

## **I AM AN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR...**

**How will these changes to the curriculum impact me?** If you declared African American Studies (AFAM) as a major before or during the 2013-2014 academic year, then the changes to the curriculum will have no impact on you. Core courses listed in the 2013-2014 academic bulletin and in prior bulletins, but not listed in the 2014 bulletin and beyond, will continue to be instructed on a regular basis through Fall 2015. Note: This only pertains to AFAM416: Origins and Evolution of the Idea of Race. Nevertheless, current AFAM majors (not to include May or December 2014 graduating seniors) are asked to give serious consideration to switching to the 2014 bulletin.

**Why should I switch to the 2014 bulletin?** There are several reasons why you should switch to the 2014 bulletin. First, the new AFAM major requires only 30 credit hours compared to 36 credit hours for the old AFAM major. Thus, you (or your parents) will save about \$3,500.00 in related in-state tuition costs; significantly more if you are not a Virginia resident. These are real tuition dollars that could be used by you to enroll in one of our study abroad programs to Barbados, Ghana or Paris, France, or used to advance your post-baccalaureate educational goals. Second, for fewer tuition dollars, the new AFAM major provides significantly more academic and experiential learning opportunities for you. We have added a core course to the curriculum that offers our students a Diasporic perspective on African history and the transmission of beliefs, values, and worldviews. We also have added an applied or field course for our students to explore the multiple applications of African American Studies perspectives in the real world. Third, the new AFAM major is aligned with the recommendations of the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS). While not an accrediting body, the NCBS does provide guidance on curriculum content for undergraduate and graduate programs in African American Studies. You only stand to benefit from these new changes to the curriculum, because our learning goals now are aligned with the goals of other AFAM programs across the nation.

**How do I switch to the 2014 bulletin?** Glad you asked! If you are interested in switching to the 2014 bulletin, then you should schedule an advising appointment with a faculty member or peer adviser in the Department of African American Studies. A faculty member or peer adviser will discuss with you the advantages of switching and prepare all the necessary paperwork for the transition to the new academic bulletin. Click Student Advising Scheduler to schedule an appointment. We look forward to seeing you.