This Week’s Colloquium Speaker

Prof. Philip LeSourd

April 14th 6pm SB140

Field Work with the Passamaquoddy people of Maine

I have been engaged in field work with the Passamaquoddy people of Maine and their close relatives the Maliseet of New Brunswick since 1976. A good part of my work has been devoted to transcribing stories and tracing the historical roots of the traditions that these narratives represent. My talk focuses on a particular Maliseet story teller, Charles Laporte of Tobique, NB, and a particular story, an account of a trip by one of Laporte’s legendary ancestors to the family’s winter hunting territory deep in the interior country. The story has roots in nineteenth century Maliseet and Passamaquoddy traditions, and reflects even older lore about conditions in the colonial period.

Courses taught:
ANTH-L200 Language and Culture
ANTH-L407 Language and Prehistory
ANTH-L320 American Indian Languages
SLST-S304 Language Revitalization
SLST-S670 Linguistic Typology
SLST-T510 Modern English Grammar

Philip LeSourd received his PhD in Linguistics from MIT in 1989. He has conducted field work on two closely related Algonquian languages of Maine and New Brunswick, Passamaquoddy and Maliseet, since the 1970s. He has taught at IU since 1997, where he is an Associate Professor in the departments of Anthropology and Second Language studies. His publications include the books Accent and Syllable Structure in Passamaquoddy (1993) and Tales from Maliseet Country (2007), as well as a number of articles.