



## Alaska State Writer Laureate 2014-2016

**Frank Soos, Professor Emeritus,  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks**

Frank Soos is an award-winning writer, an educator and a natural promoter of literary arts and artists. In addition to his writing, Soos serves on the advisory board of the University of Alaska Press, conducts workshops, and recently participated in the Poetry In Place project with his poem, "The Blue Fish." As one former student put it "though retired from the university, he certainly didn't retire from teaching."

His publications include the short story collections *Early Yet* and *Unified Field Theory*. The latter won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction in 1997.

He is also the author of the noted essay collection, *Bamboo Fly Rod Suite*. Soos often collaborates with visual artists. He and his wife, Margo Klass, co-created the book *Double Moon: Constructions and Conversations*, which matches her box constructions with his writings in a collection that one reviewer described as, "representing five years of aesthetic sparring." He also edited *Under Northern Lights: Writers and Artists on the Alaskan Landscape* with Alaskan painter Kesler Woodward.

Soos has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Alaska State Council on the Arts, and was the first Artist in Residence at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts.

Soos grew up in Pocahontas, Virginia, a small coal-mining town in the southern Appalachians, attending Davidson College and the University of Arkansas before teaching English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He began teaching at University of Alaska in 1986 and retired in 2004. He is now a professor emeritus of English at UAF.