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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *Georgia Historical Society Announces Finalists for the Georgia Days 2008 Black History Month Essay and Public Speaking Contest*

**Savannah, GA – February 8, 2008.** The Georgia Historical Society (GHS) and its sponsors are pleased to announce the five finalists for the Black History Month Essay and Public Speaking Contest:

**Jay Avery**, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade at St. Andrews School  
**Brianna Hillman**, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Groves High School  
**Deep Patel**, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Groves High School  
**Rashay Platt**, a 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Early College/Woodville Tompkins Annex  
**Vann-Ellison Seales**, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Saint Andrews School

Chosen from essays submitted by students throughout the area, the five finalists will present their essays publicly at the Georgia Historical Society on **February 11, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.** The event will be emceed by WSAV-TV anchor Kim Gusby and is free and open to the public. This year's essays focus on why Oglethorpe and the Georgia Trustees banned slavery in the new colony, the circumstances that eventually led to the introduction of slavery in Georgia, and the long-term effects of the British government's decision to make slavery legal in Georgia. The public presentations will be judged and three winners selected by a panel representing local educational institutions and media. Cash prizes to be awarded.

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*The Georgia Historical Society, headquartered in Savannah, is the oldest cultural institution in the state and one of the oldest historical organizations in the nation. It is the first and only statewide historical society in Georgia. For nearly 170 years, GHS has collected, preserved, and shared Georgia history through a variety of educational outreach programs, publications, and research services. For more information visit: [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com).*

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