Excursions in Learning

Children’s Program
Spring 2006
February 4, 11, 18, 25
The mission of Excursions in Learning is to provide enrichment opportunities for gifted and high achieving students in the elementary and middle grades.

Susan Meisler
Coordinator of Children’s Programs

Who: Students in grades K-8 who have a particular interest or want to explore a new topic through activity-oriented courses are invited to attend.

When: All classes will meet from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays in February (4, 11, 18, 25.)

Where: All classes are held on the campus of Manchester Community College.

Acceptance:
1. Registration is open on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. Parents will receive official confirmation of class placement and room locations.
3. If your child’s first or second choice class(es) cannot be accommodated, you will be notified and your payment will be refunded in full. Other refund conditions follow the policy of MCC’s Continuing Education programs.

Cancellations:
MCC reserves the right to cancel or postpone a class and/or substitute instructors as needed due to unforeseen circumstances. If MCC cancels a course, registrants may transfer their fees to another course for the same semester, or receive a full refund. If a course is cancelled, registrants will be notified by phone or mail.

Postponements & Make-Ups:
Classes postponed by instructor’s request or extreme weather conditions will be made up on March 4, 2006. Even if you have the slightest doubt, please call the College at (860) 512-3000, check our website at www.mcc.commnet.edu, or listen to WTIC, WDRC, WHCN, WPOP, WRCH or WCCC for cancellations due to weather.

Cost: Each one-session class costs $35. Classes that are two and four sessions will be $70, and $140, respectively. Some classes have an additional materials fee.

For additional information and/or brochures please call either (860) 512-2804, or (860) 512-2800.
Dear Parents and Students,

“Spring” into learning during February Excursions. Register for one or more of the 34 exciting classes—21 are new—held on Saturday mornings. Whether you’re interested in science, technology, art, drama, math or world cultures, we have courses that will challenge your creativity and explore new topics. While most classes meet for a single Saturday session, “All Charged Up” meets for two weeks, and “Digital Media” meets for four weeks. Most classes are held from 9 a.m.-noon with a 15-minute break in the middle. “Animal Actions” and “This Course is for Dumbbells” are held from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Bring a snack to fuel your body and a sense of curiosity to fuel your mind. Welcome!

Susan Meisler
Coordinator of Children’s Programs

Spring 2005 Excursions Course Listing
Courses are intended for the grades listed, unless noted next to course and title. (For your convenience, an index of all courses listed by grade level is located on page 13.

Directions to Manchester Community College

From Hartford: From I-84 Eastbound, take exit 59 to I-384. Immediately take exit 1. Turn left onto Spencer St. (eastbound). Turn right onto Hillstown Road. Take first left onto Great Path and proceed to stop sign. Take a left onto Founders Drive North to Lot B.

From Boston: Take I-84 Westbound. Take exit 59 onto I-384. Immediately take exit 1. Turn left onto Spencer St. (eastbound). Turn right onto Hillstown Road. Take first left onto Great Path and proceed to stop sign. Take a right onto Founders Drive South to Lot C or a left onto Founders Drive North to Lot B.

From Bolton: (I-384 westbound): Take I-384 westbound. Take exit 1. Turn right at the light onto Spencer St. eastbound. Turn right onto Hillstown Road. Take first left onto Great Path and proceed to stop sign. Take a left onto Founders Drive North to Lot B.

From Springfield: Take I-91 South. Take exit 35A to I-291 east, to I-384. Immediately take exit 1. Turn left onto Spencer St. (eastbound). Turn right onto Hillstown Road. Take first left onto Great Path and proceed to stop sign. Take a left onto Founders Drive North to Lot B.

www.mcc.commnet.edu
(860) 512-2804
Make No Bones about It—Discover the World of Dinosaurs (Grades K-1)
Zoom back to prehistoric times to discover the world of dinosaurs. Become a paleontologist as you dig for the bones of the mighty T-Rex. Investigate an array of fossils and create your own dinosaur fossil. Recreate dinosaur habitats using natural materials. Play dinosaur games—Dinosaur Dash is a blast—and assemble glow-in-the-dark dinosaur puzzles. Record every amazing adventure in a paleontologist journal. Finally, put your paleontologist skills to the test as you construct a life-size dinosaur with your team.
CRN #11478 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LOWE L141 Fee: $35
Instructor: Lucy Kiermaier

“Mouse” Adventures (Grades 2-4)
See course description on page 5
CRN #11488 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon MCC Bldg. AST C128 Fee: $35
Instructor: Russell Sabadosa

Pop Art
Could a soup can be art? Can you make a photo of flowers come alive? Outline multiple images with paint then cover with pastels to create your own version of an “Andy Warhol,” one of the most famous pop artists in America!
CRN #11482 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon MCC Bldg. LOWE L213 Fee: $35
Instructor: Tina Mirto

Ancient Kite-Making—Dragons of the Sky
Explore the kite’s soaring history! Some people believe that the earliest kite was used to catch fish! Others believe that it might have been used for spying on the enemy or even used as a lifesaving device. Learn about the different kinds of kites, what they were made from, and then create your own kite to take home and fly.
CRN #11489 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. AST D110 Fee: $35
Instructor: Sarah Benson

Cartoon Creations
Have you ever wondered why cartoons are so much fun to look at? You’ll learn basic drawing techniques used by professionals to make their illustrations humorous. By the end of this session, you’ll be able to copy your favorite cartoon characters and draw some of your own!
CRN #11490 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B208 Fee: $35
Instructor: Steve Leshin

Kid Tested—Kid Approved! Consumer Product Technology
Put your science and math skills to work by testing consumer products. Discover the best bubble gum, the most effective lip balm, and the most powerful sports drinks. Using the testing strategies of Consumer Reports, you can determine which products are the best to buy. Hands-on science experiments and creativity will help you to design and test your own products at work in the real world.
CRN #11494 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B144 Fee: $35
Instructor: Carrie Ann LaSpada
“Mouse” Adventures
(Grades 2-4)
Let the computer be your guide. Use “Google Earth” to check your location, and with just a mouse click, spin the world to learn about fascinating locations. Become a virtual traveler; have your “passport” stamped with the name of each new place you visit. You’ll create your own activity book from resources gathered from popular, free educational sites such as www.PBSKids.org and www.NickJr.com. You’ll walk away with a personal book of puzzles to solve, images to color, games to play and recipes to try!
CRN #11488 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. AST C128 Fee: $35
Instructor: Russell Sabadosa

Science on Wheels—
The BioBus (Grades 5-8)

Climb aboard Connecticut’s mobile science laboratory. You’ll investigate the theft of a well-known artwork. Conduct lab experiments to analyze a paint chip from the original in order to detect the forgery. Use electrophoresis, a technique to separate molecules based on size and charge, to solve the “Art of Forgery.” Parents of children attending the class are invited to attend at no additional charge.
CRN #11499 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon
LRC parking lot, on the bus Fee: $35
Instructor: The BioBus Staff

Digital Media
Lights! Camera! Action! Learn how to create your very own movie using the most up-to-date equipment. You will plan, film, and edit your own short film in four sessions! Create the next Hollywood BLOCKBUSTER!
CRN #11501 4 Saturdays, 2/4-2/25, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B218 Fee: $140
Instructor: Christopher Buonacquisto

GarageBand™
Would you like to create, compose and record musical tracks on a computer? It’s easy when you learn to use GarageBand™ software created by Apple. In this class, we’ll look at how different sounds can create both music and art. Don’t have any musical background? No problem! It’s easy for novice or experienced musicians alike to perform, record and create their own music.
CRN #11502 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B207 Fee: $35
Instructor: Richard Hoyer

Make Your Own Web Page with FrontPage
It’s so easy to make a web page with Microsoft Office’s FrontPage! Learn how to add items such as text, pictures, hyperlinks and animation to a web page with FrontPage. We will also look at several sites that are available to host your web page for free. No programming experience required!
CRN #11503 1 Saturday, 2/4, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B222 Fee: $35
Instructor: Catherine Seaver

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Need more copies of our catalog for your friends or classroom?
Contact the Excursions office at (860) 512-2804 or email smeisler@mcc.commnet.edu
FEBRUARY 11
(For students in grades K-2)

Native American Art—Animals, Art & Legends
Have you ever wondered what would happen if animals could tell stories? They might tell how they appeared in the legends and art of Native Americans living in the Southwest. Listen to their stories; become the Coyote Trickster. Then create and decorate your own coiled pot using clay and other natural materials.

CRN #11480 1 Saturday, 2/11, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B208 Fee: $35
Instructor: Sarah Benson

You’ve Got a Golden Ticket
Come join Mr. Willy Wonka and the OompaLoompahs on a magical tour through the famous—yet mysterious—“candy factory.” The most extraordinary chocolate maker in the world needs your help. He needs you to design a new wrapper for the Wonka Bar, invent a new candy and advertise it, as well as make—and eat—chocolate pops of all shapes and sizes. We’ll also create a fabulous new room to be added to the incredible Wonka Factory. You’ve got a “golden ticket,” so bring your sweet tooth and enjoy the adventure!

CRN #11481 1 Saturday, 2/11, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B144 Fee: $35
Instructor: Dr. Arlette Cassidy

FEBRUARY 11
(For students in grades 3-5)

Carving Animal Spirit Totems
Indians used totems as a link between themselves and the natural world. Take your inspiration from the native cultures of the American Northwest. Choose a favorite animal from that region and use simple tools to carve balsa wood into a personal art object. Color will bring it alive and sealant will preserve your totem.

CRN #11491 1 Saturday, 2/11, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LOWE L141 Fee: $35
Instructor: Ayanna Spears

Cook Your Way Across the U.S.A.
If cooking and eating your way across the country sounds like fun, this class is for you. Begin your mouthwatering adventure in New England, travel west across the continent, and end in the Hawaiian Islands! En route, you’ll learn about the culinary history of various states. Prepare and sample blueberry cornbread from Maine; soft pretzels from the city of Philadelphia; cheese quesadillas with vegetables from Arizona; baked, sliced potatoes from Idaho, and Aloha Bobs from Hawaii. Materials fee: $7, payable to instructor at beginning of class.

CRN #11412 1 Saturday, 2/11, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. Lowe L293 (South Kitchen), meet in Cheney Dining Room Fee: $35
Instructor: Julia Porter

Mathematical Puzzlers
(Grades 4-7)
Use logic and reasoning to work your way through mathematically-puzzling situations. The first half of the class will draw upon the left side of the brain using logic to solve challenging word problems. The second half of the session will ask the right side of the brain to use spatial reasoning as you construct unit origami shapes.

CRN #11498 1 Saturday, 2/11, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B209 Fee: $35
Instructor: Thomas Ebersold
This Class is for Dumbbells!
(Grades 4-6)
Enhance your level of fitness by using medicine balls, resist-a-bands, parachutes, dumbbells, and mat activities. “Go for the gold” when you play “No Sweat.” Create a “buddy challenge” to prove that you’re smarter than your dumbbells! Sneakers, water bottle, healthy snack, and light-weight gym clothes are required.
CRN #11497 1 Saturday, 2/11, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
MCC Bldg. LOWE L155 Fee: $35
Instructor: Joanne Britton

FEBRUARY 11
(For students in grades 6-8)
Make Your Own Computer Game I
Use shareware to create a computer game that you can show and play with friends and family. Learn how to make different types of games where you select the graphics and design your own game layout. You will be able to take your games home to continue development on your own. No programming or gaming experience required.
CRN #11505 1 Saturday, 2/11, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B222 Fee: $35
Instructor: Catherine Seaver

Mathematical Puzzlers
(Grades 4-7)
See course description on page 6.
CRN #11498 1 Saturday, 2/11, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B209 Fee: $35
Instructor: Thomas Ebersold

This Class is for Dumbbells!
(Grades 4-6)
See course description above.
CRN #11497 1 Saturday, 2/11, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
MCC Bldg. LOWE L155 Fee: $35
Instructor: Joanne Britton

FEBRUARY 18
(For students in grades K-2)
Mystical Power Creatures
Explore the magical worlds of dragons and mythological creatures. Create your own “being” and give it special qualities and powers. Form the base of your creation with a soft wire armature. Cover it with a plaster cast, and then paint it with colors to enhance its powers. Enjoy your mystical friend.
CRN #11483 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
LRC B213 Fee: $35
Instructor: Ayanna Spears

Stop Thief—The Case of the Borrowed Bear
Use your best science and reasoning skills to solve the mystery of who stole Mr. Bear. You will investigate a crime scene and perform forensic science tests to solve to this mystery. Don’t forget your magnifying glass.
CRN #11484 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B144 Fee: $35
Instructor: Carrie Ann LaSpada

A Taste of Chocolate
Learn about the geography of the cacao bean. Investigate its delicious history, and then participate in a taste test. Try your “hand” at making some mouthwatering chocolate recipes including the accidental Toll House cookie. “Dip” into some fun by making chocolate covered fruit and pretzel wands. Design your own chocolate chip cookie by adding in different flavors of chips. Bring home a flowerpot planted with chocolate lollipops. Come share the fun of this sweet treat. Materials fee: $10, payable to instructor at beginning of class.
CRN #11410 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. Lowe L293, (South Kitchen) meet in Cheney Dining Room Fee: $35
Instructor: Julia Porter
Student's name ________________________________________________________________

Banner ID# (if known) ________________________________ Social Security Number ________________________________

Male ❑ Female ❑ Birth Date ________________________________ Grade (05/06 year) __________ Age ______

Parents' Names ____________________________________________ Home Phone ________________________________

Work Phone mother/father (circle one) ________________________________ email address ________________________________

Home Address ____________________________________________

[street]

[city] (state) (zip)

In spaces below, list your child's 1st and 2nd course choices.

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<th>CRN#</th>
<th>Fee ($35 per week)</th>
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(Do not include materials fees which are payable to the instructor at the beginning of class for some courses)

Total Fees: ________________________________

Three Ways to Register:
1. By mail: CE Excursions Registration, MCC, Great Path, MS #13, P.O. Box 1046, Manchester, CT 06045-1046
2. By Fax: using a MasterCard or Visa: (860) 512-3221
3. In person: at the MCC Registrar's Office in the Lowe Building

❑ Check or money order (#____________________) enclosed.

Make check or money order payable to MCC.

I authorize the use of my MasterCard ❑ Visa ❑ cardholder name (print) ________________________________

cardholder signature ________________________________

credit card # ____________________________________________

expiration date (month/year) ____________________

cardholder address ____________________________________________

[city] (state) (zip)

cardholder phone number (W) ________________

(cardholder phone number (H) ____________________

Office Use Only

Regis. Conf. Receipt #
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<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>CRN#</td>
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(Do not include materials fees which are payable to the instructor at the beginning of class for some courses)

**Total Fees:**

Three Ways to Register:
1. By mail: CE Excursions Registration, MCC, Great Path, MS #13, P.O. Box 1046, Manchester, CT 06045-1046
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3. In person: at the MCC Registrar's Office in the Lowe Building

☐ Check or money order (# ______________) enclosed.

Make check or money order payable to MCC.

I authorize the use of my MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐

cardholder name (print) ______________________________ cardholder signature ______________________________

credit card # ______________________________ expiration date (month/year) ______________________________

cardholder address _______________________________________________________

cardholder phone number (W) ______________________________ cardholder phone number (H) ______________________________

Office Use Only

Regis. Conf. Receipt #
All Charged Up
Everyone knows that an alarm clock must be plugged in to use electricity. But, did you know that the time-reading mechanism uses digital electronics? In this two-week, hands-on course, you’ll learn the principles of both electricity and electronics, apply the scientific method, and make and create simple circuits to make a variety of interesting devices. A materials fee of $5 is payable to the instructor on the first day of class.
CRN #11495 2 Saturdays, 2/18-2/25, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. AST C111 Fee: $70
Instructor: Odell Glenn

Kicks for Kids
An energetic Tae-Bo workout especially for upper-elementary school age students! Use “Britton” bands, practice double-time moves, punches, kicks, jabs and shuffles. Try some new, fun kick combos to do a total body blast. Sneakers, water bottle and healthy snack, and light weight gym clothes required.
CRN #11493 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LOWE L155 Fee: $35
Instructor: Joanne Britton

Memory Wire Necklaces and Bracelets (grades 5-8)
See course description on page 11.
CRN #11500 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC A121 Fee: $35
Instructor: Evelyn Angry Smith

The World of a Chinese Child
Build your own version of China’s historic Great Wall. Learn about the Chinese language, then write characters for your favorite words. Make dumplings, one of China’s most popular foods. Move your body in a Chinese ribbon dance. Experience the world of a Chinese child in this fun, activity-oriented class.
CRN #11492 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LOWE L142 Fee: $35
Instructor: Lorelei Chang

Crazy Cubism
Have you ever seen a chair from the front, back, side and bottom all at the same time? The cubists did, and so will you, as we learn to look at things through circles, squares and triangles. Use these shapes to create both two- and three-dimensional art. It’s out of sight!!!
CRN #11504 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LOWE L240 Fee: $35
Instructor: Tina Mirto

Make Your Own Computer Game II
This course is for students who have completed “GameMaker I.” You’ll investigate more advanced game designs including multilevel and multiplayer games. We will look at how sprites are created and see how the more advanced programming tools that come with the GameMaker software can be used to enhance the capabilities of the games. Take your games home to continue development.
CRN #11506 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B222 Fee: $35
Instructor: Catherine Seaver
Memory Wire Necklaces and Bracelets (grades 5-8)
Memory wire is a strong, non-corrosive, stainless steel wire that snaps back to its original form when expanded and released. Learn to make a beautiful bracelet and necklace using this versatile wire. Make a set you can wear or give as a gift. One-size truly does fit all. Materials fee: $10 payable to instructor at the beginning of class.
CRN #11500 1 Saturday, 2/18, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC A121 Fee: $35
Instructor: Evelyn Angry Smith
Use Your Senses (Grades K-1)
Use your senses to see, taste, touch, smell and hear. Listen to taped sounds to identify common noises, and then create your own mystery sounds. Feel different textures and identify objects in a paper bag with only your sense of touch. Create your own mystery bag object. Smell different scents, and then create your own scent board. Taste different things—lemon, sugar, salt—then figure out what part of your tongue is doing the tasting. Take home a tasty snack. End our workshop with a fun game of charades, using only your sense of sight!
CRN #11479 1 Saturday, 2/25, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LOWE L141 Fee: $35
Instructor: Lucy Kiermaier

FEBRUARY 25
(For students in grades K-2)
Animal Action
Combine creative movement, crafts and story-telling with Animal Actions. Learn some animal poses in yoga and martial arts such as cobra, turtle, cat, crane and monkey. Perhaps you can create some of your own! Make a three foot tall safari animal to bring home with you. We’ll end class with an animal story time and the chance to create and act out an original animal tale. Join us; it will be g-r-r-r-eat fun!
CRN #11486 1 Saturday, 2/25, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
MCC Bldg. LOWE L155 Fee: $35
Instructor: Lorelei Chang

Make Your Own Shadow Puppets
Long ago, the first humans discovered the magical world of shadows created by the light of bonfires on cave walls. Thousands of years later, people from China, India, Japan, Indonesia and other countries created stories about their cultures using this technique. Create a shadow puppet of yourself, and then learn how you can move it in a two-dimensional world. Friends and family can watch you perform as a puppet in a primitive movie.
CRN #11510 1 Saturday, 2/25, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. AST D219 Fee: $35
Instructor: Oswaldo Navarrete

Early American Quilt-Making—Wrap around Story Boards (Grades 5-7)
See course description on page 12.
CRN #11823 1 Saturday, 2/25, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. AST D110 Fee: $35
Instructor: Sarah Benson
Digital Photography
Learn how to control, point, and shoot digital cameras to create a special project. Load images into a computer and learn the basics of Adobe PhotoShop, the premier photo imaging/editing software program.
CRN #11507 1 Saturday, 2/25, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. LRC B207 Fee: $35
Instructor: Richard Hoyer

Early American Quilt-Making—Wrap around Story Boards (Grades 5-7)
Before the Civil War, slaves would design quilts from the scraps of other sewing projects and even create secret maps tracing the routes of the Underground Railroad. Their African languages and religions were banned, but would appear in carefully constructed appliqués. Wrap up a story of your own as you construct a quilt made from material scraps glued together and ready to be displayed on a wall or as a “throw.”
CRN #11823 1 Saturday, 2/25, 9 a.m.-noon
MCC Bldg. AST D110 Fee: $35
Instructor: Sarah Benson

COMING SOON SUMMER 2006
Junior Culinary Camp
For students completing 5th-8th grade.
2 sessions
July 17-July 21, 2006
July 24-July 28, 2006
9 am – 3:30 pm

Summer Excursions
For students completing Kindergarten-8th grade.
2 sessions
July 31-August 8, 2006
Morning, afternoon or full-day sessions, available. Great selection of courses to choose from.

www.mcc.commnet.edu 12 (860) 512-2804
## COURSE LISTING BY GRADES

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2/18 | Make your Own Computer Game II | 10
2/4 | Make Your Own Web Page with FrontPage | 5
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2/11 | This Class is for Dumbbells (grades 4-6) | 7
2/4 | Science on Wheels—The BioBus (grades 5-8) | 5
Evelyn Angry Smith, a professional librarian at MCC and the accomplished creator of “Universe Next Door” jewelry, has taught several jewelry-making workshops for children and teens. She will be teaching “Memory Wire Necklaces and Bracelets.”

Sarah Benson, a mixed media artist, designed “Art & Facts,” a hands-on art history program for children. She has worked with libraries and community organizations to consider art in an historical context and promote the power of imagination. She brings three new courses to Excursions this spring; “Ancient Kite-Making—Dragons of the Sky,” “Early American Quilt-Making—Wrap around Story Boards;” and “Native American Art—Animals, Art & Legends.”

The BioBus Staff conducts educational programs about bioscience throughout the State in their mobile laboratory.

Joanne Britton, the Assistant Director of Fitness at MCC, has taught physical education, fitness and health at the middle school level and for the Excursions program. She will be delighting children with “Kicks for Kids” and “This Class is for Dumbbells.”

Chris Buonacquisto teaches media and TV courses to students at the Odyssey School in Manchester. He has taught in the Excursions program for three years. He will be returning with his four-session course, “Digital Media.”

Dr. Arlette Cassidy has a doctorate in psychology and has worked as a school psychologist at a private school for 11 years. An adjunct professor at St Joseph’s College and a former CAPSEF Educator of the Year, she returns to Excursions with two newly-designed courses, “You’ve Got a Golden Ticket” and “Wolf-Men, Mummies and Vampires.”

Lorelei Chang, a native of China, is an accomplished performer in the Full Force Dance Company. A fitness and dance instructor in the Continuing Education Division at MCC, she will be delighting children with the return of “Animal Actions” and “The World of a Chinese Child.”

Thomas Ebersold earned a sixth-year degree in gifted and talented education from UCONN and has eight years’ experience as a TAG (Talented and Gifted) instructor. He incorporates problem-solving strategies into his teaching, as students who enroll in “Mathematical Puzzlers” will quickly learn!

Odell Glenn, an assistant professor in the Center for Business and Technologies at MCC, uses interactive lessons to make physics accessible to young children. He designed “All Charged Up” to teach students about electricity.

Richard Hoyer is a fine art, portrait and location photographer. An instructor at MCC, he returns to Excursions with “GarageBandTM” and “Digital Photography.”
Lucy Kiermaier, the head teacher at MCC’s Child Development Center, has spent the last 20 years teaching in a variety of early childhood settings. She will introduce children to “Make No Bones about It—Discover the World of Dinosaurs” and “Use Your Senses.”

Carrie Ann LaSpada has taught in programs for gifted and talented students in the West Hartford and Windsor school systems for more than ten years. She earned a masters degree in Gifted Education from UConn. She is bringing three new courses to Excursions this spring; “Kid-Tested—Kid Approved! Consumer Product Technology;” “Stop Thief—The Case of the Borrowed Bear;” and “Busted—The Big Bad Wolf on Trial.”

Steve Leshin, a talented cartoonist, enjoys teaching children how to draw on the funny side of their brain. He is returning with his ever-popular course, “Cartoon Creations.”

Tina Mirto, a museum educator and docent, has directed programs at the New Britain Museum of Art and the Florence Griswold Museum. She designs and teaches interactive art classes for Excursions and other children’s programs. She returns to Excursions with “Crazy Cubism” and introduces “Pop Art.”

Oswaldo Navarrete, a native of Colombia, and an accomplished puppeteer and dancer, conducts workshops and classes in area schools. He returns with “Maker Your Own Shadow Puppets.”

Julia Porter, an instructor in the Hospitality and Social Science Division of MCC, is also a certified teacher at Great Path Academy. She has worked in the food industry for 16 years and co-owned a catering company. She will be presenting two of her popular courses, “A Taste of Chocolate” and “Cook Your Way across the U.S.A.”

Russell Sabadosa, an associates professor, teaches computer networking and hardware at MCC. Jasmine, his young daughter, motivated him to create a computer course, “Mouse” Adventures, for young children.

Catherine Seaver, an associates professor, teaches computer science, has been involved with computer education for children in a variety of settings. She introduces two new courses “Make Your Own Web Page with FrontPage” and “Wired,” and continues with the popular “Make Your Own Computer Game I and II.

Ayanna Spears, an accomplished artist, has shared her love of multicultural art forms in art education workshops throughout the Greater Hartford area. She will be offering two new courses this spring, “Mystical Power Creatures” and “Carving Animal Spirit Totems.”
For creative, high achieving, students in Grades K to 8

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