

# Dr. Mary Collins '73



## 2007 School of Agriculture and Natural Resources Distinguished Alumna

Dr. Mary Collins is a professor of agronomy and undergraduate coordinator of the Soil and Science Department of University of Florida, Gainesville. She also coordinates the department's honors program. After earning her Associate in Applied Science in Agronomy from SUNY Cobleskill, Mary earned her Bachelor of Science from Cornell University. She earned her

master's degree and Ph.D. in Soil Morphology and Classification from Iowa State University. Upon earning her Ph.D., Mary was hired as an assistant professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville, becoming a full professor in 1991. Prior to this, Mary served as a lecturer at Cornell University and a soil scientist for USDA Soil Conservation Service. Mary has also been a visiting professor at Universidad de Extremadura in Spain and Beijing Agricultural University in China. She is a fellow and past-president of the Soil Science Society of America. She is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, which awarded her a Certificate of Excellence in 1996. She has served as a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Soil Science and was a National Academy of Sciences fellow to China. Listed in numerous editions of Who's Who, Mary has done research with ground-penetrating radar and works with forensic anthropologists in Florida's law enforcement agencies, studying decomposition rates within soil. Mary is a Girl Scout leader and guest speaker, frequently serving as a guest teacher for elementary school science classes. Since 1995, Mary has sponsored an annual scholarship for a SUNY Cobleskill student studying soil science.