feet long, about fifteen feet of which constituted the head and neck."

*Hydrotherosaurus* literally means "fisherman reptile." The species was named in honor of Annie Alexander (1867-1950), a generous patron of the University of California Museum of Paleontology in the early 1900s. The cast of the skeleton you see here is on long-term loan to City College of San Francisco from the California Academy of Sciences.

*This specimen is a cast from the original skeleton housed at U.C. Berkeley's Museum of Paleontology. The cast is from the California Academy of Sciences and is on long-term loan to City College of San Francisco.*