Members of the microbial world---often called “germs” by the public---receive relentlessly negative publicity in the media, and are associated with disease and corruption in the minds of many non-microbiologists. Mark Martin, Associate Professor of Biology, is a self-admitted “microbial supremacist” inside and outside of the classroom, and will demonstrate the essential role that bacteria and archaea play in the world around us and even within us. This concept of microbial supremacy will be shown to be true not simply in our biological relationships with what Professor Martin calls “The Small Masters,” but to be a ubiquitous and powerful paradigm throughout the biosphere. To borrow from Pliny the Elder, “Nature is to be found in her entirety nowhere more than in Her smallest creatures.” Professor Martin hopes to share his enthusiasm with the audience as he presents evidence that ours is a truly Microbial Planet, from deep in Earth’s crust, to high in the stratosphere, from the surface of our skin, to deep within our gut.

All members of the university community including faculty, staff, retirees, partners and friends, are welcome. Faculty and staff members are encouraged to bring interested students to this event as their guests. *Cost is $15.00 per person; reservations can be made through the Office of the Associate Deans on a first come, first served basis. (Jones 212, CMB 1020, or call 253.879.3207).