Madison writer's speculative literary magazine is finalist for major literary award

LaShawn M. Wanak announced today that her speculative literary magazine *GigaNotoSaurus*, of which she is the publisher and editor, is a finalist this year for the Hugo Awards in the Best Semi-prozine category.

The Hugo Awards have been awarded annually since 1955 as part of WorldCon (the World Science Fiction Convention) and will be presented this year in Glasgow, Scotland, on August 18th. As one of the most prestigious awards in genre writing, the awards are presented to specific works of science fiction or fantasy and to people with a body of work in science fiction or fantasy appearing in the preceding calendar year—in this case, 2023.

A work eligible for the **Best Semiprozine** category is defined as:

*Any generally available non-professional publication devoted to science fiction or fantasy which by the close of 2023 had published at least four (4) issues (or the equivalent in other media), and at least one (1) of which appeared in 2023, which does not qualify as a fancast, and which in 2023 has met at least one (1) of the following criteria:*

1. paid its contributors or staff in other than copies of the publication.
2. was generally available only for paid purchase.

*GigaNotoSaurus* was founded in 2011 by author Ann Leckie (who also appears on the 2024 Hugo ballot for Best Novel and Best Series) and publishes one story between 5,000 and 25,000 words per month. In 2019, LaShawn M. Wanak was brought in as managing editor. In 2022, Leckie handed the full ownership of the magazine over to Wanak so she could pursue other creative ventures. This is the magazine's second Hugo nomination, the first being in 2017 under then-managing editor Rashida J. Smith.

In addition to running the magazine, LaShawn M. Wanak writes speculative stories, essays, and poetry. Her work is published in venues such as *Uncanny Magazine* and *FIYAH*. She also served as the lead writer for the art collective Meow Wolf on their permanent immersive exhibit, “The Real Unreal”, in Grapevine, TX, which opened in July 2023.