

About Richard Moriarty



Carnegie Museum of Natural History is saddened by the recent passing of our great friend, Dr. Richard Moriarty. His deep commitment to the museum made possible the Carnegie Discoverers, which he helped found in 2006 and served as chair, and the R.W. Moriarty Science Seminars program that launched in 2010.

Dr. Richard Moriarty was a pediatrician, a former associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and a vibrant member of Pittsburgh's medical community. He

advanced knowledge in the fields of pediatrics and toxicology, contributing more than 20 journal articles with the fundamental goal of reducing childhood fatalities due to poisoning.

Moriarty founded the Pittsburgh Poison Center—nationally known for the development of the Mr. Yuk poison warning symbol—and the National Poison Center Network that both fostered the development of and supported existing poison centers nationally.



**CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY**

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4400 FORBES AVENUE | PITTSBURGH, PA 15213

The R.W. Moriarty Science Seminars

Exploring Nature, Culture, and the Future of Life on Earth



Abby D'Ambrosia Carroll, PhD

University of Pittsburgh

**“Impacts of Extreme Warming Events on Early Eocene
Mammals and Ecosystems”**

Monday, November 13, 2023 | Noon
The 162nd Seminar in a continuing series



Abstract:

How might animals and ecosystems respond to today's warming planet? Looking to Earth's past may help us answer this question. A series of extreme warming events during the early Eocene (beginning 56 million years ago) are analogous in many ways to present-day global warming. Paleontological investigations conducted over the past decade have also uncovered a curious response to these warming events: a brief, but significant, decrease in body size for some mammal groups, including the earliest horses. Furthermore, the extent of body size decrease appears to be related to the magnitude of the warming event. In this talk, we will look at a fossil record of these events from the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming, and consider the mechanism(s) which may have led to the observed body size changes.

Biography:

Abby D'Ambrosia Carroll is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Geology and Environmental Science department at the University of Pittsburgh. Her research and teaching experience covers paleoecology, paleoclimate, and modern-day climate change. Abby received her undergraduate degree in Geology from Smith College, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Science from the University of New Hampshire. Outside of academia, Abby enjoys exploring and hiking the hills of Pittsburgh and beyond with her science-loving five-year-old, ecologist husband, and trusty rescue dog.