

Teaching, journalism, politics = honored family

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By Kristian Winfield

HAMPTON, Va. – The Gardner-Miller-Morial family was honored Wednesday night at Ogden Hall.

Hampton University alumna Edna Gardner, along with her niece and CBS News correspondent **Michelle Miller** and husband **Marc Morial**, president of the National Urban League, headlined the event, also known as the Honored Black Family.

The event was free and open to HU students, faculty and staff.

The Honored Black Family ceremony was part of the **36th annual Hampton University Black Family Conference**.

"We will focus on the evolving face of families in America, and we'll explore how the convergence of race and ethnicity, untraditional relationships, and media coverage across multiple platforms are together impacting the modern family," read the statement from the **Black Family Conference website**. "Moreover, we'll explore bedeviling issues such as crime and gun violence. We'll offer insight and advice on enhancing the health and wellness of our families."

Gardner graduated from Hampton Institute in 1946. After which, she began teaching and recruiting for the Booker T. Washington Business College in Birmingham, Ala. She then taught at Lawson State Community College for 20 years before becoming one of the first African-Americans to receive a Master's degree in business education at the University of Alabama.

Miller is an award-winning CBS News correspondent, responsible for breaking news coverage on the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, the death of Whitney Houston and reporting from each of the past three presidential elections. She has interviewed notable figures including Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Nobel Peace Prize winner **Wangari Maathai** and musician Lenny Kravitz. Miller earned a Bachelor's degree in journalism from Howard University and a Master's degree in urban studies from the University of New Orleans.

Morial was the former mayor of New Orleans and is current president of the **National Urban League**. During his tenure as mayor, 2000 census data showed violent crimes and murders dropped by 60 percent. The unemployment rate also fell by half and New Orleans' poverty rate lowered while Morial was in office.

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