Drew Kitchens
Anthropology Department
University of Iowa

Searching for Native American Domestic Dogs:
What Does the DNA Say?

Monday, 15 October 2018
5:30 pm: E125 VAB
Visual Arts Building, University of Iowa

Dogs are a nearly universal presence in human populations. The ubiquity of dogs extends through the archaeological record, toward the hypothesized origin of dogs in the late Pleistocene, possibly 30 thousand years ago. The presence of dogs in the Americas dates to the early Holocene, with dogs found in archeological sites throughout the geographic extent of human populations. The antiquity of dogs in the Americas suggest that the history of dogs in the Americas mirrors the history of Native American populations. Analysis of ancient DNA from native dogs indicate that these dog populations were dramatically affected by two events in the history of Native American populations. Specifically, we found that native dog populations begin to diversity immediately after the peopling of the Americas ~15,000 years ago, and that European colonization resulted in the near elimination of pre-contact native dog diversity from the gene pools of modern dogs in the Americas. In sum, the intimate connection between dogs and humans persists in both the archaeological and genetic record from the earliest occupations of the Americas.
Location of Visual Arts Building

- The award winning Visual Art Building is located at 107 N. River Street, on the west side of the Iowa River just north of the corner of Riverside Drive and River St.

- Accessibility Path. There is an accessible entrance on the east side of the building facing Riverside Drive.

- Accessibility Parking - located across the street in front of the Art Building and the Museum of Art.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the School of Art and Art History, W619 SSH or 335-1376.