

DR. GINA PAIGE, CO-FOUNDER OF AFRICAN ANCESTRY, INC.

Dr. Gina Paige (Hausa, Fulani) is the co-founder and current president of African Ancestry, Inc. In 2003, she helped to pioneer a new way of tracing African lineages using genetics. By doing so, African Ancestry created a new marketplace for people of African descent looking to more accurately and reliably trace their roots. Since then, Paige has traveled the world helping people demystify their roots and inform on identities so that they may better understand who they are by knowing where they're from.

Paige has worked with and revealed the roots of the world's leading icons and entities including Oprah Winfrey, John Legend, Chadwick Boseman, Spike Lee, Condoleezza Rice and The King Family. She also has served as speaker, presenter and/or partner to McDonalds, Capital One, The Walt Disney Company, Booz Allen Hamilton, Wells Fargo, The Wall Street Health Forum, New York Times Travel Show, United Healthcare and dozens of community organizations and faith-based entities. She's often a go-to resource for African Diaspora communities including the embassies of Cameroon and Ghana; The Year of Return 2019 event, "From Jamestown to Jamestown" with the NAACP; the Back2Africa Festival in Cape Coast; and various African nations' tourism authorities and leaders.

Paige has been a featured guest on hundreds of media outlet programs including "The Breakfast Club," Hot 97-FM, *Time* magazine, *USA Today*, "60 Minutes," "NewsOne Now" with Roland Martin, "HuffPost Live" with Marc Lamont Hill, "The Joe Madison Show," Sister Circle Live, *Essence*, *The New York Times*, "The Tom Joyner Morning Show," FOX Business News, Reuters, Canal Media Company, *Black Enterprise*, *Ebony*, NPR, Metro Source Urban Radio, American Urban Radio Networks, TheGrio.com, and TheRoot.com, among many others. Her work is often featured on PBS' "Finding Your Roots" program with Henry Louis Gates Jr. as well as "African American Lives 1 & 2", The Africa Channel, NBC's "Who Do You Think You Are?" and CNN's "Black in America" series. She created and served as co-host of SiriusXM radio's, "African Ancestry Radio" program.

Born into a family of entrepreneurs, Paige launched her first business at age eight, self-publishing a children's magazine to raise money for an amusement park visit. While a student at Stanford University, she created and sold "Pik-A-Pak" care packages to help families stay connected with their student children. She earned a degree in economics from Stanford and later an MBA from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business. Prior to founding African Ancestry, Paige founded and served as president of GPG Strategic Marketing Resources. She was honored with an honorary doctor of philosophy degree from Global Oved Dei Seminary University.

Dr. Paige currently resides in Washington, DC.

AMADU MASSALLY, founder and CEO of Fambul Tik

Amadu Massally was born in Sierra Leone, but he moved to the United States as a young man in order to obtain higher education. He has held many positions in the US while working for Fortune 500 companies including General Electric, Price Waterhouse Coopers and American Express as a certified public accountant, and a certified information systems auditor.

After living in the U.S. for two decades, Massally returned home to Sierra Leone, where he lived and worked in both the public and private sector. In Sierra Leone, Massally was so taken aback by the poor conditions of his native land that he stayed for five years to contribute to what he calls “national development.” He also served as the first managing director of the first Sierra Leonean-owned and -operated finance and leasing company. He was then appointed by President Koroma to three positions in the Office of the President: the first executive secretary of the Citizens’ Committee, program manager at the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit, and coordinator of the Open Government Partnership.

In 2006, Massally formed the Sierra Leone-Gullah Heritage Association, now known as *Fambul Tik*, which means *Family Tree* in English. Fambul Tik is a community organization that seeks to reconnect Sierra Leone with her Diaspora. It has accomplished this goal through various activities and programs in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Carriacou, and the United States. In the U.S., Fambul Tik focuses primarily on strengthening the links between Sierra Leone and the African Americans known as the *Gullah Geechee* by exploring the similarities between the two groups' cultures, languages, foodways, and more.

Amadu Massally thus is truly a man of two worlds--Africa and the Americas--and he has used his knowledge and experience to help bring the two together in positive ways. He is currently employed as a consultant with the World Bank, where he coordinates the Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Study.