

Random Walk

HIDDEN GEMS ON CAMPUS Move over, turtle pond: there's a new display of shells on campus. Eggshells, that is. In September, the newly remodeled Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences "gem room" in Arms Laboratory was updated to include several new additions, including this set of dinosaur eggs, thought to be the 100-million-year-old fossilized offspring of a Therizinosaur. This feathered beast walked on two legs, had a tiny head, and—in spite of its three-foot-long front claws—was likely an herbivore, according to many scientists. The eggs, originally discovered in China, were donated to the Institute in 2004, but the reopening of the GPS gem room marks their first time on display. Other new items include several meteorites and a rare gold nugget that bears a crystal structure visible to the naked eye. These curiosities represent only a fraction of the Caltech mineralogy collection's 30,000 items. The rest are kept behind closed doors to be used as research specimens.

